

Kamitchis, Peter
1946-52

Indefinite

My dear Mr. Kamitchis:

I am grieved that the job is 6 weeks off but I am not surprised at the interview!

The apartment situation is a disappointment since I had hoped to meet your wife and daughter soon. If you want to come in town and look around, I can take you in for a few days after October 15th.

Very sincerely yours,

Kamutakis
101 PARK AVE., NEW YORK 17
MURRAY HILL 5-4141

HAROLD L. TAYLOR

INCORPORATED

TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR INDUSTRY

* NAVY CITATION 1945

28 Sep 1946

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt.

First my thanks for a most delightful meeting -- for your interest and concern. The three of us are looking forward to the time when we shall be close enough to all join in an evening.

I was hoping that by now I could say that we had the apartment which was dangling before us. But it hung at the end of a chain of three persons only one of which I knew. So we still are urgently in the market.

Perhaps you recall Mr. V.S. Tata mentioned in our conversation. He is here attempting to create the center organization for a worldwide newservice. At the moment his staff is purely organizational. He is up to here in equipment and contract difficulties. But the Free Press of India (name to be changed) begins official operations on October 1.

Mr. Tata's aims are simple. He wishes to establish a teletype line to India in particular and the world in general - yet with an impartiality of transmission which, as Mr. Tata defined it, is different from the usual editorial objectivity which actually resembles Noah's selection of representative life.

As a matter of fact my interview with Mr. Tata left me with one strong impression. He is different himself. I came to destroy him with my energy. When I spoke I found him youngish (33?). His shortish, thin, rather intense, philosophical, but extremely difficult to talk to. His speech is quite clear his only apparent trouble being with the word individual. Tata is as shrewd as a mouse and is not likely to be rocked. Yet how he rolls with the punches.

The interview covered none of the subjects which the usual prospective boss holds as a focus. Tata was glad to find that his right hand man, Mr. Morse, was my friend. Tata prefers to have his cooperators pick their boss rather than the other way around. Makes things easier. Politics is not to enter into the relationship, the job is to turn out news. Money -- that is no factor. The applicant knows what he is worth. If he gets more or less it becomes a matter of consciences. If it is less there will be separation: more leads to the same, or, greater responsibilities. When Tata hires he wishes to keep.

More important were the discussions centering upon Tata's bad sty, his wife's great difficulty in coming to this country with their 4 year old boy, congratulations to our Nancy on her 4th birthday, etc. One learned that it was F.P.I. that pushed Reuters out of India as a monopoly and allowed them to return even steven with the other boys.

Dear Mrs. R. I'm glad that the job is 5 weeks off. Not surprised at the interview! The apt. is a double room. I'm about 2000. I hope to want your wife & daughter. Love. H.L.T. 10/1



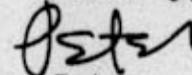
But damn it, I forgot to impress my background of journalism, labor history, writing, research; forgot my million talents; my badly needed practical wisdom of American industrial experience...

When we parted Mr. Tata declared he was very much interested. In a month or six weeks, after he had acquired his 3000 sq ft of office space, he would get in touch with me - science editor perhaps was the spot.

If he does, excellent. But if he does, on what basis of information? Isn't that an interesting way of acquiring a staff? through insight! I realize that in spite of my efforts I remain provincially American. Consequently I responded with a great deal of astonishment to such unaggressive behavior on his part. I shall not forget it regardless of the outcome, for in my own hiring I've hesitantly felt it necessary to know whether the applicant was human, humane, tolerant.

Any any rate shopping for a career promises to be more exciting than job shopping. It may be politics, journalism, or the unexpected. But it will be integrative and ultimately applicable in terms of social worth. In this connection you may well continue to ~~defy~~ any appreciation of the feelings which you stir in your liberal acquaintances. I don't think, however, you can object to the fact that you do stimulate. Clyde and I like democratic people. We are sincerely trying to create in our Nancy the feelings which will make her what we are not: instinctively democratic. We have met few such persons. In official politics Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Wallace, we feel, rank among the greatest such in our history. Mrs. Roosevelt, in whatever category she permits herself to be placed also shall receive that notice in history. But especially are you vital in the feelings of those of us who demand the continuation not only of a plausible future - but a richer more creative one.

Cordially,



Peter

Kemitchis