

# ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

LeROY EDWIN FROOM  
Professor of Historical Theology  
6840 Eastern Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012

Dec. 7, 1961

Elder R. J. Wieland  
P. O. Box 111  
College Station  
Berrien Springs, Michigan

My dear Brother Wieland:

Shortly after completing my recent letter to you, last Friday's mail brought me a shock and a disillusionment. But first this background for the setting.

At the Autumn Council I loaned you and Brother Short, over the weekend, several documents--the loose-leaf notebook, and other documents, together with a plainly-marked "Confidential" item, that had not been completed, and has not been released--"High Lights and Afterglow of the 1888 Conference."

This item comprised supplemental statements of participants in the '88 meeting--men still living in 1930. Inasmuch as you are deeply interested in such matters I thought you would appreciate an advance look, and would honor their as yet confidential character. I was given no opportunity to talk with either of you afterward. Short simply placed them in my hands after the weekend when I was in the midst of a consultation with an individual of the Church. In this I was disappointed. I had hoped to talk over matters further. It seemed an unusual procedure.

But in Friday's mail I received a letter from Mrs. Pearl Waggoner Howard--who was only three years old in 1888--stating that you had written to her asking if it were true that her mother, Jessie F. Moser, actually took down E. J. Waggoner's '88 Conference talks in shorthand, thereafter appearing in certain books and periodical article form.

She evidently knew that you had gotten such information from me for she mentioned your enquiry, and certain other matters. She herself has not seen this confidential item, but I have been in touch with her for years and obtained many valuable documents from her. However on this point I got <sup>an</sup> affidavit directly from

Jessie F. Moser herself. Pearl Waggoner Howard was too young to know or to care about the shorthand reporting at the time. That was not a matter of concern to her.

That enquiry was the direct result of letting you have access to a "classified" document. Brother Wieland, I am sorely disappointed in you--that you should treat still classified information in such a manner, and challenge it in such a way.

I have had to re-evaluate the matter of relationships. Evidently I will have to be very guarded in the future, and only let you have--if at all--what is actually released for any and all. You have disillusioned me.

Regretfully,

  
L. E. Froom

LEF:ec