

22, Westwood Court,
Leeds, 16.

23 May '76.

Dear Mike + Ann,

How goes it? From WP I glean that things are pretty rough in Boston now on the 'race front'. Are you making a successful intervention?

A postscript to my tale of the National Front. The NF, and one of its breakaways the Nat. Party, have had a very successful electoral intervention this spring. They actually won two seats on the Blackburn (Lancs) city council in the municipal elections, replacing the Labour Party. This is the first ever Fascist success in a British Election. In Bradford (Yorks) they got over 9,000 votes, a startling success. We have had two major clashes with them recently, humiliating them on the streets but falling foul of the police - so there have been numerous arrests and some stiff fines. The most encouraging result to date is that Asians & West Indians are spontaneously relating to I.S. and a small number have joined in the past 3 weeks - a very exciting development. The predicted move forward in our fortunes appears to be happening though fitfully. In Wakefield a city of 80,000 just south of Leeds the branch has grown in a month from 12 to 30+ - largely as a result of Right to Work Campaigning and National Front basting. It is too early to make any generalisations yet but there is considerable optimism in the air.

I have a request for help. One of my students wants to begin work on a dissertation tracing the influence of Irish immigrants on Am. Hist/Politics 1860-1920. I have some basic works

but I'm wondering if you could mull up a bibliography. Boston seems to me to be a promising possibility. Also I wonder if there are any Boston politicians or labour leaders who might be prepared to answer questions written by her? I am sure they won't be on your visiting list, but this "neutral" Northern Irish girl might easily appeal to their sentimentality!!!

I am hungry for news of the States so if you or any other comrades would care to write to me I shall be ever grateful.

With the exception of the Spats (whom I met nowhere else!) I have very rosy memories of Boston! I look forward to meeting you again.

Warmest regards,

John

PS Peter Seeger also sends his regards