

1976



Dear Keith and... 1/76 --- Polly —

🦉 HAPPY NEW YEAR 🦉

Fiddling while Rome burns -- or was it  
Camelot? Anyway, Tish should have  
danced all night 'cause here we  
go again, with ( ) due Aug. 23.

New govt. is trying to be very  
"businesslike," and sends auditors out  
all over. Some basic controls were  
much needed, forsooth, but I can  
see what's coming next: new rationaliza-  
tion for old political needs. We got a  
gold star as the only agency running  
a budget surplus. But they'll probably  
respond by taking it away -- they  
always do.

Best to you,

Gene & Tish

Sunday, Jan. 4, 1976

Dear Mase,

I languish for lack of a letter from you. Vuts up in B.C?

My paper/thesis is going very well. I haven't written a great deal yet, but I've accumulated tons of interesting data. I've spent hours and hours processing the Fortune 500. I've also recently discovered Moody's Industrial Manual, which promises to be a goldmine. It lists land and improvements for major corporations, among other things. But I'm beginning to wonder if when I get through putting all this stuff together, the results won't be so obvious that they won't be interesting. Or too controversial to be believable. Or both. I hope to have something for you by the end of January but I keep bogging down in data processing, or theoretical calculations. I must of reinvented the wheel 100 times.

Keith and I are finally actually trying again. (I got rid of my IUD.) Modern medicine has recently come up with a new miracle; some sort of hormone they give to women like me with a tendency to prematurity, which reduces the baby's chance of developing hyaline membrane disease. Now if only I can get pregnant... It took over a year last time.

Meanwhile, we're continuing our strange lifestyle. After a long dry spell, Keith finally laid a neighboring lawyer's secretary. I've been flirting with Morgaard, who seems to be responding. Part of my attraction to him is that he has children. I'm definitely afflicted with some sort of Kinderlust.

To my infinite amazement, Bill has so far turned out to be a good correspondent: already a long letter and a postcard. Not bad for a man who always said he hates to write letters, and who I was beginning to think wanted nothing to do with me. I suppose with half a globe between us, he feels safe enough to show me a little regard without fear that I will come on strong at him. There's no question I've pressured him, continuing to come around no matter how disagreeable he acted. On the other hand, he's hypersensitive. Any gesture of affection seems to throw him into a panic. I sent him two Dale Carnegie books for New Years: How to Stop Worrying and Start Living (you should try that one yourself) and How To Win Friends and Influence People. I'm hoping he'll read them and use some of the suggested techniques to pull himself together. Twelve years of getting shrunk sure didn't do him much good.

Well, back to the Fortune 500. One of my pocket calculators finally went bezerk, and it seems I have to send it back to the manufacturer to get it repaired. Some sort of market failure going on. Why can't I get it repaired locally?

I forgot. I had a long phone conversation a few days ago with Hazel Henderson. She said she's coming to visit you in March. What a character. She said she was the first person without a college degree elected to the National Academy of Sciences. You've got a friend in her, though. She's trying to line you up to testify before all sorts of committees of Congress.

4 Jan. '76

Dear Pally:

Happy New Year to you, too. Many thanks for the puppet! A very personality-building toy, or artifact. My first 3 kids lacked this kind of public appearance experience and suffer for it. I even urged Brad (now 21, studying Chem. E.) to take sales jobs to develop more social grace, but after they're six it's too late. He preferred being a stock clerk. He was always a bus boy, never a waiter. His mother told him so and he believed her.

Have you read Eric Berne? Is your shrink a "script analyst?" Berne reads very well, I enjoy him hugely.

Hazel is touring and visiting here early April. Lecturing vs. nukes in Bay Area. She spreads a wide tent. Her talk to Houston Conf. was not too

great. She lapses into cheap shots at "economists" as though they are all the same, and all to blame. That's too easy.

The NDP episode is closed and I am looking for a modus vivendi with the new crowd. Barrett and Wms. really blew it. Splendid case study in the futility of negative thinking. 3½ years of Wms. resulted in lower forest revenues than ever before. He caved in to industry demands again and again to "save jobs". They found his jugular, and bled him. All bark and no bite. As for Barrett, he's just another woolly-headed spendthrift. He couldn't face the big deficit his policies guaranteed for 1976. He was bored by tax questions, concentrated on spending, or soaping foreigners.

