

c/o Potomac University
Washington 12, D. C.
November 18, 1958

Elder W. R. Beach
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Washington 12, D. C.

Dear Elder Beach:

We should like to refer to the letter to Brother A. L. Hudson, dated October 24, 1958, copies of which we sent to you brethren at the time. We understand that this letter is being given very serious consideration by our General Conference brethren, and is being interpreted to show on our part an attitude of insubordination to the General Conference; to be quite frank, it is considered to be a "declaration of war."

May we please make the following comments:

1. The letter was called forth by the following statements in "Appraisal":

"...The authors (Wieland and Short) have never authorized, nor given consent to the public use and circulation of their product by anyone. It should be said in this connection that any persons referring to, upholding, or even circulating the Wieland and Short manuscript are therefore guilty of improper procedure."

"...Unauthorized use is being made of '1888 Re-examined,' even against the wishes and counsel of the authors themselves." (Pages 48, 49).

2. We heartily agree that we have never authorized the reduplication or publication, or general sale of our manuscript by anyone, such as various individuals are doing who have published it. But we felt that the second sentence of the statement on page 48, certainly went beyond propriety. "Appraisal" cannot bind us to condemn any loyal member of the church who wishes to "refer to," or "uphold" the manuscript. As regards "circulation", we still do not think it should be published or generally circulated; but we cannot condemn anyone who wisely permits solid and loyal workers to read it privately, now that the manuscript has become such an issue. Especially since the publication of "Appraisal" we felt we certainly could not act as conscience to Brother Hudson, forbidding him to "uphold" or "refer to" the manuscript if he believes he should. If "Appraisal" had been content to state that we have never and do not now approve of the reduplication and publication and general distribution of this manuscript, there would have been quite a different understanding of the matter.

3. In particular, our intent was to deny any desire to act as conscience repressing anyone who wishes to write to you brethren expressing his convictions about this matter. We must say we believe that Brother Hudson, or any other loyal church member has the right to "refer to" or "uphold" what he believes is the right side in any discussion as he may present it to you brethren.

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4. We believe that our attitude toward our brethren and the church is widely known and that our relationship to the General Conference has been clearly presented over a period of years. We do not believe that this matter should be appealed over our heads to the church at large through private publishing. We do not approve of breaking down the lines of church organization. We reaffirm our convictions expressed to you numerous times; that the ultimate Revival and Reformation should come to God's people with the good will and support of the General Conference leadership; God Himself respects you brethren. If you do not see things clearly, or if you oppose His purpose, He will patiently wait until He can have your willing and hearty cooperation. He will keep step with you until you (and "we" all) are ready to keep step with Him. In view of the fact our convictions are so strong that the Lord does not wish to by-pass the General Conference leadership, how could we engage in or approve of any "war with the General Conference? On the other hand, we do not mean to imply that a brother like Brother Hudson has no right to appeal for a reconsideration of such things through the regular channels, as his conscience leads him.

5. We certainly had no intention of saying anything that might be interpreted as a "declaration of war," and we are not in sympathy with such an interpretation, and we would not approve of Brother Hudson taking such a meaning from our letters. We do not believe he will so interpret it.

To thoughtful readers, "Appraisal" will make evident the fact that your position regarding the manuscript is quite untenable. We fear, in time to come, it will bring you embarrassment. It is in this way that we cannot "shield" you by condemning or repressing those who would "refer to" or "uphold" the manuscript from their own sincere convictions.

We trust this letter may help to clarify matters and to assuage your minds regarding our position. We offer these comments humbly and respectfully in an attempt to express our real convictions more fully.

Sincerely yours,

D. K. Short

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