

Springdon, Broadclyst, Exeter

January 12th 1974

My dear Tatty

How nice to hear from you with such happy news.

We're just back from spending Christmas with our third son and his wife in Boston. A fascinating experience, but I wouldn't live there. Do you realize that in New York State (including N.Y. City) comparable in population to London, Surrey, Sussex & Kent which have some 12-15 I.N.A.s, the Americans have about 600 District School Committees each of which can, and many of which do, exercise more direct control over what gets taught than does the Devon I.N.A. on any Devon School. AND each District Committee gets its cash by imposing its own rate on its own district, so that in "nice" residential areas a rate of 20 cents in the dollar brings in more money (and far more money per kid) than a rate of 80 cents in a slum. AND the richer districts use this money to build themselves better schools. AND they use it to lure better teachers by differential salaries. What corresponds to the I.N.A. in New York State has to conduct 200 salary negotiations (each to fix a three year contract) with 200 separate committees every year. Give me the dear old UK, Ted Heath and all.

Yours
Michael Acland