



*ROCKY MOUNTAIN URANTIA SOCIETY OF DENVER*

5243 East 100th Ave.  
Denver, CO. 80229  
June 21, 1983

Dear Discussion Participant,

Enclosed you will find my report of the discussion that we had in Boulder last April. Please excuse the delay in my sending it to you. Besides the demands of the early days of motherhood, (which are a great joy and profound satisfaction!), I found it difficult to organize the notes of this open dialogue. Also I must add that personally I find the controversy within the movement so disheartening and sometimes would prefer to avoid facing these issues.

I sincerely hope this report represents a wide range of ideas expressed at our meeting and that it will facilitate the group decision-making process. Understand that it is not intended to be a comprehensive report of all the issues related to the existence of the Boulder School, rather it is a report of those aspects that we discussed during our afternoon together.

I send you my best.

In Fellowship,

*Linda McNelly*

Linda McNelly  
Sec'y, RMUSD

A Report of the Discussion RMUSD, URANTIA Brotherhood, Boulder School  
April 23, 1983

Participants:

Terry Krüger - Pres., RMUSD, Trustee Boulder School  
JoAnn Brummett - Vice-Pres., RMUSD  
John Hay - Treas., RMUSD, Administrative Officer -Boulder School  
Linda McNelly - Sec'y., RMUSD.  
Roxanne Andrews - Study Group Officer, RMUSD  
Merritt Horn - Academic Officer - Boulder School  
Andre des Bois-Francis - Trustee Boulder School  
John Hales - President, URANTIA Brotherhood  
Carolyn Kendall- Vice-President, URANTIA Brotherhood  
Lynn Kulieke - Chairman, URANTIA Brotherhood Education Committee

1. Sponsorship of the Boulder School

In reference to a letter from John Hales questioning whether a society could sponsor an activity not approved by the Brotherhood because of the use of the registered marks, John Hales said that the correspondance and discussion of this issue should be considered dialogue, not decision. He mentioned that the Executive Committee was not of one mind on this issue and that the non-association decision of the last Executive Committee meeting was a non-evaluative decision, not an indication of non-support. He said that time was needed for discussion of the relationship of the Boulder School within the larger URANTIA Brotherhood framework by the Executive Committee and the General Council because any decision will affect the other societies and protocol requires that they have a forum to voice their opinions. Due process and open discussion of the issues (dialogue --formulation of recommendation--decision) is in the interests of cooperative relationship and will best insure the outworking of group wisdom. Lynn Kulieke said that the Education Committee's participation on the Boulder School's Board of Trustees (at this time) could create misperceptions especially amongst the general populous and new readers. It was stated that the issue is deliniation and apparent duplication of effort. Discussed very briefly was the idea that the vitality of the movement should remain centralized, not diffused. On the other side of that coin was the idea that disallowing diversity is potentially denying spiritual unity and possibly strangling the life of the movement. Andre des Bois Francis questioned whether the Executive Committee could formulate policy for societies and asked whether this constitutes over-control. He pointed out that the group wisdom leading to a decision by the Executive Committee might be different than the group wisdom leading to a decision by a society. The question here is does the Executive Committee have the right to supercede a decision of a URANTIA Society? It was said that there have been inquiries to the Chicago office regarding the "Brotherhood School", an indication of the confusion amongst the reading population of the sponsorship of the school, to which JoAnn Brummett pointed out that allowing the society to publish its relationship to and sponsorship of the school would be a very effective way of eliminating that confusion. The high quality educational program provided by the Boulder School as well as the mutually beneficial relationship between Boulder School and RMUSD was discussed. John Hay expressed his deep desire to see the school continue.

