



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

December 9, 2010

Mr. Peter Osnos 272 Round Hill Road Greenwich, CT 06831

Dear Peter,

I just looked at the September 20 date on the letter you sent me and I can't believe that much time has lapsed since I am writing you back. I must say, however, that of the myriad of well wishes that I received, yours was one that I had definitely set aside to be answered in person as best I can.

First, I can't believe there's still someone left who actually takes the time to write a physical letter. What a genuine pleasure — especially for an old fart — to pick up a real piece of paper with real printed words and an actual signature. Congratulations on a very classy form of communication and I certainly hope you continue it. Second, as you might imagine I received hundreds of pretty standard well wishing communications. There were not many who took the time to actually say something of specific relevance and meaning. To be perfectly candid, I was touched by your positive recollections of our time together at Brandeis as well as your knowledge of my activities since then.

What you do not know is how much esteem and respect I had for the way you conducted your college experience. Here I was this naïve kid from southern Illinois who really had no idea where South Africa was or how horribly serious the civil rights issues of the deep south in the early 60's truly were and yet here is my friend, Peter Osnos, who can not only speak eruditely on these subjects but puts it right on the line by going to the south where kids like you are actually being killed. I have to tell you, Peter, you taught me a lot about committing to learning more about what was going on throughout the world as well as committing oneself to doing something about it.

Having said all this, there are still three things about Peter Osnos which I shall never forget. The first is the Tuck and Tush story of your trip from the airport. I do not think I have ever laughed that hard in my entire life nor does it seem likely I ever will again. The second is when you appeared from nowhere out of the forest at your wedding dressed from head to toe in solid white. Given the nature of the setting and, I believe it was your wife's grandmother running the service, this was quite a memorable event; and finally I am certainly not going to forget the time you took me into the room in which you, Ben Bradley, et al, conducted the Watergate reporting.

In any event, Peter, one often dashes off missives out of a sense of duty without knowing whether the effort is worth it or not. Let me assure you that your effort was well worth it and it's greatly appreciated. I will conclude with a piece of good news which is I have completed all of my therapy now and my doctors are extremely pleased with my progress. They are actually thinking that within months I should return to pretty much my normal self but -- let me tell you, this has been quite an adventure, and one which I would not recommend. With best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy and happy new year for you and your family, I am,

Your appreciative frie-

Mike Oberman

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