

13456 Three Forks Road  
Los Altos Hills, Calif.  
Dec. 7, 1963

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Stewart:

The first thing I did when we got home was to read through THE QUIET CRISIS. It was a great experience---seeing the ideas we had often talked over put down finally and persuasively. It's a fine and moving book. I am pleased and astonished at how you have been able to take the rough drafts or rough ideas of many different people and make them all your own. You have made a shorter book than I would have---and that is a compliment: one of the marks of your personal style is that things are boiled down to their essence. I might have ~~wasted~~ time on rhetoric, if I had been doing it, and would have made every chapter longer. But your way is better. You lay it out clearly and without frills or waste. The modifications you have made in my original, hasty suggestion for an outline are all sound---the Olmsted chapter, the chapters on the Roosevelts and on the philanthropists, are splendid; and I'm pleased at the way the philosophy--action relationship is worked out, section by section. Altogether, a splendid job. I imagine you must feel very good about it. Because we've been out of touch, I have seen only one review, that in the New Yorker, but that, even in that snide and snitzy magazine, was very respectful, so that ~~you~~ imagine you must have got a good press. The pictures are as good as I would have imagined them, from my quick look at some photostats in Al Josephy's office last September. It could be a rallying cry; let's hope it will be. I'm proud to have been even briefly associated with it, proud of your acknowledgment of my simple minded efforts to suggest a way of beginning, and touched by your dedication and inscription.

Since I last saw you to talk to you, several important and even disastrous things have happened, and because I've been away in a far country I have a lot of catching-up to do. I wish I could see you and talk to you. The disaster of the President's death must obviously have shaken you clear down to the ground. It did us---we were in Athens, and for ten days were constantly being approached, often in tears, by Greeks anxious to express their fellow-feeling and sympathy, as if we had all suffered a personal loss, which indeed we had. I realized after I had got home that I was half expecting to get back here and find it not true---like one returning from a nightmare. But it miserably is true, and what it does to your program, what it does to you personally, what it does to the whole liberal cause, what it does to the sort of honor and probity and high-mindedness Mr. Kennedy stood for---these are rough questions. I hope that Mr. Johnson is sympathetic to conservation as an idea, and I hope that sheer shame may help Congress get a few things through. But mainly we watch in uncertainty to see what events will bring forth.

There is much that I must catch up on with regard to the Advisory Board, Connie's departure, etc etc. I never, in fact, felt so frustrated, lost, and at sea. But I shall try to discover the answers to a few things from other sources, and not to bother you for answers. My principal reason for

writing this letter is to tell you how well I think the book comes off, and to thank you for the warm inscription. I do not expect or intend to miss any more meetings of the Advisory Board while I am a member of it, and so I expect to see you in the spring in Washington. If you come out here any time, whether in connection with the 1964 campaign or on any other business, will you give us the chance to put you up? I promise not to stall you at the valet parking at the airport a second time. And if there's a chance you might be induced to speak at Stanford, please give me warning, as far in advance as possible, so that I can set it up.

Our very best to Lee. I tried to call her when we were in Washington briefly in September (you were off climbing Kilimanjaro), but didn't catch her in.

Again, congratulations on the book.

Yours,

*Wallace Stegner*  
Wallace Stegner

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There is much that I must catch up on since I returned to the Advisory Board, Connie's departure, etc etc. I never, in fact, was frustrated, lost, and at sea. But I shall try to discover the answers to a few things from other sources, and not to bother you for answers. My principal reason for

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