They were a bunch of children playing with new toys. In the bathroom. All their private language, and

much of their public language, indicates some  
childhood traumas in toilet training.

The new crowd is more economically oriented,  
in certain traditional ways at least. So we may  
hit it off. I could hardly have worse relations  
than I did with Barnett & Wms.

Next Fri. I testify in Sacto. on progressivity of  
prop. tax. Looking forward. Floyd Morrow arranged  
hearing with Sen. Mills.

Tish is pregnant again, so it seems. It will be  
fun having a full family again. Stuart was here for  
Xmas week and I loved having him around. He &  
Lana hit it off beautifully. Tish, too. She  
treats Stuart like a prince - which he is.

But she is in the first mo. of feeling queasy.  
Much homework for me.

Phil Rapp's address:

Dept. Ag. Econ.

U. Minn.

St. Paul, Minn.

Cheers,

Mark

10/11/67  
Excerpts from "What Do You Say After You Say Hello?"  
by Eric Berne, M.D.

P. 332 THE SUBJUNCTIVE

... The Berkeley Subjunctive is most highly developed on college campuses. The classical phrase is "I should, and I would if I could, but...." Variants are "If only they would, I could, and I think I probably should, but ..." or "I should and I probably could, but then they would..."

This subjunctive attitude becomes formalized in the titles of books, theses, papers, and student assignments. Common examples are "Some Factors Involved In ..." (= if only), or "Toward a Theory of ..." (= I would if I could, and I know I should). In the extreme case, the title reads: "Some Introductory Remarks Concerning Factors Involved in Gathering Data Toward a Theory of ..." - a very modest title indeed, since it is plain that it will take about two hundred years before the theory itself will be ready for publication. It is obvious that this man's mother told him not to stick his neck out.

In script language, "toward" means "don't get there." Nobody asks "Does this airplane go toward New York?" nor would many people want to travel with a pilot who says: "Yes, we're going toward New York." He either goes to New York or you take another airplane.

Excerpt from "Self-Actualization and Minimum Effort"  
by Frank Goble, Thomas Jefferson Research Center,  
May 1974

Why, if humans are born with a need or drive towards self-actualization, do so few achieve it? Dr. Maslow's explanation was that to achieve self-actualization people must overcome their basic need for security.

"One can choose," he wrote, "to go back towards safety or forward towards growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again.... Anything that increases fear or anxiety tips the dynamic balance between regression and growth back towards regression and away from growth."

**British Columbia Institute  
for Economic Policy Analysis**  
Independent research in the public service

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477-9311 477-6911 locals 891 or 892

January 2nd, 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
2490 Channing Way  
Room 218  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

All our mail from Seattle still hasn't come yet. Meantime, you will enjoy the enclosed remarks on the Berkeley Subjunctive by Eric Berne.

What do you think of the Berne School, by the way.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG:am

Encl.

To Polly R - 741 and amusement

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for Economic Policy Analysis  
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January 6th, 1976

Professor Donald Martin  
Department of Economics  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia

and

Professor Nicholas Tideman  
Department of Economics  
Virginia Poly Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Gentlemen:

With your interest in property rights in jobs in this certification society, you may be interested in the following comment which I found in my diary dated 1951.

"When I was 17, they gave me a license to drive a 2,000 pound car with the capability of killing people. When I was 20, they gave me a gun and told me I could shoot certain people. When I was 21, they gave me a commission, with the power to order people to face death. Now I am 28. They won't let me handle a paint brush, plumb, saw, hammer, string wire, play the violin for money or teach first graders. I need experience first to protect the public's safety.

When I was 23, trapped on the Island of Biak, waiting for a troop ship home, I received in the mail my first form 1040. A soldier's pay is ordinary income, fully taxable. That was the same year that capital gains treatment was extended to income from timber sales.

Considering these facts, I often wonder how anyone can keep a straight face."

Sincerely,

Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

Friday, Jan. 9, 1976

Dear Base,

Here's Lakein. Hope you like'im.

Did I shock you? With your history? I guess for me and Keith sex has simply become defused. Obviously I would get upset if he started spending alot of time with another woman, and vice versa. But that's not likely to happen. And even if it did, I think we could cope. -Anyway we talk a much bigger game than we play. Our adventures have been few and far between.

