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URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
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February 21, 1978

Mr. W. Allen Brazell
P.O.Box 26575
Houston, TX 77207

Dear Allen:

First, I should like to express appreciation for your critique "The Licensing Agreement and Civil Law." It represents much work and I know you have been concerned about the Licensing Agreement.

Since my knowledge of legal matters is quite limited, I asked the legal counsel of the Foundation for permission to bring your letter and go over it with them. Mr. Lloyd Root, one of the senior members of this law firm which specializes in copyright and trademark work, took several hours to sit down with me and go over your observations point by point. I asked him to write up his evaluation and send it to me.

I did some checking on Mr. Root's legal qualifications; they are impressive. He has had over forty years of experience during which time he has served as a member and chairman of the Patent, Trademark and Trade Practices Committee of the Chicago Bar Association. He has been a member and chairman of the Trademark Committee of the Chicago Patent Law Association. Mr. Root served for six years as a member of the Lawyers' Advisory Committee of the United States Trademark Association. He was appointed to the Speakers' Bureau of this national association and has been a lecturer to trademark examiners in the United States Patent Office. He has been a member of the Foreign Trademark Committee of the Chicago Patent Law Association. For 25 years Mr. Root has represented the Independent Grocers Alliance, where he is involved in licensing work where there is considerable litigation activity. He has written articles for trade publications and is generally regarded as an authority in this field.

Mr. Root's letter is enclosed; therefore, I will not spend time detailing his opinions. My summary understanding of his report is that some of your points were not germane to the Licensing Agreement. Some of your statements are inaccurate or misleading. The balance of your observations recognize that which is inherent in legal documents -- they specify conditions and delineate privileges and obligations. If this is correct, your critique does not bring up any new areas of concern. But you can read the evaluation of the legal counsel for yourself and draw your own conclusions.

Instead of spending time rehashing legal pros and cons, I should like to address myself to some philosophic issues which I consider much more basic and important. What I have to share, Allen, is not meant to argue with a position which you may or may not hold, but it is directed to the entire leadership of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Recently we have received a number of letters challenging the appropriateness of URANTIA Brotherhood activities. One couple objected to any organization being associated with The URANTIA Book. Periodically we get letters objecting to copyright and service mark limitations. These people believe they should be able to do anything they wish with The URANTIA Book. After our solicitation letter went out we received complaints saying that we were corrupting the spiritual quality of The URANTIA Book by associating it with material things, especially money! In carrying out organizational procedures in the Brotherhood and in co-operating with the Foundation in protecting the copyright and service marks we are criticized for mixing spiritual and legal matters. These people believe that civil law has no place in an organization emphasizing spiritual concerns.

I don't believe anyone has ever accused me of loving organizational procedures and regulations, enjoying fund raising, or delighting in legal activities! Usually I am the one warning against the dangers of institutionalism, materialism, and legalism. The time has come, however, to place things in proper perspective. The things which I should like to share with you are my honest opinions, but they have greater weight than my personal convictions. They are rooted in certain advices and admonitions to the early leaders, which in turn have been shared with me over the years. Most, if not all, of that which follows concerning the importance of organization and control, the dangers of idealism, and the necessity for copyright and service mark protection has origin in these historic directions as well as in my own considered judgment.

Not since the coming of Jesus to our planet has there been a dynamic spiritual nucleus which is contained in The URANTIA Book, around which so many competing and divisive groups would arise. Each of these groups would claim to be the "true" guardian of The URANTIA Book. URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood are necessary to prevent the formation of numerous other organizations, to protect against egocentric and predatory minorities, to prevent confusion and disruption, and to guard individual freedom. URANTIA Brotherhood certainly is not a perfect organization, but it has one of the most balanced, liberal, and fair constitutions ever devised for a religious group.

Contrary to what many idealists assume, a society or a religion without organization or regulation does not bring greater freedom to the individual. All attempts to establish such societies have ended in confusion and chaos. The individual ends up with less freedom, less choice, and more anxiety than in an organized and regulated society or social religious group. Evolutionary experience has taught us that the individual has the greatest freedom in an ordered society. It is regulation and law which insures liberty and freedom for the individual. Children and adolescents often question this fact until they experience the confusion and suffering brought on by libertine or egocentric behavior. The fruits of social and religious anarchy have always been bitter and often poisonous. When all people are spirit led, then this planet will need no government or regulation in its political and religious activities. Until that time organization, order, and control are very necessary and helpful. Obviously, they can also be abused!

