

June 14, 1959

Elder R. R. Figuhr, President  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
6840 Eastern Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 12, D.C., U. S. A.

Dear Elder Figuhr:

This will acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May 1. We must apologize for the delay in replying. This was unavoidable due to the long travelling time in getting back to Africa, as has already been explained to you. It is only today that we have been able to work together in preparing a letter in response to your request.

We were grateful for the opportunity of talking with the brethren of the committee last January 21. We are pleased that the brethren understand that we have no purpose but to cooperate. We feel that our response to the interview last January was no different than has been our attitude all along. However, the passage of time has deepened our conviction that the thesis of this manuscript is correct and true. In particular this was confirmed after our further research following our reading of "Appraisal."

Notwithstanding, we wish to cooperate with the General Conference, and do not intend to agitate or promote the manuscript against their official action in condemning it. We stated in our letter of January 21 that we leave the matter to the "disposition of Providence."

It would seem to us that possibly our position is not clearly understood. Your letter can convey the impression that we have in principle retracted our convictions and abandoned the burden of conscience we have felt since 1950. This we should state is not the case. Though conscious of many mistakes and shortcomings in our presentation, we are yet firmly convinced that the manuscript in its general thesis is true, and is of the utmost importance to the church at the present time. We consider that our reiterated purpose to submit to the authority of the General Conference should not be interpreted as a retraction of our position, nor a modification of our convictions regarding the manuscript.

To reply specifically to the request in your letter, we would say:

1. We definitely do not approve of the publication of the manuscript against your official opposition to it. We wrote it specifically for the attention of the General Conference Committee. We have no sympathy with those who may try to use it in their self-appointed "off-shoot" activities of attacking the organized church and condemning its leadership.
2. It would seem to us that the General Conference Committee themselves have thusfar not fully grasped the significance and import of the manuscript. Rather, it has been left to the care of small sub-committees whose reports have thus far failed to deal with its subject matter. In the case of "Appraisal," it would seem that the larger Committee voted approval of a report without carefully studying it in advance, even though some of our most careful and most eminent scholars agree decidedly with the historical promise of the manuscript. It is

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our opinion that we dare not act as conscience for workers or lay members in good and regular standing who may have already come into possession of this document, and who feel a burden to appeal to the General Conference for a more careful consideration of the matter, through the regular constitutional channels. In our letter to Elder Beach of November 18, 1958, which was written in explanation of our October 24 letter addressed to Brother A. L. Hudson, we emphasized this same thought. The November 18 letter we re-affirmed at the time of our meeting with the Committee January 21, as we re-typed it, sending copies to the five brethren who interviewed us.

3. In conclusion, we would say that our understanding of the phrase we used, "disposition of Providence," requires that we not only take our hands off the manuscript to avoid any agitation or promotion of it, but also to refrain from repressing other loyal Seventh-day Adventists who may be motivated by Providence entirely independently of ourselves, to appeal the matter to you. We do not know what the Lord may will concerning this thing, unless developments thus far do give an indication. He may will to await a future generation who will reconsider more sympathetically the call to denominational repentance which is sounding insistently in the facts of our history, both past and current. On the other hand, He may will to require His people in this generation to face the issue involved, and call them to return to that heart-felt love for Jesus that was missed at Minneapolis. We ourselves fear to take any step to interfere in the matter, one way or the other. It is probable that in the end, the "disposition of Providence" will be seen to be the same as the disposition which the Seventh-day Adventist conscience makes of this matter. We have borne a witness; and leave it henceforth to the Lord to deal with as He sees fit.

Sincerely yours,

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