

Adam Wednesday 11th Feb. '98

Dear Stuart, Today it could be sprint time. "Time is out of joint." And what a luxury to sit at 10.30 hour ~~hour~~ behind my desk whilst the room is being filled by Bach's Mathews Passion. One of the great joys of writing is that you can broach any topic you want and in case there are more topics "in pectoris" (= in the breast = in petto) then the letter writer can determine the listing order. Let's begin with Amsterdam. Amazing though true, we still enjoy living, for the first time somewhere, downtown. Imagine, I have a lunch appointment with a director of the Holland America Trust at 12.30 hour in Amsterdam and I take my bike to the restaurant. On the spur of the moment we can decide to go to a concert, cinema or theater. We do not have to invite friends any longer they announce their visits! In January also Floris bought an apartment in Amsterdam. His office is in Amsterdam and working until 23 hours is "de rippeur" among the younger employees in order to be accepted by the

organisation. The employer has implemented the personnel policy of "total surrender". Before Floris rented an ^{apartment} in Rotterdam, ~~which too~~ and travelling commencing was just too much in his circumstances.

Since you have visited us, Vera has made many improvements to the apartment. The book cabinets have been hoisted into the room; we purchased a large mirror etc etc. Last week I declared that we are through with the beautification of the apartment. I will not be ashamed to receive the Queen here. Enough is enough!

Common sense. Of all gifts Nature has donated to mankind, Common Sense has been divided among the people in the most honest and impartial manner, since nobody is dissatisfied with what he got. Has Tony Blair Common Sense? And what about Bill Clinton. Can we infect Common Sense to him? What is Common Sense? May be: "Don't do unto others, what you do not like that they do the same to you?" Q: Get as long the benefits are larger than the cost. A: Carry out the thinking of the (uneducated) majority.

Does "Common Sense" relates to your overall behavior or is it referring ^{to} specific sectors of your dealings/interests? Poor Bill Clinton has too much testosterone in his vein. It can not be helped by him and the world shouldn't rebuke him. Besides this small aberration his Presidency is one of Common Sense (i.e. to be understood by the masses), I thought.

The European Union: I enclose a number of articles clipped from the Herald Tribune. The image of Tony B. derived from those articles, is that he is a tight rope walker. Great politicians dare to be committed to a (sometimes visionary) great idea. Roosevelt - New Deal; Truman - Marshall help. Churchill - destruction of Nazi Germany etc. Great talent is being required to get the idea accepted by the people. The huge effort President Bush undertook to get the world opinion behind him to punish Iraq, as yet has not been matched by Clinton. Can you tell me what the great idea is that belongs to Tony Blair? I also vehemently oppose Globalisation. It throws back mankind back 100 years. Capitalism dictates the world - economies at the expense of labour. A new Karl Marx will arise.

Look to "Mao" also from U.S.A. - James