

Dear John,

29.6.98

I saw you briefly at Bangor so am not as penitent at my tardy reply as I would otherwise be. Ballpoint collapsed...

The next phase of the process is going to be tough. S.F. are giving nothing, and David T. is in need of support. In my speech to the North Down selectors I warned them about my view of U.U.P./Orange formal links. They did not, apparently, find that objectionable. I also emphasised the worth of Alliance and how much it will be needed in the crisis to come. A small "u" seems a small price to pay for the survival of the Assembly. This got a good reaction on the doorstep too. Impertinent of me to tell you what you might do.....

I have told my party that it would
make sense to get behind Alcaine for
Chairman of the Assembly, as the UUP
need the votes it has got, and "steri-
lizing" me through the Chairmanship means
one less. Sean Deesean would do the
job well.

You will have an important role
in the Lords keeping interest and support
for N.I. alive; it is in danger of coll-
apse, I fear. I wish I could help in
some way to keep alive some good
-will there, which Downesee will disenchant.

Sorry for this rather gloomy letter
which is really just a "thank-you" for
your outstanding, kind reaction to the

'K'

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Yours ever,

John Parson

4th July '98

Dear John,

I have seen you since you wrote your charming letter just after the 'K', but I really want to thank you properly for it.

It was particularly valued since in a sense we were adversaries for the North Sea vote, but I certainly did no other - talking to Alliance voters, than invite them to put U.U.P. ahead of No voters. It seems they did, and had not we had 3 seats, the possibility was that David Trimble would not have had enough on the First Minister vote.

You chaired the New Assembly with more skill than I would have done, and got the good, democratic, result. I liked your gentle but effective "Standing Order unless Standing, in your case, Mr Adams"!

To was an achievement to get a laugh.
I doubt whether there will be much laughter
wasn't at Dunroo. Good tactics and good
discipline will be needed by the RUC and Army
but the media coverage will as ever be
"Police Overreaction".

The 'K' has the benefit of rediting
Heather my wife with a little reward for
50 years of support to this itinerant, and it
has given much pleasure to many friends
of whom I can't see me.

Thank you again John and good
luck!

Yours ever,

John G.

P.S. I have just realised that I wrote to you
already to thank you for letter about the 'K', but
never mind - your Presiding role deserves
another!