The most important thing that has happened in the last couple of years is that we have become more independent, and more ready to respect the other's independence. Our self esteem and sense of security no longer depends on constraining the other to behave in some particular way. We've also learned to communicate alot better. No more expecting the other person to read one's mind, and getting hurt when the other failed to notice covert signals. If I want something from Keith, I say so, and he has the absolute right to refuse. And vice versa. The most we ever get annoyed at each other about are trivia like my bad driving or Keith's sloppiness.

So we can enjoy an occasional fling with a friend, without the other feeling threatened. It's fun, and it breaks down barriers to communication. It's a rewarding experience for both of us, and hopefully for our friends too. Of course not too many people will accept our terms. I mean, who wants a person who proclaims in advance that he or she is very happily married and intends to remain so?

Congratulations again to you and Tish. That's so exciting!

Regards,

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January 9th, 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
2490 Channing Way  
Room 218  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

The Seattle mail finally arrived with the transcript, the January 31 Deadline, etc. Thanks for the Mirabel article. I had already seen it, as a matter of fact. It sounds like Seattle, only ten times worse. Thanks for the Gordon Winston piece. I did ask him to come to the conference and he was enthusiastic but unavailable.

1976 model Gaffney expected August 23rd.  
Regards to you and Keith.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG/am

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477-9311 477-6911 locals 891 or 892

January 9th, 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 218  
2490 Channing Way  
BERKELEY, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

Yes, you should write your dissertation about something challenging and try to be creative. It may seem wasted on your committee but the important thing is training and habit. True, Dave Shapiro got away with a potboiler, but look what happened to Dave Shapiro. Write a good dissertation and then you can live on it for years. There will be so many ideas in there you can draw on for later work.

No, I don't understand the Cambridge controversy. I do understand this much, though, it's pedantic, hair-splitting, and sterile. We will by pass it. If you understand how to invest in real estate, you understand more than the Cambridge controversialists.

Glad to learn, although sorry for the fact, that your friends came up with the Brem's fallacy. Keith's perspicacity on the subject, however, encourages me to believe that the way to handle it is to stick straightforwardly to examples in real estate investment. Keep the feet on the ground, rather than the head in the clouds. Do get me a copy of your paper with all speed.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG/am

# British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis

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January 14th, 1976

M E M O

Miss Mary Rawson,  
Member, Board of Directors,  
B.C. Institute for Economic  
Policy Analysis.

Dr. Malcolm Micklewright,  
Geography Department,  
University of Victoria.

✓ Ms. Polly Roberts,  
2490 Channing Way,  
Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. Ted Gwartney,  
Office of the Assessment Comm.,  
1537 Hillside Ave.,  
Victoria, B. C.

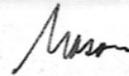
Dr. Martin Stern,  
3143 Bremerton Place,  
La Jolla, Calif.

Mr. Alistair Crerar,  
Member, Board of Directors,  
B.C. Institute for Economic  
Policy Analysis

SUBJECT: Land Value Maps,  
missing folder.

I have a collection of land value maps, I cannot find it in my files. I may have loaned it to you. If so, please let me know right away.

Thank you.



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG/am

Wednesday, Jan 28, 1976

Dear Mase,

I've been ignoring you lately, perhaps out of guilt, perhaps because I ran out of stationery.

I got your New Year's card. Laura looks almost human! (That's the kind of thing Keith would say.) Anyway, I'm jealous. When did you get the dog?

I enjoyed your letter about licences to work, and no, I don't have your land value maps.

Now, as to the reasons for guilt:

1. After discussing the conference papers with two publishers, one of whom has published a number of books on land use and conservation, I'm coming to the conclusion that a) another volume on urban growth is unsaleable, and b) the mediocre quality or nonexistence of some of the papers isn't worth my time and effort to remedy when I'm in the middle of writing my thesis, that is, in light of a). So, unless you hear otherwise from me, the paper is off. I just hope that in your usual fashion you haven't started yet.

2. My thesis is going beautifully, but it's getting longer faster than I can finish it, if you know what I mean. Fifty pages of first draft and still going strong. I don't see any place yet to cut to get something for you. I'm in the middle of extracting all sorts of marvels from the Faustmann formula. It's amazing what you can get out of it if you have the patience to slog through a lot of differential calculus. Hopefully I can eventually stick most of the tedious stuff in an appendix. Poor Dick Norgaard who's going to have to read it soon. He and Phil are so overworked -- the new "Political Economy of Natural Resources" major they created is swamped. So I just hope that in your usual fashion you are running behind on the TRED book, and I can still get something in.

