

RALPH RUSSELL
2930 LEGATION ST., N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20015

5 January, 1978.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Mrs. Russell, the former Margaret Ells, has now read your autobiography, also, and with great pleasure, as I did. I thought it dragged a bit when you went to Toronto and met all those big wheels, etc. But all-around, it is a great book in that it is so straightforward and frank.

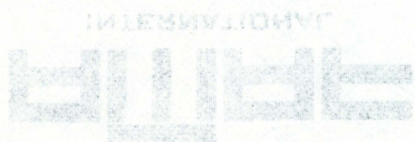
I enclose a copy of a letter which bears on that Archives deal. My sister-in-law in Fairview, Hfx, Mrs. T.H. Ells, (Eva) sent me the clipping of Mrs. Martell's letter, with no indication of when it appeared or the paper it came from. I take it for granted it was the Halifax Comical-Herald. It is a crime that, after getting rid of Fergusson, we now get skunked out of getting the best Archivist for this position that has been grooming for a long time.

Do you know anything about this weasel, head of History, at Dal, who is reported to have voted against Phyllis ?

Maybe you have the dope on who the rest of the board members were and how they voted. Let me know, if so.

Sincerely,

Ralph Russell



VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR THE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON OFFICE

WASHINGTON D.C. 20005

MR. RUSSELL, WASHINGTON

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES COMPANY

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

TELEPHONE 301 525 1302



TELEPHONE (202) 232-1305

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT
& TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER COMPANY**

2469 18th STREET, NORTHWEST

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

NIGERIAN OFFICE

POST OFFICE BOX 1628

ABA, IMO STATE, NIGERIA

C
O
P
Y

RALPH RUSSELL
2930 LEGATION ST., N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20015

4 January, 1977.

Ms. Anne Martell
Rural Rte 2
Hubbards, N.S.

Maybe of interest.
R.R.

Dear Ms. Martell:

After long delay, I finally got the clipping of your protest on the Blakely affair, headed ARCHIVIST. My wife and I are very much interested in this situation of appointing an outsider with little knowledge of Nova Scotia and its historical documents, when the perfect person for the job was at hand. What was the reason for the debacle? Was it mere male chauvanism, jealousy, or what?

I was told that the premier had voted against Phyllis, so I wrote him and chided him. He replied that had voted for her, and he was very much interested in finding out from whom I had heard the rumor. I couldn't remember where I heard it, and told him so. I know him from tennis matches.

I also heard that the the head of the history Dept. at Dal voted against Miss Blakely, Peter Waite, I believe. I have been trying to find out who the board members are, and to reconstruct the vote, for I think this business is outrageous and should be protested. Gwen Shand, of Windsor, who is an old friend of ours, was indignant, and I think she made her protest known.

I suppose Fergusson is stepping down about now. After that unfortunate experience, Nova Scotia deserves Phyllis Blakely for its Archivist. Too bad it can't be Phyllis.

Mrs. Russell, under the name of Margaret Ellis, worked in Archives for 13 years, but this was prior to Miss Blakely's tenure. With Mrs. Russell were Marion Gilroy and Jim Martell, of whom she was very fond. Are you related to Jim? Margaret thought very highly of him, and still feels the tragedy of his premature death.

We spend the summer in Margaret's old house in Canning, N.S. so we have a chance to keep some track of what goes on in Nova Scotia. I myself, was born in Truro and my mother was a Woodworth from Canning. But the family went back to Worcester, Massachusetts where my father came from, when I was two years old, so I was brought up a Yankee.

Incidentally, last summer, we discovered that ten years earlier, two of the articles Margaret wrote in her Archives period, had been reprinted in a paperback called Historical Essays on the Atlantic Provinces.

Do you think anything can be done about the Archives position?

Sincerely,

January 14, 1978

Dear Mr. Russell:

Thank you for your letter of the fifth. I'm very glad that you and Margaret have enjoyed my book.

I wrote it under increasingly difficult circumstances owing to cataracts in both eyes, which could not be removed until they were "ripe". as oldfashioned doctors used to say. I had an operation on my left eye in the summer of 1976, and on the right eye in the spring of 1977.

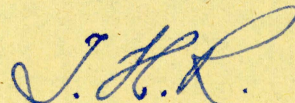
Both were followed by post-operative complications, and there were long periods when I couldn't read a word or even take a short walk outdoors -- absolute hell for a man living alone and dependent on a good blend of study and physical exercise.

Consequently I know nothing of the hassle about a replacement for Fergusson at the P.A.N.S. Phyllis Blakeley was certainly well qualified for the post, not only by long experience but by her personal gifts as an archivist, and I'm mystified by the failure to appoint her.

I know nothing of Waite, or the other people responsible for the new appointment. I haven't set foot in the P.A.N.S. for years. My own papers went to Dalhousie.

Best regards to Margaret and yourself.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ralph Russell,
2930 Legation Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015