## 2. Use of the Registered Marks

The URANTIA Foundation has responsibility for supervision of use of the registered service marks. The Licensing Agreement automatically grants permission to societies to use the marks for certain items (stationery, name tags, etc.). The type of use requested presents a new situation and as such the Foundation needs to know where the URANTIA Brotherhood stands in relation to the Boulder School. The Foundation's position is that the use of the service marks implies support by URANTIA Brotherhood. It was also discussed that the Licensing Agreement is a sanctioning of trust to carry out activities of high quality. We discussed material law, trademark law and the possibility of losing the copyright to public domain. The question raised, but not answered seems to be this--Given the Foundation's legal and moral responsibility to protect the copyright does this mean that they are obliged to supervise a specific program or only the manner in which the program uses the marks? The idea that the URANTIA Brotherhood, as the parent organization to the Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society, could represent our request to the URANTIA Foundation was brought up. It was also expressed that the use of the marks is not as important to the society as is the society's right to use its name in connection with its sponsored activities.

## 3. URANTIA Society Autonomy

It was agreed that the autonomy issue is a most difficult one. Someone compared it to a "federal rights" vs. "state rights" situation. Carolyn Kendall read from the URANTIA Brotherhood Constitution, Article V, Sec. 5.4 Local Government. This article states that each society shall be autonomous in matters of its government and activities except as limited by the Constitution or delegated to the General Council, Executive Committee or Departmental Committee. She also questioned the parameters of the schools intended activity as it seemed that some of the projects mentioned in the school's brochure were of national and international scope. She also read from the Constitution Article VIII, Section 8.8 (d). This states that the General Council cannot enact a by-law limiting or restricting the autonomy of a URANTIA Society over conduct of their local affairs. She listed these types of activities as non-local activities - publishing the URANTIA Book, translating the URANTIA Book, publication of study aids and publicizing the URANTIA Book. There was much discussion of the nature of organizations in general, the need to resolve problems and misunderstandings, the means and methods of attaining goals and maximizing and coordinating our efforts. There was no consensus or decision regarding the individual societies' rights to carry out activities of their choosing.

## 4. Other Discussion

Study aids - Lynn Kulieke shared that the publication of study aids is a complex issue that requires much dialogue before a decision or policy is reached. The kind, quality and long term impact need to be examined. Disclaimer statements and authorship are other issues, as is crystalization of interpretation. She reviewed the evolution of thinking towards study aids over the past years

and stated that there are many people still working to find a reasonable approach to study aids. A discussion seminar involving persons from Domestic Extension, International Fellowship, Publications Committee as well as persons from FOG and Oklahoma's Multi-Media was mentioned. Merritt Horn offered to submit any study aid developed at the Boulder School to URANTIA Brotherhood for editorial suggestion before publication.

Boulder School - Merritt Horn stated that the primary purpose of the school was to train study group leaders. He discussed the importance of really knowing the book well and how an informed and experienced leader can add much to the life and vitality of a study group. He also discussed the need for qualified resource persons to be made available to university programs that might be examining the URANTIA Book. He explained that often in college classes the book is introduced to a class discussion by a non-reader or very new reader. Carolyn Kendall asked if he would be interested in discussing this project with others at the 1984 General Conference, the theme being "Reaching Out".

Kendall College Decision - In 1975, at a special discussion, sponsored by the Education Committee, it was the consensus of the nearly 50 persons attending, that there should not be a URANTIA University. Rather the group felt it would be wise to promote and build a strong network of interacting educational activities. The Education Committee's emphasis became providing workshops for teachers (Universe as One Vast School, How Jesus Taught, etc.) as an opportunity for educators to interact.

Outreach - Carolyn Kendall defined outreach as public dissemination of the Book and teachings and informed the group that the Executive Committee had recently reaffirmed the non-publicity policy of URANTIA Brotherhood. What exactly this policy is, was not clarified. The need for the development of a strong study group base, training of teachers and leaders and translations of the book into many languages before the widespread acceptance of the URANTIA revelation was mentioned. The need for positive approaches to outreach ministry, using tested techniques was discussed. Linda McNelly cited the value of Meredith Sprunger's work in delineating the various levels of outreach. She described the outreach activities of RMUSD, to date, as being carefully planned, low-key experiments and said that there will be a report of the results of these activities submitted to the Fraternal Relations Committee.

## 5. Conclusion

There were no decisions, per se, at this discussion meeting--except the agreement that the issues are complex and have far-reaching implications. The Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver will act in a patient and cooperative manner in seeking resolution to some of the questions raised by the existence of the Boulder School for Students of the URANTIA Book.