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RÉFÉRENCE : 02 340 01  
RS/sj/43/77

sponsoring the convention with effect 21 January 1977

Dear Dan:

I have been dreadfully negligent in writing, and I suppose that is part of the price of my re-emergence into the active practice of law.

Let me say first that I long ago received the five Magma Carta for which I was most grateful. Your essay was extensively cited in an article that I read, you will be amused to learn, just the other day called "Habeas Corpus and Due Process from Warren to Burger" in a recent issue of the Baylor Law Review. (I suppose the stimulus for reading that article was that I have been finding myself recently called upon to act in the last area I ever imagined I'd be involved in over here - criminal law. Of course it is international criminal law, but that only makes it more interesting. I have had three international criminal law cases in the last ten months.

Next, I must thank you for showing me the light, political light, about Carter. I found voting in this past election more difficult than usual, but I finally opted for Carter, although no one else I know of had voted for him. You were well informed about him and, I think, our brief discussion was instrumental in my decision.

21 January 1977

As for the quality of his appointments which you were optimistic about in your letter in November, I just don't know now that they have materialized. I feel mostly out of touch with these matters. The one I was most enthusiastic about, Ted Sorensen, just ended, according to today's papers by his withdrawal from consideration.

I have not forgotten your interest in the French National School of Judges. (It seems to have originated in the ordonnance N° 59-27 of 1959 which created a National Center of Judicial Studies (Centre National des Etudes judiciaires), and the name was changed by Law N° 70-613 of 10 July 1970 substituting for the former name the new name of National School of Magistracy (Ecole nationale de la Magistrature). Of course it would be nice to have some practical information about this establishment, but I have it well in mind and when the occasions arise, which I'm sure they will, I'll try to glean what I can. The magistrature does not seem to have the kind of independence here that it has in the States. It is essentially a part of the civil service, and a judge is apt to be about as independent as would be a prudent member of our foreign service. Promotion is never far removed from his thoughts, and being relegated to the wilds of Brittany is probably the equivalent of an assignment in Uganda.

I look forward to seeing the book that finally emerges from your research endeavors and ruminations, but the question "What makes a philosopher?" may be like "What is wisdom?" I envy your courage in attacking it.

Of course I shall hope for a visit should you get to France this year. There is some slight chance that I'll come to Charlottesville this summer but our summer plans are not yet certain.

With best wishes for the New Year, I remain

As ever,

Ronald P. Sokol