

P. R. FIGUHR, PRESIDENT

W. R. BEACH, SECRETARY

C. L. TORREY, TREASURER

VICE-PRESIDENTS

L. K. DICKSON, GENERAL
A. V. OLSON, GENERAL
H. L. RUDY, GENERAL
A. L. HAM, GENERAL
W. B. OCHS, NORTH AMERICA

H. T. ELLIOTT, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
J. I. ROBISON, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
W. P. BRADLEY, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
E. E. ROENFELT, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
N. W. DUNN, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
ROGER ALTMAN, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY
F. L. PETERSON, ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

O. A. BLAKE, UNDERTREASURER
R. H. ADAIR, ASSISTANT TREASURER
J. F. CUMMINS, ASSISTANT TREASURER
F. D. KNIGHT, ASSISTANT TREASURER
C. W. BOZARTH, ASSISTANT TREASURER

REC'D APR 21 1955

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON 12, D. C.

GENERAL FIELD SECRETARIES

W. H. BRANSON W. E. READ
J. L. MCELHANY W. P. ELLIOTT
D. E. REBOK L. E. FROOM
V. T. ARMSTRONG E. J. LORNTZ
N. F. BREWER J. A. BUCKWALTER
GLENN CALKINS

CABLE ADDRESS
"ADVENTIST" WASHINGTON
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
"GENERAL CONFERENCE"
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 26, 1955

Elder R. R. Figuhr, President
General Conference of S.D.A.
Washington 12, D. C.

ARCHIVES
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
NOT FOR DUPLICATION OR PUBLICATION

My dear Brother Figuhr:

Inasmuch as I am leaving in a few days, I felt I should make a personal report to you on our two days of interviews with Brethren Martin and Cannon, according to schedule.

We worked very, very hard at getting the answers to their twenty-four questions down in black and white. These were read over. A few of them did not fully answer what they had in mind, so we have been revising them a bit. We asked them to hand back their carbon copies, and we have now about completed our work. We will mimeograph a few copies and hold these as entirely confidential. We will, of course, send copies to them, Brother Unruh, and are placing a copy with you.

I suggest that if there is any serious question about any of these, that it be held until I have returned and can be personally a party to any discussions. I will not be back until about the sixth of August. But I was the one who wrote the answers to about eighteen of the twenty-four questions.

This has been a most unusual experience. I think never in our history have we had approaches of this kind and have had such a remarkable "about face" on the part of men who came down planning to expose us as one of the most damaging of the cults. Now they are tremendously anxious to check and to kill these wild and wicked attacks on Adventists.

I showed Mr. Martin, in a personal talk, a Talbot attack in the March King's Business, and he was so agitated that he paced the room like a lion, and he said they are going to put the crimps in that man and either force a retraction or force him to stop that type of stuff! Under the circumstances, and since it is unlikely that the statement that I wrote out will be sent, and it is questionable that it would do much good if it were sent, I took the liberty of reading it to him. He was so stirred by the man's gross inaccuracies and misrepresentations, as he [Martin] has now come to understand our real positions, that he twice tried to get Philadelphia leaders by phone to see if something cannot be done to stop these unchristian attacks upon us.

I do not know where all this will lead, but we do know that we have won friends in a powerful circle--friends who believe that we have been unjustly treated and are set to make a defense of our adherence to sound Biblical positions.

Figuhr

-2-

4-26-55

We are not finished. We just got started on the matter of the atonement, the crux of the whole thing. And Brother Read and I arranged for a tentative appointment for August, when we will both be home.

I will ask my secretary to place a confidential copy of these answers in your hands. It may seem that some of the statements are a bit different from what you might anticipate. If you knew the backgrounds, the attitudes, the setting of it all, you would understand why we stated these things as we have.

R.A. (handwritten) (handwritten circle around R.A.)
Another thing: We have been altogether too narrow in some of our views. But most serious of all, Brother Figuhr, is the fact that in Andreasen's book on Hebrews there are some gravely inaccurate statements. And you, of course, know the one by Brother Kern in his answer to Jones concerning the nature of Christ during the incarnation. It is squarely in conflict with Mrs. White's writings. And then, of course, there is the Branson statement. We cannot cast these men into the category of men on the fringes of things. We simply have to say that some have expressed their honest personal viewpoints, but some of the rest of it cannot subscribe to it. We will have to have a serious study of safeguarding our literature and making it more accurate, and our publications, as well as our public oral presentations. Something of that sort must come out of this. ✓

These men feel that statements concerning our real position on the fundamentals of the Christian faith would be the finest thing that could ever appear. These would be statements like I mentioned to the officers--statements in some responsible secular mediums like The New York Times and one or two other magazines.

Well, I am under great pressure to get away. May God bless you. Be assured of our love and affection for you and our sincere attempt to deal with matters of this kind to the best of our ability.

Most cordially in the service,

L. E. Froom (handwritten signature)

L. E. Froom

ARCHIVES
General Conference of Seventh Day Adventists
NOT FOR DUPLICATION OR PUBLICATION

LEF:es
Dictated April 15