

29 Salisbury Road

HOVE

East Sussex BN3 3AE

15 April 1993

Dear Alan,

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 April which awaited me on my return from abroad. (I am now fully retired and spend much of my time travelling.)

It was good of you to write, and so fully, about your father's death. He wrote to me about his medical condition in January 1991, and I called on him in September of that year when he seemed surprisingly robust and full of life. Sadly I did not come North in 1992 and so failed to see him. I did not receive a Christmas card last December and so should have realised that all was not well. I had planned to come up next month but now it will be in vain. I am very sorry that his last months were such a trial for him - he was always so vigorous that it must all have been very frustrating for him.

As you may know, I had the greatest respect and liking for Ron. He was one of the 'heavy-weights' in my own life, and no doubt in the life of many others. His energy and drive were an inspiration that I fear I, for one, was never able to emulate fully, but he remained for me a beacon of example.

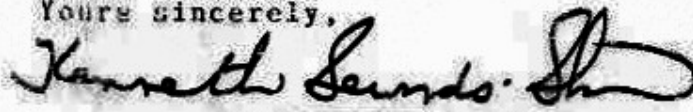
I am sorry that my living in the South prevented much more frequent contact with him, and the sort of discussions which Stephen Fearnley mentioned in his Address. They would have been of great value to me.

But there we are. I have always felt it surprising that Ron did not receive an award in recognition of his talents and contribution to public life, but perhaps he would not have wished it. At any rate, I am sure that the funeral service was an occasion when his merits were both vocally and silently recalled.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness in writing, and please thank also Stephen Fearnley - I know that he made a substantial contribution to Ron's last years.

My deepest sympathy to you and the family,

Yours sincerely,



K E Swards-Shaw.