

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD
INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

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URANTIA

To
FROM
From
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Thomas A. Kendall

DATE July 3, 1978

Meredith J. Sprunger

SUBJECT Foundation Policy

I have just finished reading copies of your letter to Clyde and his lengthy response which Christy has forwarded to me. I am convinced there will be no agreement between Clyde and the Foundation. It was certainly important and good to attempt to reach a meeting of minds.

This impasse sharpens a concern which I have had for some time. I wonder if the attitude of the Foundation toward "secondary works" and their philosophy of granting approval for quotations is wise?

We should remind ourselves that it is important that the Foundation preserve the copyright of The URANTIA Book until the copyright runs out some fifty years hence. It is also quite important to maintain goodwill, unity, and the spirit of brotherhood.

Is the Foundation's attempt to control "secondary works" basic to the protection of the copyright? A number of lawyers have told me that in their judgment most "secondary works" are not a violation of the copyright law. At best it appears to be a moot question. I fear that if the Foundation tries to control all "secondary works" which are not clear cut violations of copyright law, they will exhaust their energy and resources and lay the foundations for widespread disapproval and hostility.

The philosophy of giving permission to quote The URANTIA Book only those works with which we agree may result in a cult of "orthodoxy." Certainly using editorial committees to help you make these decisions lessen this danger. But I wonder if it might even be better to have a liberal policy of permitting people to quote from the book, making it clear that permission to quote is not endorsement of the ideas presented. Under such a policy rejection would be limited to works so clearly negative and inferior most people would recognize the wisdom of such denial.

I raise these questions not as a criticism but because I am concerned that Foundation policies may result in widespread ill will and disrupt the spirit of brotherhood in the URANTIA movement. If the trustees decide that my concern is largely groundless, I will respect their judgment and pray that they are correct.

CC: Martin Myers
Administrative Committee