

## GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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Dear Brethren:

I have your letters of May 21 and 25. With reference to yours of the 21st, let me say that I am perplexed and somewhat disappointed. I have wished right along that you could take a definite position and state your position briefly and pointedly. You must be aware that certain dissident groups subversive in activity and doubtless in intent, are using your material, along with other material, to break down confidence in our church organization and its leadership. I wonder if you brethren realize that by your rather indefiniteness in the matter of forbidding the use of your material, you are actually giving some encouragement to these individuals. The fact remains that you did prepare this manuscript. It is also a fact that it has been placed in the hands of certain individuals who either have duplicated it themselves or passed it on to others who did. I cannot therefore believe that the responsibility is entirely that of Hudson's, for instance, in sending it out. You have much responsibility in this matter as authors.

A certain individual who, for some months, has actively duplicated and sent out material of a critical nature, suddenly awakened to the fact that so-called reformers and trouble-makers were using his material and duplicating it. Immediately he ceased his efforts along this line and sent out definite word to all he knew were using it, forbidding its use. This, it seems to me, is an act of loyalty to the church.

We have never requested that you brethren retract what you have written or believe. There is room within our denomination for people to have shades of opinion different from their fellows. There is little room, however, for those who follow a course that results in breaking down confidence in the church and this organization. In taking this position, we believe that we are taking exactly the position that the Spirit of prophecy points out should be taken:

"There are a thousand temptations in disguise prepared for those who have the light of truth; and the only safety for any of us is in receiving no new doctrine, no new interpretation of the Scriptures, without first submitting it to brethren of experience. Lay it before them in a humble, teachable spirit, with earnest prayer; and if they see no light in it, yield to their judgment; for 'in the multitude of counselors there is safety.'" --Test., vol. 5, pp. 291, 293. (1885), Counsels to Writers & Editors, p. 47.

It seems to me that this is very much to the point. People with new

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ideas or, as they may think, new light are "to lay it before them [brethren of experience]...and if they see no light in it yield to their judgment..." This is all we ask that you do and that you let this be known far and wide.

The statement in your letter of May 25 headed "To Whom It May Concern," it seems to me lacks definiteness. In it you point out that you have not retracted your position, etc. You further go on and speak about allowing people to follow their own conscience, etc. This is unnecessary, as I see it, and weakens the very point that you probably intended to make, namely, that you definitely disapprove of the circulation of your manuscript inasmuch as you have committed it to the church, as admonished by the Spirit of prophecy.

Before the brethren will want to give serious consideration to the

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points that I requested you to state, I think such a statement should be forthcoming. It need not be long but it should be pointed, without any diluting, additional statements. Such a statement we can use to meet the subversive activities of different groups who have been stirred up here to carry on work that, to a degree at least, injures the cause of God.

I have written to you frankly, brethren, because I believe the occasion demands a frank statement.

Praying that the Lord may guide us in this matter and that our efforts may be united in defending the faith once delivered unto the saints and the unity of God's people, I remain

Very sincerely your brother,

R.R. F. Quinn