



General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists

CHURCH WORLD HEADQUARTERS: 6840 EASTERN AVENUE, NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012
TELEPHONE: (202) 723-0800 • CABLE: ADVENTIST, WASHINGTON • TELEX: 89-580

July 12, 1973

Elder W. J. Wieland
Elder D. K. Short

Dear Brethren:

As you perhaps know, I have been asked to chair a committee to consider the position you have taken in regard to the 1888 experience. We have been trying to get all of those involved together to determine how and when we can best give proper attention to this matter, and we have the following schedule to outline.

It has been necessary to change the dates previously suggested for two very important reasons. First, because some of us feel that two days are not enough for us to properly deal with the issues involved. We feel that it would be better to have no meeting at all than to try to rush things through so fast that little or nothing would be accomplished by such a meeting. We want, therefore, to take the time necessary to do the job properly.

Second, at Elder Arthur White's suggestion, our committee here in Washington in counsel with Elders Pierson and Wilson, and with the approval of the White Estate Board, would like to open to you two brethren all the E. G. White materials to your examination prior to our meeting. We are asking Elder Merwin Thurber and Dr. Blanco to be present to assist you in this study. We have, therefore, set up the following schedule.

October 15 to 19 -- Examination of E. G. White materials on the 1888 experience and the years following.

October 23 to 26 -- The full committee meets for the Wieland and Short proposals. We are happy that the dates have been cleared so that Elders Pierson and Wilson can be with us and we hope and pray that lasting good can come from this meeting.

This means, Brother Short, that you will have to return from Africa, but we have discussed this matter with Elder Pierson and he is agreeable. It will be necessary for him to work this out with your division administration but he thinks that this can be arranged.

Let me share with you two paragraphs of a letter from Brother Arthur White which will doubtless be of interest to you:

"On Monday the White Trustees met and among other matters gave consideration to the steps which the White Estate might take to make the work which is being anticipated in studying with Brother Wieland and Brother Short most fruitful. While I was mindful of statements made by Brother Wieland that the sources in the White Estate vault which were vital to an understanding of the matters

which they were discussing were shut away from those who might wish to have access to them, I was not until a few weeks ago aware of the basis for this statement. When I looked at Brother Wieland's "Confession" and discovered his statements that in December, 1949, he was, on his request, given access to certain file folders in the White Estate relating to Minneapolis, and then he was denied further access to these folders, I learned for the first time what apparently is the basis for some of his statements. I was in the Far East at this time on a six months' itinerary and knew nothing of the experience. In fact, I do not recall having met Brother Wieland or Brother Short until the summer of 1950 when I was appointed a member of a committee to listen to their presentation of their views.

"Since steps are being taken to review the records relating to Minneapolis and its experience and aftermath, an investigation which will lead us into both published and unpublished sources, it has seemed to me as secretary of the Board, as I have suggested in two smaller committees, and it seems to the White Trustees, that we should invite Brother Wieland and Brother Short to read carefully all the sources which our researchers have found to be relevant and have pursued. Our Board took action which opens the way for this to be done at a proper time, and of course working within the framework of the policies which govern access to the Ellen G. White manuscript sources."

Praying God to guide us all in the study of this important matter and with kindest personal regards, I remain,

Very cordially your brother in Christ,

N. R. Dower

N. R. Dower

NRD/r