

Two messages on Gordon Tullock's birthday – from me and (separately) from Marjorie Seldon follow.

We are passing a person gift airmail. We enclose this. It is a silver pen inscribed "Gordon" (Don't tell him!) Would you please pass it to him on his birthday?

We hope the event is a great success.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Seldon

GREETINGS TO A YOUNG GORDON TULLOCK

Gordon has hardly changed in manner and mood since I first met him at the IEA in his early 40's: the same serious Professor using everyday English to explain the latest economic theorem. And declaring his surprise that IEA papers were on sale at the Economist bookshop. The event I recall after approaching 30 years is a Conservative Minister's confusion on logrolling. One day he denied to Gordon that such questionable practices were used by Conservatives. But on the next day he described to a large audience how it was used by several upright Conservative Ministers. (Gordon may remember him as Sir Rhodes Boyson).

When in 1986, Gordon, Charles Rowley, and I were discussing the Fairfax an Anglo-American "Primer in Public Choice" (which in England at the IEA we were calling "The Economics of Politics") I persuaded you, Gordon, to take us, with Marjorie, 80 miles to absorb the historic atmosphere created by Abe Lincoln at Gettysburg which misled the English-speaking world to believe that political democracy would protect the people against the producers. We were more impressed by your historical knowledge of the battle and the field up which the Soldiers of the Confederacy met the fire of the Northern guns. But we could hardly expect Abe to look a century ahead to 1957 and "The Calculus of Consent".

Charles could not join us in 1986 when he was called more urgent business but we found a young colleague in Gordon Brady and finally produced a shorter version of the "Primer" led by your inimitable introduction on the basic principles of public choice. And soon it is also being published in the USA by what I may call the nearest equivalent to the original English publishers. On your inscription to me on Private Wants, Public Means, 1970: I take full blame for its success and wisdom.

Arthur

Message For Gordon On His Birthday

"I once sent Gordon a postcard from Scotland. It was a picture of a signpost in a Scottish landscape and directed the traveler to a place called Tullock. Gordon had sent me a short family

history and it told the story of hi great-great grandfather who had endured incredible hardships on a ship carrying him form Scotland to a life in a new country where he settled and with courage, perseverance and ingenuity, prospered. So to me Gordon, an American, is still and identifiable Scot.

Many years have passed since author and I first met Gordon. He is a great traveler, like all Scots, and the list of countries where we have met is very long. We cherish his friendship, always enjoy his company, and hope that although we can't be with him for the celebration of this birthday, that we shall meet sometime, somewhere (London?) in 2002."

Marjorie Seldon