Guess who I met Monday! Marion Clawson, who's retired from RFF, and is out here giving a seminar on resources this semester. Great old guy. I bet nobody's made much effort towards him either -- it must be kind of lonely to come out here not knowing too many people.

I've gotten myself into a peck of trouble with the Sierra Club. The Club and other organizations are trying to stop a major development on a hill adjoining San Bruno Mountain just south of SF. Real lunacy "will destroy the last remaining open space in northern San Mateo County" etc. So I testified on behalf of the developer. I don't think I'll ever hear the end of it. One woman threatened to "smear me in the press" and "kill me in the Sierra Club". Needless to say, preparing to testify, testifying, and defending myself thereafter has taken about four days away from my thesis. Very bad.

Well, my best to you and Fish and Laura and ( ).

Saturday, Feb. 7, 1976

Dear Mase,

It was six men of Indostan  
To learning much inclined,  
Who went to see the Elephant  
(Though all of them were blind),  
That each by observation  
Might satisfy his mind.

"The Blind Men and the Elephant"

John Godfrey Saxe (1816 - 1887)

Aside from the above egregious error, your paper on site value taxation is magnificent! Very clear, very well written. Hopefully anyone with an interest in the subject will understand it. I'm going to make a lot of copies to send to friends.

My thesis continues to go well. I've about got the mathematical section under control. The rest will go faster, though when I'll finish I can't predict. I'm positive I'll get the whole thesis done this year, hopefully by September. And I'm trying to get something for you. It's so hard to know what to cut out -- I've got about 60 or 70 pages at this point.

I got invited to speak at Bernie Siegan's land use regulation conference in San Diego next week. They're paying my expenses plus \$200! Wow! I'm really making it big these days. I'm on right before Don Hagman!

I've gotten into a new involvement. Fun, but turning into something of an ego war. The guy persists in assuming that because I seduced him I must be in love with him, and that therefore he somehow must take responsibility for me. It's such a typical male assumption. When Keith had his girlfriend Judith down in LA he kept moaning to me how Judith was falling in love with him and how the responsibility upset him. (Big ego trip of course.) So he finally decided to have a "heart to heart" talk with Judith about it. She gave him absolute hell for his presumption.

How are Tish, Laura, ( ), and Chauncy?

Regards,

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February 4 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 218  
2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

Yes, in my usual fashion I'm running behind on the TRED book and there is still time for your contribution to be received. Please note, however, that it is not I but certain others of my contributors who are running behind. Of course I could just cut them off, since the good papers are in, and I might. So beware!

All the best.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG: jm

# British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis

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February 17 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 219  
2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

Congratulations on your good news,  
A: that your thesis is progressing, B: That  
your paper for me is progressing, C: That  
Ernie Segin has invited you to speak and re-  
ceive \$200 and D: for educating all those males  
in the fallacy of having too much ego. Jean got  
me to make coffee a couple of times last week  
but hasn't had so much luck with my three male  
colleagues.

Family all well, thank you. Give  
my best regards to Keith.

All the best.

  
Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG: jm

Saturday, March 6, 1976

Dear Mase,

Our suspicions are confirmed. The creature is presumably due, if we're lucky, towards the end of October. Which means I'll have to go to bed at the end of July, and had better have my thesis done by then. Fortunately, I'm not feeling as sick as I was a few days ago, so I should be able to work fairly efficiently.

Forget the letter of recommendation to the Flanning Dep't. They threw me out on the preliminary screening. So did Giannini. I'm not sure whether that means I should give up hope of getting a job at UC Berkeley, or should just try again next year with a completed PhD. Just as well, I suppose, since I wouldn't be able to teach in the fall anyway.

We had a nice party for Marion and Nora Clawson at the LeVeens last night. I spent a long time talking to Nora. She said what a pleasure it was to work with someone like you who had a good classical education. Did you actually study all that stuff in school somewhere, or are you just self-taught?

One small victory. You may remember my argument with Dick Norgaard as to whether small or large firms were more risk-averse. He of course took the traditional position that small firms were. He's been processing all this data on the bidding patterns of large and small oil companies. And -- surprise! -- he's found that the big companies go for the best sites and pay high premiums for them. The little companies go for the risky, marginal sites.

