

'Parkside',
[REDACTED]

Dublin,
Ireland.

20th July, '88.

Dear Sir,

I am writing you this letter to thank all those involved in the screening of the Democratic National Convention at Atlanta, Georgia. As a 16-year old school boy, who has known only 8 years of Republican government, I was very interested in learning how a Convention operates. I would also like to say that I have been avidly following the campaign since the first caucus at Iowa and my knowledge from European news programmes has been supplemented by issues of 'Time'.

I found your coverage and explanations extremely illuminating and wholly indispensable. I have been for 7 years extremely interested (to the point of learning statistics to quote or refer to on constituency results) in American and European (Ireland, Gt. Britain, France and West Germany) politics. As yet I have not achieved mastery of the American process! I was particularly interested in the speech made by Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and found that the crowd responded to him like no other previous speaker. For this I was particularly proud because I was Irish.

I want to ask two questions. The first is how come the Democrats always take the South for the Senate but could lose it in the Presidential race? In Ireland the party allegiances stay strong and you vote Fianna Fail or Fine Gael but not one party for the Dáil (Parliament) another for the presidency.

The second enquiry is - do you think that the voting system for presidential elections is fair where you take all the state electoral college votes no matter wide or slim the majority, i.e. one or one million? Couldn't a president be elected on a minority of the votes if he won the 20 biggest states by very small margins and was trounced in the other 30? Would it not be better to add together all the votes taken by each candidate in all the states and see who had the greater share?

I would be grateful if you could send me the book that you advertised called "Conventional Wisdom", the votes that the states have in the presidential electoral college system, e.g. California = 47, and I would also like if possible to have one of the conventional badges.

I have enjoyed watching every minute of the Convention and the speeches (be they from conservative Southerners or liberal Northerners) and I hope to see more conventions televised in future.

Yours sincerely,
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