

Copy of Paper presented to the Special Committee
Sept. 14, 1950

In response to the requests in the typed "Outline of Procedure" given to us in yesterday's interview, we wish to present the following thoughts:

1. We would like to record our deep conviction that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Revelation 12:17, etc., and that it is so to-day, and will remain so, enfeebled and defective as it may be. This movement is modern Israel, and as such cannot become Babylon, has never been Babylon, and we believe will never become Babylon, no matter what trials and difficulties may assail us in the future. Our conviction that a subconscious departure into a highly refined and modern form of Baal worship has taken place amongst us is based upon some clear statements in the Spirit of Prophecy, and indicates that a modern apostasy within Israel similar to Israel's apostasy in the days of old, has taken place. In Elijah's and Jeremiah's days, for instance, Israel had been tempted into infidelity, which the Lord likened to spiritual adultery. (If Mrs. A is seduced into improper relations with a Mr. B, that does not make her Mrs. B—she is still Mrs. A). The Lord called ancient Israel to repentance, and we believe that the facts of our present condition call us to repentance. (We did make the statement in our letters that persistent confusion, unrepented of, could only lead us eventually into spiritualistic manifestations. However, to say that we are putting our feet into dangerous paths is not to say that we will necessarily follow those paths to their ultimate tragic destination. A determined, insistent demand for supernatural displays of "power" for our vindication before the world, without true contrition, could only bring the power of a spurious "latter rain", such as Babylonian churches are crying for, and such as have been evident in some much publicized events in the outside religious world this year. We do not believe that it is God's will that we travel further down a path of confusing ideas. If our convictions are true, we believe that God will arrest any further apostasy within our midst, as soon as we recognize the facts, and learn the lessons we are to learn from our experiences.)

2. Section II, paragraph 2: We did not intend to make sweeping assertions that there is general and widespread "treachery, immorality, cupidity, fraud, and dishonesty" within our ministerial ranks; we cited the isolated examples of such as being far too numerous in a ministry living on the verge of the very last solemn hour of earth's history; and that the reported instances of such sad failures we have witnessed over the past fifteen or twenty years evidence the existence of a defective faith and Christian experience, which we believe is not consistent with genuine faith in the true Christ. One does not have to be covered with bulls from head to foot to recognize that the blood stream is imperfect. A very few bulls will suffice. We believe that in the time of the loud cry (which was declared to be now at the recent Session) we as a ministry will have to reach a decidedly higher standard of Christian experience than is yet evident. (Our point was that that these weaknesses mentioned above are not merely human frailties consistent with our professions of faith; they are inconsistent, and indicate that our faith is defective, and that our very understanding of the significance of the three angel's messages is immature, due to confused ideas about Christ Himself which in turn evidence a confusion of the true Christ with the false).

3. Paragraph 4, same section: The wording of this paragraph requests us to present proof that contemporary errors of righteousness by faith taught among us are "in any way drawn from the theories and sophistries of Doctor Kellogg's Living Temple". We do not believe that there is any pantheism evident in any of our present-day presentations, drawn from Kellogg's writings as a source. Pantheism was the form which Deception assumed fifty years ago, in the days of the alpha—we believe. We have not supposed that the omega will be pantheism—that would be too simple and obvious a temptation for Satan to employ. The omega is not the same as the alpha, as we see it, but is related

to it in that it will be likewise "doctrines of devils and spiritualistic theories", as Sister White said (Series B, No. 2 and 3). We shall attempt to present evidence that there is confusion evident to-day which is as cunningly devised, as specious, as difficult to recognize, as the errors of Dr. Kellogg's day; and as unconsciously presented—and as innocently—as Dr. Kellogg's mistaken views.

4. If it is possible to show that mistaken concepts of faith in Christ have eclipsed faith in the true Christ as taught in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, it will follow that the confusion is, to speak advisedly, a "damnable" one. Gal. 1:8,9, Such confusion can only result in the loss of souls. "For human agents to misconstrue and put a forced, half truthful, and mystical construction upon the oracles of God, is an act which endangers their own souls and the souls of others." (FE 386).

5. Paragraph 5, Section II: We have absolutely no authority to speak for our dear people, except as we discern that they are in a state of confusion and perplexity, ourselves having gone through similar experiences. We said, "could they voice their unconscious desires", they would appeal to the General Conference Committee for a clarification of these very serious matters. We spoke merely as delegates to the General Conference Session our deep convictions, as any other delegate there spoke his convictions on the floor from time to time. Each delegate has a right to express what he feels is the sentiment of the church according to his convictions. Thus we spoke.

We do not believe, we would like to add, that ~~any of~~ our laity are aware of any confusion of the false Christ for the true in any of our preaching—consciously. They are not theologians. We do believe that many of them know what it means to be confused and perplexed by vague, mystical teaching. But sheep do not know how to express their cries very well.

6. We should like to record our intention in our letters to appeal for an investigation into what we feel are serious misconceptions of the very heart of the third angel's message current to-day, and unconsciously, sincerely presented by good men who do not discern what is really taking place. Thus we did not intend to make serious charges against the ministry impugning motives or integrity or sincerity of purpose, as several statements in the "outline" intimate. We believe the great majority of our ministry to be good, sincere men, living up to all the light they have. That does not alter the fact that we are convinced that much precious light has been lost sight of since Minneapolis times, and honest deceptions have taken its place.

7. We would like to repeat our sincere and respectful request that we be allowed to present to your attention the background, historically, of our present situation, as we see it in our history. The enemy of all righteousness has erected a wood, hay, and stubble skyscraper of erroneous concept within the city limits of Jerusalem, we believe, and which counterfeit is gilded over with gold paint and tinsel to make it look like an edifice of gold, silver, and precious stones. You have asked us to reveal the construction of the upper stories of this structure, as we see it; and we feel, brethren, that we sense a slight impatience with our request to present the historical side first. We respectfully request that you permit us to show you the basement first, that we might discover the foundations thereof. Then we shall look into the upper stories, as you request in Section II, paragraphs 1, 3, and 4. Due to personal difficulties—we have not located a place to stay here yet—it may require about two weeks for us to present this matter to you as we feel we must do it. Due to the seriousness of the matter, we request your patience in the meantime.

8. Our task is difficult, and we do not wish to present this matter in a haphazard manner. We present the following brief word as indicating the difficulty of our task:

"Fanaticism will appear in the very midst of us. Deceptions will come, and of such a

character that if it were possible they would mislead the very elect. If marked inconsistency and untruthful utterances were apparent in these manifestations, the words from the lips of the Great Teacher would not be needed. . . . The reason why I hang out the danger signal is, that through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit of God, I can see that which my brethren do not discern. . . . It is enough for me to tell you, Be on your guard; and as faithful sentinels, keep the flock of God from accepting indiscriminately all that professes to be communicated to them from the Lord," (1894-Jan. pp. 6, 7).

"The path of presumption lies close beside the path of faith. . . . If there is not careful, earnest, sensible work, solid as a rock in the advancement of every idea and principle, and in every representation given, souls will be ruined." (Letter 6a, 1894).

(Inasmuch as these statements had a partial fulfillment in the subtlety of Kellogg's partialism, which was the alpha, we feel that they will have another fulfillment in the specious deceptions with which Satan will try our faith in the days of the omega. We shall attempt, as we may be able, to present what we feel convinced is some serious evidence of confusion in contemporary ideas, without involving personalities—we request that as far as possible personalities be left out of all inquiries, and the investigation be confined to published ideas and concepts, with the thought constantly before us of what effect on human minds the teaching of such ideas and concepts will inevitably have.)

* of the laity and the public