

Secretary-General

May 11, 1965

Secretary, Urantia Foundation

Christy:

I am attaching an excerpt from a letter Arlie Riddlebarger wrote to Julia and Bill Fenderson (which they passed on to me). Arlie has seen material being sold by William Dudley Pelley which is identical with the Urantia Book, at least parts of it.

You may recall that we have had indications before that he might be using the book and I remember we have been asked once or twice whether we had any connection with him. But this is the first definite indication we have had that he may be copying from the book.

This seems to be a matter for the Foundation to handle.

MTR
Att. 2

Excerpt from letter of Arlie Riddlebarger to the Fendersons - April 29, 1965

"A gentleman living here in Carlsbad, a Dr. Gerald Bryan (well known and greatly respected—a chiropractor once; now retired) when in L.A. in April called Maria in re Urantia and Maria sends me his name and finally he did call on us. And he has called three times since. He is a "teacher" in the Rosicrucian Order here, and as you know their headquarters, plant, temple, and estates are near Ocean-side. One of the requirements of the Order is that one who desires advancement in the Order must go out and spend time (or give service) calling on people, preaching the doctrine, teaching, etc. (like the Mormans give two years of service, etc.). Well this man is doing just that, in my estimation. He is a sincere believer in Rosicrucian philosophy. (If he only knew Urantia he would find much to help him. But I'm not about to tell him so.) We discuss early religions, Book II, and when we disagree, we table that idea — well we have a fairly good discussion going now. He gives an idea from the Rosicrucian, and I try to relate it to something comparable in the U.Book. Last time we got on "Reflective Aids" —and the whole superuniverse Reflectivity system. He was fascinated. I could just see him reading Spiritualism into the Reflectivity concept, but he is an adult, and he owns a copy of the Urantia Book. While I'm doing the discussing he closes his eyes (to see if I have a yellow aura - & I better have!).

"Well, this is all beside the point - the real thing that has come out of our meetings is that he said during one of his discussions that the 'Pelley papers' are identical word for word with the Urantia Book. You can believe me when I say I elevated my ears! And it's true they are! Those I saw were mimeographed on white legal sized papers - each paper given a number and a title, and the whole content of the paper attributed to one 'Nostradamus.' (I ran across him before someplace—at Bud Kagan's I believe it was.) Well anyway these papers are being sold - they can be bought from a Mr. William Dudley Pelley, Box 213, Noblesville, Indiana. When you order you ask for the "Sets of Five" (I've got a lot more about it.) A copy I made from one set of papers Dr. Bryan left with me for a week is all I've actually read, but Dr. B. has the full set. I have written W. D. Pelley and ordered a "Set of five" - and probably won't hear a thing; but this summer when you go to Chicago you will not be far from Noblesville, Indiana, and you and Marian Rowley might call on the gentleman. My bet is he has cribbed the papers from the Urantia Book. There is nothing on Part I in the Set I saw. Part IV is alike in content but not in form - but Part II and III has whole paragraphs word for word.

"W. D. Pelley may have had access to the early papers in the 1930's for he lived in Chicago then. He was at one time associated with the Ballards who operated a 'Sect' in the Shrine Temple in Chicago in the '30's, and were arrested for using 'Black Magic and Witchcraft.' Pelley, himself, was indicted, I believe, during this period, for wrong use of the mail, etc. etc. All this before we knew about the Urantia Book. Well, the charge may be true and it may not be, but that's the picture I get from this end. If you can add anything else I'd like to hear it. If I ever receive the "Set of Five" I'll let you know, then we will have something to build a 'case' on!

"It's odd that this has gone on for several years right under Chicago's nose, and they not know anything about it. That's what makes me think they do know about it and will pooh hoo the whole idea. No wonder Spiritualism has gained such a foothold if the 'Spirit of Nostradamus' can produce papers like the Urantia Book, with only the effort required to mimeograph good copy."