

RICHARD G. LUGAR
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 13, 2010

Mr. Peter Davis
Villon Films
4040 Ontario Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada
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Dear Peter:

Recently, I received from Pembroke College a remarkable essay written by you entitled, "Stages and Screens."

You begin with the sentences, "1968 was the year of political upheaval. Behind the Iron Curtain, there was the Prague Spring, in Paris, there was le joli mai. In the United States, Martin Luther King was murdered, followed by Robert Kennedy."

I read the entire essay with tremendous interest in your creative filming and in your observations about the startling and often tragic events of 1968.

That year was my first year of service as the Mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana. On April 4, 1968, my 36th birthday, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, and Robert Kennedy was on his way to Indianapolis for an after dark rally at 17th and Broadway. I had met and worked with a number of African American activists during my election campaign of 1967, and these friends made an enormous difference in maintaining peace and security on the night of April 4th in Indianapolis. On that occasion, Robert Kennedy gave a remarkable speech which has been shown for many years, subsequently calling for racial justice, reconciliation, and peace.

The rest of the year was equally tumultuous with a determined appearance by Governor George Wallace on the Monument Circle of Indianapolis and my dispatch of a very considerable portion of our police force to maintain safety and security for all involved. In fact, during much of the year I have described, I held a series of visits on street corners, in church basements, and other places where I could meet and stay closely in touch with all citizens as they suffered through the trauma of very difficult political circumstances in our city and in our country.

Last year, I was asked to participate in a panel discussion at the Adlai Stevenson Memorial Headquarters near Chicago in which former Senator Adlai Stevenson, Jesse Jackson, and former Senator George McGovern were fellow panelists in remembering the Chicago National Convention of 1968 and its implications for the evolution of American politics.

I am most hopeful that some day, I will have an opportunity to see some of your films, and even more importantly, to enjoy a wonderful reunion with you.

In the meanwhile, I simply wanted you to know that I appreciate your remarkable achievements and wish you every continuing success in your visionary career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick".

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

RGL/af