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INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM Meredith J. Sprunger

DATE November 7, 1977

TO Administrative Committee

SUBJECT Eastern Regional Conference

I arrived at Hartford, CT at 11:15 A.M. Friday and Helena Sprague picked me up and took me to their home in Farmington, which is situated in a condominium complex located among the hills of a beautiful woods. It was a pleasure to get acquainted with her husband, Sid, (Dr. George S.) who has all but completed reading The URANTIA Book and takes an active part in their local study groups. Following a delightful meal, George and Ellen Park came over and we had a pleasant evening together. Helena believes, and I would agree, that George has much leadership potential in URANTIA Brotherhood.

Saturday we arrived in Clinton around 8:30 A.M. where coffee and doughnuts were being served. The Fall Eastern Regional Conference was held at the historic Congregational Church Hall - the site of the origin of Yale University. The Clinton Study Group did a fine job as host of the conference. Many commented that it was the best conference they have had to date. Nick Scalzo and Carl Marsden furnished most of the leadership for the Clinton group. Carl is a school teacher who also has numerous business activities. Among other things he is planning an expedition to search for the sea bottom site of the Garden of Eden!

Around 85 people attended the conference. They have an advanced study group composed of Charles Arcieri, John Murney, George Park, Charles Olivea, Peter Lawrence, Alison Gardner, Kipp Alpert, Steve Dreier, David Elders, Marta Elders, Eric Johnson, Dan Massey, Cynthia Meyers, Vin Meyers, Hal Park, Nick Scalzo, Dick Schonberg, and Helena Sprague. Most of these people will probably be the founders of their proposed society. During the day I had an opportunity to visit with many present - among them: Bob Zysk, Joy Winter, Harvey Briggs, Carl Marsden, Beach Barrett, Rich Cutcliff, Bob Leonard, Laurie Bentrewicz, Lynn Rothmann, Louis Celentano, Paul Vitois, Virginia Varnum, Jack Precuitt, Joe San George, Blake Atyeo, Nat and Mildred Goldsmith, Jim Bralley, Frank Mormando, Pat Burlingame, Kipp and Mary Alpert, Donna Vagshenian, John and Taby Speed, Don Kaiser, Daniel Glazer, Lee Guerette, John Luce, Neal Waldrop, Neal Rudin, and Jon Lewis.

In the forenoon Charles Arcieri spoke on "Over-view of Morontia Life." He used colored slides diagramming universe organization, including headquarter worlds, etc. They are of fine quality and should be of interest to the Committee on Education. John Murney talked on "Mansion Worlds" and George Park on "Morontia Mota." All of these presentations were very well done.

At Lunch there were 83 of us at a local restaurant who served an excellent meal buffet style. The afternoon session featured Charles Olivea speaking on "Survival on Urantia Past." Charles used an overhead projector to outline his presentation. He was most competent and ended with a dramatic flourish. Peter Laurence read a paper on "Survival on Urantia Present and Past." It was a very interesting presentation made up of provocative questions composed by Peter and answers directly from The URANTIA Book. Peter is a teacher and school administrator. He recently received his Ed.D. and is currently trying to decide on his future. Steve and Helena believe he may be the most competent leader in the east to surface in the last couple of years. From my limited observation, I would agree. He could serve now as a resource person for the Committee on Education. Alison Gardner (Montgomery) spoke on "Spiritual Survival." She is more esthetic, emotional, and mystical in her approach and less organized than

the other presentations. Just before the workshops began Nick gave me five minutes to speak about the Brotherhood and Foundation and Vern Grimsley was given five minutes for a spiritual message. Both of us were well received. Each of the speakers then led workshops and the formal part of the program ended with Nick Scalzo making a slide presentation of some universe diagrams and about 70 paintings done by Vince Ventrola. About half of the group stayed for a Remembrance Supper directed by Nick - sort of a forced testimony meeting where each person was asked to give some personal statement or remembrance of Michael.

Following the meeting about a dozen of us decided to have dinner together in a local restaurant. The restaurant had a long waiting line and so we bought pizzas and went to Nick and Dede Scalzo's home to eat. Their home is built largely on pillars over rocky ground in a wooded area. The house is impressive and has a large living room designed for URANTIA study group meetings. I went home with Steve and Bobby Dreier.

Sunday morning we had a leisurely breakfast. Steve, Bobby, Steve's mother, and I had a delightful visit. Dave Elders called and we had a visit over the phone. Peter and Eileen Laurence, and their two daughters, came over and Bobby served a delicious buffet meal. We had a beautiful afternoon together and kept talking right up to the time when Steve and Bobby had to rush me to the airport.

Steve tells me that Mario Harrington will soon be leaving for Malaysia where he will be stationed for five years.