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Letter remembering Ernie's life

Donald F. Mazziotti

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MR. DONALD F. MAZZIOTTI

208 North Third Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

DECEMBER 3, 1983

DEAR ERNIE:

DECEMBER 3 IS RUMORED TO BE YOUR FIFTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY. CHECKING MY RECORDS, I FIND THAT THIS DATE HAS SEEN MORE THAN A FEW CELEBRATIONS AND, I HOPE, SO WILL TONIGHT.

AS YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW, LYNN, CHRIS, DIRK AND KATHLEEN HAVE CONSPIRED TO FIND AMONG YOUR FRIENDS THOSE WILLING TO RECOUNT PARTS OF YOUR LIFE PREVIOUSLY HIDDEN FROM VIEW. TO COUNTENANCE OR ABET SUCH AN ACT WOULD ONLY HASTEN THE TIME WHEN YOU WOULD VISIT THE SAME FATE ON ME. SO, I HEREBY REFUSE.

DESPITE THAT, I THINK THERE ARE SOME FINE POINTS WHICH, IN MY ABSENCE, WILL OTHERWISE BE SPARRED FROM THE ASSEMBLED MULTITUDES. THUS, IN THE INTEREST OF CLARITY, TRUTH AND JUSTICE, I FILE THIS BRIEF REPORT.

THE FACT IS THAT I DO, INDEED, KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PAST, PRESENT AND PROBABLE FUTURE. IS IT A PATTERN?

YOU WILL RECALL OUR CHANCE MEETING AT A LECTURE YOU DELIVERED ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS AND PLANNING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA IN 1969. THAT AUSPICIOUS EVENT WAS FOLLOWED BY A PARTY AT DR. DAVID RANNEY'S HOME -- AT WHICH TIME YOU ANNOUNCED THE INAGURATION OF THE JESUS MOVEMENT, A FULL TEN YEARS IN ADVANCE OF THE REAL THING. IT MUST BE RELATED THAT, LATER IN THE EVENING, YOU MADE THE SAME SPEECH FROM THE TOP OF DR. RANNEY'S DINING ROOM TABLE.

YOUR STINT IN CLEVELAND [Can planning do anything for Cleveland?], WAS MARKED BY ENCORES TO YOUR IOWA PERFORMANCE. FEW WILL FORGET YOUR PROPOSALS FOR A "SEX WORKSHOP" OR DEEP DISCUSSIONS AT LUDLOW HOUSE -- IN WHAT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AND LATE-GREAT COUNTERCULTURE COMMUNES. YOU'VE DONE IT ALL, ERNIE.

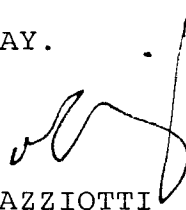
AND WHAT ABOUT PORTLAND. HOW IS IT THAT BILL SCOTT, THAT IRON-FISTED ADMINISTRATOR, HIRED YOU -- ONLY TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE IN HIRING DOUG WRIGHT? [Hiring me was fully your responsibility and you have only yourself to blame.]

I WANT, ALSO, TO REMIND YOU OF THE DETOUR YOU TOOK THROUGH MEXICO ON YOUR WAY BACK TO CLEVELAND AND THE UNPARALLELED CHASE OF TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN DOWN THE BAJA, ACCORDING TO ONE, WELL-PLACED SOURCE.

THERE'S MUCH, MUCH MORE. LET'S FACE IT ERNIE, WHETHER IT'S PLANNING, CONSULTING, POLITICS, ENERGY OR JUST YOUR BASIC FANTASY, YOU'RE ONE OF LEADING CAUSES OF OUR NEED TO HAVE YOU AROUND ANOTHER FIFTY-ONE. IF FOR NO OTHER REASON, THAN TO HELP YOU ATTONE FOR THE FIRST HALF CENTURY.

IT'S LONELY OUT HERE IN THE RUST BELT. LET'S HOPE WE CAN ALL GO AROUND AGAIN SOMETIME SOON.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY BIRTHDAY.



DON MAZZIOTTI

*Best wishes for
the season and have
a good New Year!*