One small comedy too. I wrote Martin a Christmas card, in which I suggested that he take a look at the Carnegie books. I talked to him before going down to San Diego for Siegan's thing -- and discovered he was furious at me. Why? For suggesting he go learn how to be a hypocrite, etc. I guess he'd thought I was trying to sell him snake oil, or teach him how to sell it. He was quite insulted. Another friend had the same reaction, though not so violent. Carnegie has a bad reputation in snobbish intellectual circles.

Sunday, April 25, 1976

Dear Mase,

Long time no hear. How are you? Have you found some place to go yet?

I'm finally starting to feel better. But it's still sporadic. I have good days, and days I end up just sleeping. What an ordeal this has turned into. If we don't succeed this time, I'm not going to try again.

Paper for you is coming OK, but, naturally, slower than anticipated. I keep overestimating how much I can get done. But it'll be good, I think.

I have a new love, of sorts: Ted's 10 year old son, Daniel. Dan is an intellectual, and a natural history buff -- absolutely into everything, the way I was at his age. He has a passion for bugs, and now reptiles. I got him a snake a couple of weeks ago -- big thrill (but it's still refusing to eat). We went with Ted & Keith looking for wildlife on Point Reyes last weekend. Dan must have turned over every board we passed, looking for salamanders, snakes, lizards, etc. He already knows most of the Latin names of most of the beasts we were looking for. I'm enchanted with him. There's so much I can do and share with a child like that. I also feel sad; I realize how much I've been missing all these years not having children. And even if I'm lucky enough to have a live baby this time, who knows how it will turn out? So I'm going to make the most of Daniel.

Speaking of children, how are yours?

Regards,

# Isolated U.S. Town Is Seeking to Tap Foreign Liquid Asset

Canada Won't Supply Water  
To Point Roberts, Wash.;  
A Two-Nation Life-Style

Feb 19 1976

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

POINT ROBERTS, Wash.—Every week-day 13-year-old Iain Jorgensen and 65 other students take a bus on a 25-mile route through another country to get to school. Once a week Iain's mother is likely to drive 50 miles through another country to do her shopping. Iain's older brother, Miles, had his appendix removed in a foreign hospital. And the Jorgensens' home is hooked up to a foreign telephone service and its electricity comes from a foreign utility.

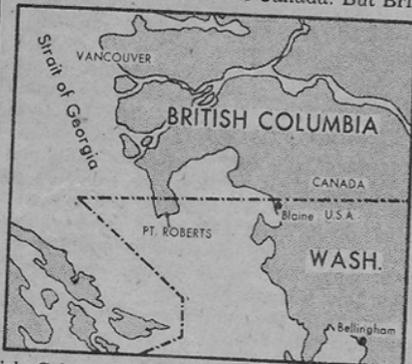
The Jorgensens are American. The foreign country is Canada. Because of a historical absurdity they live on a five-square-mile piece of U.S. territory that juts into the sea and is separated from the rest of the state of Washington by the province of British Columbia in Canada.

For the 800 residents of Point Roberts (half of them Canadians with U.S. residence visas), being sandwiched between two countries has always been inconvenient, if not downright confusing. But for the past few years one major problem has led to a stirring of passions in the normally placid relations between the U.S. and Canada.

That problem is water, or rather Point Roberts's lack of it. The town's wells are running dry, and no new wells have been drilled for six years. Geologists believe that fresh water supplies lie at such great depths that to drill a new well could cost as much as \$70,000. It would also be too costly to run a water pipeline 14 miles under Boundary Bay to the U.S. mainland.

## No Canadian Water

The answer, the people of Point Roberts say, is to buy water from Canada. But Brit-



ish Columbia echoes the rest of Canada's feelings about preserving the country's natural resources (which often means keeping them out of the hands of Americans) and has refused to supply even a trickle.

Every summer the wells produce a little less water, and the Canadian summer people who swell the town's population to 3,000, don't help matters. Without water the town faces a bleak future. "People feel they have been swept under the rug," says Terry Unger, commissioner of Whatcom County, which includes Point Roberts.

This has produced

the summer of 1973 when a drought left the town with only a few days' water supply. With no Canadian water available, supplies had to be trucked the 25 miles from Blaine, the nearest U.S. town on the mainland. The water shuttle went on for a month and during one 10-day period, trucks were moving around the clock.

This made the Point Roberts people so angry that water district commissioner Harry Sames was moved to describe the premier of British Columbia as the "rear end of a horse." (The premier replied that perhaps Mr. Sames had been drinking something a little stronger than water.)

