

A. SCHAUDER, J.P.

"WALDHAUS"
14 PARK DRIVE
PORT ELIZABETH

8th April, 1964.

Rabbi Norman Lamm,
The Jewish Center,
131 West 86th Street,
NEW YORK 24, N.Y., U.S.A.

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

I have just received your letter dated March 31st and thought I would reply immediately. As regards the biographical materials which I sent to you, there is no hurry to return same. You can take as long as you like. All I want to tell you is that what I sent you is simply a drop in the ocean. I have lived in Port Elizabeth for 64 years and the real story of my Jewish activities can hardly be described. A handful of Jews struggled through trial and tribulations to build up a community which you have seen with your own eyes. I struggled with the Jewish Community for over a quarter of a century, until I became a City Councillor and handed over this work to the younger generation. I am still actively connected with the Jewish Board of Deputies, being one of its Vice-Presidents and also founder of ORT-OZE and its President in the Eastern Province. I am also a member of the World Executives.

As already advised you, my son is busy writing a book on my life. It is difficult to say when he will be able to finish it as he is occupied with business from day to day.

RE: PICTURES I SENT YOU.

They will not be of great value to you. The main thing is the message. I built in Port Elizabeth over 30,000 houses for all races. More than half the population live in Municipal houses. There were thousands of people who would never have owned a brick or a roof over their heads. Hundreds of them have already paid for the houses. Those properties today are valued at double and treble of what was originally paid for same. All this I achieved without costing the State or Municipality one single penny. All the costs of the houses etc. have been repaid and thousands of families became independent. In other words, instead of a few people getting rich and becoming millionaires in speculating and gambling with people's homes, we have helped thousands of people to become self-respecting and independent. High rents and charges generally is the cause of broken homes and divorces. When one studies the figures one will find that the divorce rate in Port Elizabeth is the lowest in South Africa on account of us providing homes at reasonable rents for most of the population. Low rents are paid by the people and thereby husband and wife are happier and they possess something without

having to pay away to landlords.

Sorry to read your remarks that you are disturbed to see in the Daily Press about anti-Semetic outbursts in Parliament. The position in South Africa today is neither better nor worse than when you were here. We have got to face facts that there is not much love lost between various races and nationalities throughout the world. The Jew has always been the scapegoat from time immemorial. Please do not take any notice of these reports about anti-Semitism in South Africa. The English people, consisting of English, Scots, Irish and Welsh, after many generations still do not love one another. They have the same racial difficulties. Do not be worried. We have a racial problem of White versus Black. What about the Jews in Latin America, Argentine, etc?

I am one of those who has not lost faith. I still believe that man proposes and God disposes.

I believe that I have already written to you that I have been invited to address a conference of all the Municipalities in Rhodesia. I shall be leaving Port Elizabeth on the 15th of May. It is indeed a great honour for me as I have never been in Rhodesia before. They want me to speak on Housing on the 18th of May.

Thanking you again for writing to me. My special regards to your good lady. I am very pleased that I have been able to bring a little happiness to her. I realise what a few words from a stranger like myself can mean to her, knowing that she is all alone in America and thinking whether her husband is a success or otherwise.

Thanking you once again, and with kindest regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



A. Schauder.