It is extremely important that the copyright of The URANTIA Book be protected. It doesn't take too much imagination to visualize what well intended people, as well as messianic personalities, could do with the integrity of the text

over centuries of time. We have been directed to protect the name "URANTIA," to register it, and to guard it by civil law. The registered marks, after the copyright runs out, are a legal means of identifying the untampered version of The URANTIA Book. The Licensing Agreement in controlling the use of the service marks and the membership marks is a legal means of identifying those groups who are governed by the basic philosophy and constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood. This will protect us and the general public from much of the confusion and extremism which disreputable groups could bring on all of us and seriously handicap the growth of the Father's kingdom on earth.

The greatest challenge to organization and regulation in society and religion is made by spiritual idealists. Idealists chafe under regulation and control. It is largely futile to argue with them. They are right -- and they will prove it when we get to Havona. One should listen to them, respect them, and love them, but it would be disastrous to follow their unrealistic advice. Probably the most dangerous people in the world are spiritual idealists who are also egotists. This can produce messianic personalities whose self-styled omnipotency brooks no restraint.

If we are going to be effective in the here and now, our spiritual idealism needs to be conditioned by evolutionary spiritual realism. We must clearly understand that we live on confused URANTIA, not on perfect Havona. The seraphim agreed with Abner, but they worked with Paul. It would have been folly to do otherwise. Our Thought Adjusters combine spiritual idealism and spiritual realism and we are told that the higher one goes in the universe the more this balance is observed. We should all strive to be patient with spiritual idealism in ourselves and in others. Some eighteen years ago I had a real battle with my own spiritual idealism. Part of the inner dialogue which my authentic self had with my idealistic self is recorded in the pamphlet "Our Task."

Co-operative group activity requires the capacity to compromise and go along with majority group decisions. To those who are unable to do this we must bid God-speed and let them go their own way and do their thing. We must remember that the universe is very well organized and that rules and regulations abound. Jesus required that his apostles and the disciples of John work out a methodology of operation. They labored for three weeks at Gilboa composing differences of opinion, co-ordinating divergent efforts, deciding on outward observances, and hammering out group procedures. We dare not default in this responsibility.

I think it is time for us to clearly face and acknowledge that, as you point out, there are obligations and risks involved in signing the Licensing Agreement. After all of the misunderstandings and misconceptions have been clarified regarding the Licensing Agreement and even though the Licensing Agreement is a tremendous improvement over the Confirmatory Agreement, this agreement does specify privileges and obligations. Nothing worthwhile is undertaken on our level in the universe without involving some risk. I, personally, think this risk is minimal.

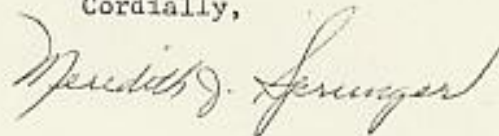
The higher the responsibilities we assume, the greater the obligations we must shoulder. Not all are cut out to assume apostle-like responsibilities; many of us feel more comfortable on the disciple or follower level. But I sincerely hope, Allen, that you have that spiritual courage and dedication to stand with

us in assuming those risks and responsibilities which are necessary to do what we can to preserve the integrity of the text of The URANTIA Book for future generations and the identity of the societies of URANTIA Brotherhood in the centuries to come.

Finally, I should again like to point out that organizational procedures, financial resources, and legal documents are means, not ends. These foundations are fundamental to assuring the continuity of activities at a higher and more spiritual level. I strongly urge that the Brotherhood get these elemental necessities behind us. Let us cease being preoccupied with means and get to the real purpose and task of URANTIA Brotherhood -- spiritual ministry!

Thank you, Allen, for the considerable effort you have made to be of help to URANTIA Brotherhood. Even if our suggestions are not accepted by the group, we have the inner satisfaction that we gave the best of what we have and this brings peace to the soul. Often seeds are planted that later sprout, grow, and bear fruit in another day. Your personal warmth and friendship has meant much to me. I know it will continue. May the Father bless you and be with you in both your material and spiritual vocations.

Cordially,



Meredith J. Sprunger
President, URANTIA Brotherhood

MJS/MTR

CC General Councilors
Society Presidents
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