

4 January 1996,

Ms Lois Jefferson,
The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd,
The Garden House,
Water End,
YORK YO3 6LP.

Dear Lois,

I wanted to send you a further report on how the grants from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust are assisting us towards the next General Election. As you know two grants have been made, one in respect of the East Belfast Constituency, and the other to employ a Press Officer for the Party.

Firstly in respect of East Belfast. Things here have been going very well. Richard Good, the Constituency Assistant who we appointed, has been really excellent. He has had the opportunity of attending some training with the Liberal Democrats, and was so enthused that he set up a Training Day for agents for the whole party here, bringing over a LibDem team. This was a very successful initiative. His constituency work has been very good, and we are also beginning to see some success in his reorganization of the constituency activists, though this is becoming an area of focus for me, because I am not yet happy that we have the local machine fully election ready. Computerization of our election activity using EARS is going well, and is being taken up by an increasing number of our other constituency teams.

As a result of the increased activity we have moved to larger premises. This would have been quite impossible without your assistance. The new premises are excellent. Not only are they more commodious, and give ground floor street level access instead of being up some flights of stairs, they are also politically significant. They were the Headquarters of the Labour Party in this part of Belfast. Indeed I am told by the former Stormont Labour MP for the area, David Bleakley (who has joined the Alliance Party), that the offices were opened by Dick Taverne. Having now taken over the support and much of the membership from the old Northern Ireland Labour Party in this their formerly strongest area, we have now publicly taken over their premises, and the the handover took place, with due press and publicity, in the presence of Liberal Democrat Leader, Paddy Ashdown and Lord Holme, who visited the new office on 13th December last.

Another prominent visitor who I was able to bring to the constituency was President Clinton, and while Peter Robinson as the MP for the area was able to get publicity for meeting him too, I was able to get the credit in the local press, for getting him there. That visit was a great success. We are not only building up the profile locally but are also trying to engineer as many unionist candidates to stand in the Westminster Election, as possible in order to split their vote. Recent newspaper reports are very encouraging in this regard. Of course by having this constituency help, I am also able to give time to the broader political developments, and here too we have had a considerable profile because of some quite groundbreaking work.

This leads me to some comments on the work of our Press Officer. As a result of your generosity we were able to appoint Mr Paul McErlean to this part-time position. This appointment has been a real success too. For some time we had been little more than reactive in publicity terms. Paul has been spending time building up relationships with the press, and developing stories which are giving us good pro-active publicity. On the Peace Process he has been able to get much more publicity for our activities than we got before, but he has also been able to set up stories on other areas too, for example on the Economy, where as a result of his work we are now becoming recognized as a significant player in this arena. This has led to meetings with people who did not previously bother much with

us. Let me give you two examples. We have been able to set up a Investment Seminar for Northern Ireland, in Baltimore USA, funded by the State of Maryland and the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland. This will take place in February 1996, and came out of a series of meeting with Secretary Brady in Maryland, and with Baroness Denton at Stormont. This sort of thing is being noticed, because Paul got us front page banner headline coverage in the Business Telegraph. One result - the Head of the Training and Employment Agency, Julian Crozier, as soon as he retired, joined the Alliance Party, as the party that was taking the needs of the economy and politics of Northern Ireland really seriously.

I could go on at length, but I hope that this is sufficient to show you that the funding has been having a profound effect on the health and activity of the party. We have now the best and most effective team the party has ever had. We will have a Westminster Election before May 1997. In May 1997 there will be a Local Government Election (when all the Local Council seats in Northern Ireland are up for election). It is also increasingly possible that we will also have an election to a Constitutional Convention during 1996. With your help we are looking forward to Alliance taking a major step forward in each of those electoral tests.

I am most grateful to you for all your assistance. I just cannot tell you how **much** it has helped.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Dr John Alderdice
ALLIANCE PARTY LEADER

4 January 1996,

Ms Lois Jefferson,
The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd,
The Garden House,
Water End,
YORK YO3 6LP.

Dear Ms Jefferson,

I thought that I should drop you a brief letter of report on how the personal award from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust has been continuing to help me.

As you will know the last few months has seen a continuing high level of activity in respect of the Peace Process. We have moved into a period of considerable strain as the Republican movement begins to digest the implications of fully identifying with democratic politics and its limitations. I have been able, through the award, to spend a great deal of time working on this problem of trying to help lead and press the 'politicos' within Sinn Fein along this road. They are struggling with the problem of accepting that democracy is a value in itself, even though it cannot necessarily deliver everything that they might wish, unless and until they can convince a majority of other people to support their ideals. It is not possible to be sure how successful we and they will be. My fear is, that in recent weeks the gunmen in their organization are gaining the upper hand, and the balance of power has shifted. This is worrying, but I will personally be continuing to do everything possible with both the Loyalist parties, and Sinn Fein to keep the process moving along.

Your financial support has enabled me to spend time doing this, and still be able to keep things going for my family. In particular my wife Joan, who travels to work each day some fifty miles round trip, needed a replacement for her car which was coming up to MOT test. During this last period we were able to replace her car, because of the Rowntree Award.

I am sending with this letter a report of how things are going on the more directly political front, with the Trust's support in two other grants.

My continued very sincere thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,



- Rowntree Trust.

THE Joseph Rowntree
REFORM TRUST LTD

The Garden House Water End York YO3 6LP Tel: (01904) 625744 Fax: (01904) 651502

Cllr John Alderdice
55 Knock Road
BELFAST BT5 6LB

8 January 1996

Dear John Alderdice

Many thanks for your two letters of 4 January 1996 reporting on recent achievements which have been facilitated by our grants to the Alliance Party and towards which our personal award to you as Party Leader have contributed.

I appreciate your taking the time to keep in touch in this way and I know that my Trustees will be gratified that the money is being used to such good and constructive effect.

With best wishes for 1996.

Yours sincerely

Lois Jefferson