#### Town Was Cut Adrift

The whole thing is really the fault of the U.S. and British negotiators of the Treaty of Oregon who in 1846 set the U.S.-Canadian border by drawing a straight line along the 49th parallel through 1,400 miles of barely inhabited prairie and mountain ranges, from Minnesota to the Pacific. In the process they cut Point Roberts adrift.

The residents of Point Roberts, who inherited this nightmare, have always had to depend on Canada rather than the U.S. for many services. The telephone service comes from British Columbia Telephone (50% owned by General Telephone), which means that calls to Canada are counted as local calls, but calls to the U.S. mainland are long distance.

The nearest large hospital is 12 miles north in a suburb of Vancouver (which is where Miles Jorgensen had his appendix removed). Since the little community relies on Canadian doctors, the state of Washington has passed a law that gives British Colum-

*Please Turn to Page 19, Column 4*

## Isolated U.S. Town Is Seeking to Tap Foreign Liquid Asset

*Continued From First Page*

bia doctors permission to practice on the point without a state license.

The town's children go to school in Blaine, which, of course, means a daily 50-mile round trip. Since there is only one grocery store on the point, most women prefer to drive 50 miles to Bellingham, Wash., the nearest large U.S. town (they could do their shopping in Canada, but food prices there tend to be higher). Customs officials on both sides of the border know most of the point's residents and waive the usual customs regulations for weekly groceries.

Apart from the one store and two huge taverns (complete with topless dancers) there hasn't been an employer of any size in Point Roberts since a number of fish canneries closed down 40 years ago. Pat Jorgensen, whose husband, Cliff, is an oil distributor, bemoans the fact that young people are forced to leave the point to get jobs.

In an attempt to prevent the community from eventually becoming a ghost town, the U.S. residents of Point Roberts have been urging the development of a resort area or marina complex that would attract as many as 15,000 people to the area. But the Canadian residents, mostly older, retired people, don't like the idea at all. The government of British Columbia has said flatly that it would consider turning on its water taps only if some way could be found of restricting growth on the point.

Short of annexation by Canada (which some Canadians have suggested, to the horror of the point's residents) no one seems to know quite what to do about Point Roberts. Once an international commission spent four years working on a plan to turn the point and some adjacent islands into an international recreation and conservation center.

But when members of the commission turned up on the point to present their plan, they were given a hostile reception. Mr. Unger, the county commissioner, says the residents were convinced it was an "evil plot" that could only result in devaluation of their property.

The idea was quietly dropped. It was about the first time, says Mr. Unger, that people on the point had been able to agree on anything.

Saturday, May 8

Dear Mase,

I mentioned to Phil LeVeen that you were thinking of going to Riverside. (Don't worry, it won't get back to Victoria ) He said that according to Henry Vaux, Jr., you'll be walking into a lion's den. Apparently the place is totally polarized between a gang of right-wingers and a gang of Marxists. They can't hold a faculty meeting without a stenographer. A couple of faculty members have recently left in disgust.

I wasn't sure if I should pass this on to you -- Phil may be exaggerating. But perhaps you should check the story out before you make a final decision. And perhaps it's not news to you.

Hate to be a wet blanket. But if the story's true, you'll find out soon enough.

Regards,

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May 10 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts,  
Room 219  
2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

Thanks for sending "Let's Look at the Property Tax" by the League of Women Voters of California. Large parts of it read as though you must be the sole author instead of one-sixth author as suggested on the title page, or is it possible that we made some headway with Helen Break, Betty Casey, Kit Drollinger, Gloria Grossman and Laura Mitchell. I assume it was Helen who represented George so magnificently.

As a minor criticism there is no way that the short paragraph on page 81 concerning western Canada could reflect the total facts of this rather complex situation. It is certainly not true that British Columbia maintains land value taxation. Alberta is closer to it, I believe, from what I have heard.

Will you please send a copy of the publication to General Dick Danby at Suite 300, 1740 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, B. C. Another should go to Mayor Frances Dias, Palo Alto, California.

I don't see how you get so much done. Congratulations! You really took this one over.

I enclose, for your amusement, some rough notes I used last Saturday for the Pacific Northwest Regional Science Association.

I trust this finds you well and gravid.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG:jm  
Enc.

