

File - Mo Siegel

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD

INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

FROM Meredith J. Sprunger

DATE 4/17/78

TO Executive Committee
Mo Siegel

SUBJECT The potential danger of Societies

I enjoyed reading Thomas Kendall's report of Mo Siegel's 3/15/78 visit and Mo's letter of 3/31/78. Mo's concern about the potential institutional evils associated with societies is understandable. Various people over the years have expressed similar anxieties.

Although religious institutions provide greater opportunities for evil, the authors of The URANTIA Book point out that such institutionalization is necessary to provide continuity, cultural absorption, and control. The best solution to this problem, in my judgment, is to be aware of the self-serving tendencies of institutions and strive to avoid or minimize them. URANTIA Brotherhood has taken a number of such steps already. We have expressed our intention to remain a prophetic, leavening institution devoted to the dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. Our announced purpose is to avoid becoming a "church" or conventional ministering religious institution. We are now rethinking the entire process of chartering societies, possibly seeking to de-emphasize the significance of getting a charter but stressing the importance of the service and responsibilities of study group activity. We probably will impose greater time and experiential conditioning as prerequisites for applying for a charter.

The personalities involved in laying the foundations for URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood, I believe, knew what they were doing. We should not let our anxieties push us into side tracking these sound plans. Rather, we should wisely administer this basically sound constitution of URANTIA Brotherhood.

Actually there is nothing the Brotherhood or the Foundation can do to prevent groups from committing all of the errors of institutionalism. Study groups with able and charismatic leaders without using any of the service marks can become associated with The URANTIA Book and even exploit it if they have a mind to do so. The Family of God Foundation is a good example of this potential. I personally think they are doing a great service to the Brotherhood and mankind but many see them as a "threat." Dozens of such organizations will arise in time - some good, some bad. But there is no way to prevent the rise of such powerful groups. Indeed, the greatest insurance against the potential evils such groups could perpetrate on society is the chartering of solid, well balanced societies throughout the world.

You have, no doubt, received a copy of the Foundation letter asking a committee of Brotherhood members to serve as an evaluation committee for Dr. Robert Slagle's book Tales of Joshue which he has asked permission to publish.

You may also have heard of the trouble Mr. Weiss is causing by sending out a notice that he was making Xerox copies of the French edition of The URANTIA Book available. Martin has flown to Paris in an attempt to get on top of the situation!