Polly Roberts

May 10 1976

P.S. I don't feel one should ever discuss preferential assessment of farmland without pointing out that the Founding Father of this species of legislation was none other than Governor Spiro Agnew of Maryland. It's not that I want to bias the reader, you understand, but he should know what pack he's running with.

# British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis

Independent research in the public service

3771 Haro Road · Victoria · British Columbia · V8P 5C3

477-9311 477-6911 locals 891 or 892

May 10 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 219  
2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

I just read "Fiscal Impact of Public Policy" which you must have sent me several months ago. It is right-headed but needs a lot more work. It rambles and occasionally raves. By the way, it didn't begin in 1971 with Livingstone and Blayney. It goes 'way, 'way back. Homer Hoyt was deep into it right after the second World War, beginning, as I recall, with Evanston, Illinois.

I see you're taking on Palo Alto. I wonder which side my old classmate, Franny Dias, is on? In those days she was Franny Kracha. She and I and Charlton Heston make quite a trio, don't you think?

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG: jm

Friday, May 14, 1976

Dear Mase,

I enjoyed your notes on land use. Thanks for the tip about Spiro. It just so happens that I'm in the midst of a diatribe against preferential assessments, for the second installment of the League of Women Voters study, on assessment practices. So it couldn't have come at a better moment.

I think Helen Break deserves most of the credit for "Let's Look at the Property Tax". Very little of the section I was assigned, on the legal framework of the property tax, ended up in the final version. And the first draft of the report was a disaster. I rewrote the worst sections, but gave up in despair. Then Helen apparently completely rewrote and reorganized the thing from beginning to end -- it was a pleasant shock to see how well it came out. I can perhaps claim credit for making sure everyone got your stuff, but I'm sure Helen already had it. As you may or may not know, Helen coauthors all of George's articles, -- though she usually doesn't get credit. So don't be so hard on old George.

So far so good on the pregnancy front. I got to the hospital Monday for a minor operation supposed to make prematurity less likely. We'll see.

I hear you're going back to New York to interview for the George School job. Let me know what you find out. And let me know if and when you're coming through town.

Regards,

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May 19 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 218  
2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

I take back all the mean things I said about George Break. Now I can replace them with a new one, that is, his wife works for him and doesn't get credit. Makes me think of the man on the flying trapeze, somehow.

Henry Vaux Jr. felt that you and Phil exaggerated his points somewhat and they no longer apply anyway, but thanks for the precaution.

I asked for the moon in New York and probably won't get it, but it's the only way I could begin to think seriously about that job..

Regards,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG:jm

Wednesday, May 19, 1976

Dear Mase,

Thanks for your comments on "Fiscal Impact and Public Policy". It does ramble a bit, though I hadn't thought it was all that bad. One is always loathe to recognize the faults of one's own children. Anyway, it's been accepted for publication in Planning, July issue. I'm expecting their revised and shortened version any day now. So if you have some specific comments and suggestions I'd very much appreciate your sending them as soon as possible. (I know Livingston and Blayney didn't start it -- what they did do is make fiscal impact popular among environmentalists as an excuse for stopping development. People who wouldn't know cost-benefit from cottage cheese constantly refer to the thing.)

What's this about you and Franny Dias and Charleton Heston??? Please elaborate. I'm dying of curiosity.

Regards,

Saturday, May 29, 1976

Dear Mase,

Here it is. Bet you thought you'd never see it. It'll probably arrive after you get back from Riverside...

It's very rough, as I said. But I desperately need feedback before I do much more with it.

If the thing is basically acceptable to you, it'll have to be cut quite a bit. Obviously, I can leave out the appendix on the Faustmann formula -- I included that just for your information anyway. Then I think the section on risk can be omitted, or briefly summarized. That brings the total down to sixty pages. There are some redundancies within these, though what's more redundant than what -- I'm too close to it to tell. Any suggestions much appreciated. Some of the points will have to be documented better within the text. I can take some material from the as yet nonexistent Section II (it's currently a pile of data plus bits and pieces of rough draft.).

I feel very apprehensive sending you this, very vulnerable. All my tender little ideas -- I'm not sure they can stand on their own yet. Of course many of them are elaborations of your ideas -- I think. (I should give you more credit than I do, and will in the final version.) But in many places I feel I've gone sufficiently far beyond standard economic analysis that I'm not entirely sure I know what I'm doing.

Well, enough of an apologia. I breathlessly await your reaction.

Dear Polly:

The Saffery-Dian-Heston connection is simple. We are all classmates, New Trier Twp.

H.S., Winnetka, Ill., 1941.

None

Hope you are feeling well and behaving yourself as a grivida should!

# British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis

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August 5, 1976

Ms Polly Roberts  
Room 218 2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California  
94704

Dear Polly:

Here as promised is a copy of Social and Economic Impact of Foreign Investment in U. S. Land. I am surprised I didn't send it to you before. It is such a natural off-shoot from Benefits of Military Spending.

This is the month to do or die on editing the Madison Conference.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director

MG:bjt  
Encls.

# British Columbia Institute for Economic Policy Analysis

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August 23 1976

Ms. Polly Roberts  
Room 218, 2490 Channing Way  
Berkeley, California.

Dear Polly:

Following our telephone call here are some more impressions from here and there.

Introduction, page 3. Yes, it boils down to an argument that wages are too low. Your point is well taken, but simplicate, simplicate, simplicate and then add more lightness -- Igor Sikorsky.

Section (a) Wages and Employment. Mistitled. Is has to do with diseconomies of large-scale organizations. Can you somehow boil this down to little more than an itemized list without losing the wonderful references, such as those on page 6, and can you avoid giving the impression of casual empiricism or random examples that support your point? Section (b) Discount rates and capital investment. Probably cut this out almost entirely. Instead cite works of others or else assume the reader knows it. If you were teaching a course or writing a textbook this would be appropriate.

Section (c) Risk and risk aversion. This section really turns me on. It may just be that I'm not so familiar with this literature but rather I think the literature hasn't been well worked out. By the way, don't fail to look at the chapter by Shapiro and Hirshleifer in the Joint Economic Committee trilogy. Anyway, this is a creative and fruitful approach to a subject long ignored or else made sterile and pedantic by other writers and I really think you have something to say here.

Here as elsewhere you need to avoid any statement which is preachy or teachy or journalistic or smart-ass. "You can always tell a wise person by the smart things he/she does not say", and remember, the most important tool in writing is the waste basket.

Finally, after you get your thesis identified, get the punch-line out on the table for all to see, then

. . . . .

Polly Roberts

August 23 1976

see if you can integrate your contribution with the themes of the total conference. This shouldn't be hard, since the connection is natural, which is the best kind.

Cordially,



Mason Gaffney  
Executive Director.

MG:jm

December 5, 1976

Dear Polly:

I don't know how you did it, but your abridged MS arrived two days ago. You are amazing, but;don't neglect the baby.

Ignore supernumerary ;;;;;;. I hit it by mistake on new electric.

This new ms is very good. You have overcome most of the solecisms and sophomorisms previously noted by me and others, and tightened it up, leaving a readable and impressive residue. Two big problems:

1. It is not finished.

2. Pp. 6-8 and T. 14 not clear. As I see it your point just plays on the fact that  $\sigma$  is defined in the particular and peculiar way that it is as the square root of a sum of squares. You say nothing, however, to indicate that this is the way people do or should perceive risk. If you took the simple mean deviation your point would disappear. Why do you use the  $\sigma$ ? (And by the way, please stop writing it like a 6!)

Tell you the truth, no one has ever explained to me why sigma is a better measure of dispersion than any other. Have they you? Maybe this is just a lacuna in my education. I recall pronouncements like "It's mathematically more operable." But that has no bearing on anything in real life, that I can see. "It has mathematical properties that are useful in advanced analysis." That's a favorite putoff, or come-on, or both. Do you know something I don't, and should? (About sigma, I mean!)

Then btm p. 6 you introduce "risk premium" w/o defining it.

This whole section is beguiling because you seem to be laboring to give birth to something quite significant, but it never comes off, at least now so I can understand it. Please straighten me out.

I sent you a box of avocados last week and hope they will have arrived before this. We are loving them. They are great with eggs for breakfast. Eggs Sardou, eggs ala Turque, Eggs Benedict, and now: ---- we give you Eggs Avocado!!!

I must call Dick Norgaard, it's time we got together again.

I really like my new Dean, Stahrl Edmunds. He is well wired into the establishment, but seems to be my kind of liberal beneath it all. We may start a program in appropriate technology, e.g. All I need do is work at it. It's tempting to start prematurely, but I'd better finish some other work first.

Congratulations to you and the proud father!

9413B  
*Mare*