

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

URANTIA FOUNDATION,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

No. CIV 91-0325 PHX WKU
(SMM)

KRISTEN MAAHERRA,)

Defendant.)

The deposition of HELEN CARLSON called for examination pursuant to Notice and the Rules of Civil Procedure for the United States District Courts pertaining to the taking of depositions, taken before KIMBERLY A. OTTO, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, on the 29th day of June, 1994, at the hour of 11:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY: KIMBERLY A. OTTO, CSR

LICENSE NO. 084-003713

MR. OWENS: This is the deposition of Helen Carlson taken in the Urantia Foundation versus Kristen Maaherra action for purposes of preservation of testimony for use at trial and all other purposes allowed under Federal Rules.

My name is Dale Owens, attorney for the Plaintiff, Urantia Foundation. Mr. Lewis will enter his appearance. Go ahead.

MR. LEWIS: My name is Joseph Lewis; and I'm appearing today on behalf of the Defendant, Kristen Maaherra.

Before continuing, I want to point out that the notice of deposition did indicate that the deposition would be recorded by both stenographic and video means. There is no video camera here today.

Yesterday at about 4:00 p.m. or in the afternoon at some point, I was asked whether I intended to get a copy of the video recording that was to be made. I indicated that it was my intention to get that for purposes of trial preparation.

It was explained to me that there was some concern over the distribution of videotape, and I assured Mr. Owens that I would work with him. I voluntarily agreed to restrictions on distributing a

videotape but that I did want to have a copy for my own use. He was unwilling to proceed with the videotape deposition under those terms, but I'm willing to appear today on behalf of the Defendant.

MR. OWENS: Would you like to introduce him?

MR. LEWIS: With me today are David Cleary who is employed by our law office and the Defendant, Kristen Maaherra.

MR. OWENS: Ms. Carlson, we will ask the court reporter to give you the oath, swear you in. So she will do that now.

(Witness sworn.)

MR. OWENS: Ms. Carlson, just so that everyone understands, I'm going to be asking you questions, then Mr. Lewis will get a chance to ask you questions.

If at any time you think you would like to take a break, just let us know and that will be fine. If you don't understand my question or anyone's question and it doesn't come out clearly, by all means ask us to clarify it and I'm sure either of us will be happy to do that.

THE WITNESS: May I ask a question?

MR. OWENS: Yes, please.

THE WITNESS: Will Mr. Lewis interrupt your

questions or will he wait until you have asked all of your questions and will he ask questions then?

MR. OWENS: The usual rule is that we go one at a time. I'll ask my questions, and then he'll get a turn to ask his questions.

THE WITNESS: All right. Just wondering.

MR. OWENS: So we will try to go one at a time.

I will try to wait until you finish giving your answer to ask the question and I'll ask you to wait until I finish giving my question to give the answer because it is very hard on this young lady when two people are talking at the same time.

HELEN CARLSON

called as a witness herein, having been first duly sworn was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. OWENS:

Q. Would you start by telling us your name?

A. Helen Carlson.

Q. Where do you live?

A. 533 Diversey Parkway.

Q. Is that the building where we are today?

A. That is.

Q. Are you familiar with something that has been

called the Urantia Papers?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Can you tell us when you first became familiar with any of the Urantia Papers?

A. 1935.

Q. How did you come to be aware of the Urantia Papers?

A. Through my sister who was married to Bill Sadler (phonetic), and she became a member of a group that was studying the Papers. Being a sister, she wanted me to know about them. I'm sorry.

Q. That's all right.

A. Too many memories.

Q. Did the group that was studying the Papers have a name; what was the name of the group?

A. Well, when I came I think it was called The Forum. I believe it was a letter that notified me that I was a member of The Forum and could attend the meetings. I think it was addressed to me as a member of The Forum. I think that is what it was called.

Q. You mentioned that there were meetings. Were there regularly scheduled meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. When were they held?

A. On Sunday afternoon.

Q. Where were they held?

A. Here, in this room.

Q. In this room at 533 Diversey?

A. Right.

Q. What time of day were they held?

A. 2:00 to 4:00 at that time and later we

moved -- Let me think a minute. I have been asked that many times. Can I leave it at 2:00 to 4:00 and later at 3:00 to 5:00?

Q. That's fine.

A. Because there was some controversy over people wanting to get here for the meeting and people who wanted to go to church too and come to the meeting, so we had a little difficulty of settling the time.

During the whole twenty years that I knew about The Forum, it was either 2:00 to 4:00 or 3:00 to 5:00.

Q. Can you tell us about the usual Forum meeting? Starting at the beginning, tell us what would happen in the usual Forum meeting.

A. Well, the members would get there and an attendance record kept on the wall once we checked in. Everybody seemed to -- there were chairs set up in this

room in rows. Everybody seemed to have their favorite place and they would settle down and the meeting would start at the regular time.

One or the other, Doctor or his son, Bill, would have the Paper. He would read to everyone, and he would announce the Paper that we were listening to. From then on he would start reading and would read until he would read one Paper. After that there would be questions.

Q. You mentioned Doctor, is that Dr. William Sadler?

A. Yes, Dr. William Sadler.

Q. You mentioned Bill, who is that?

A. Bill Sadler, Jr., his son.

Q. When you said "the Paper," what were you referring to?

A. Well, in the book it is referred to "the Paper." It is the same. It would be a book, a chapter.

Q. When you say "a book," you're talking about The Urantia Book?

A. The Urantia Book.

Q. Were these the things that we know now as the Urantia Papers?

A. These were the Urantia Papers, yes. We know

them as The Urantia Book.

Q. I would like to ask you about the group of people who would come to these meetings. A minute ago you said that you were given a letter saying you were a member of The Forum?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have to be a member to come to the meetings?

A. That's right.

Q. Was anyone allowed to walk in off the street and participate in meetings?

A. No. They had to be actually invited, permission given to them to just come in. It was by invitation lots of times.

There may be times in which a friend might have gotten a permission to bring a friend, but it always cleared somebody in the room.

Q. Can you give us an estimate at any given time how many people would be present in the room in your experience?

A. Well, all I could do is I know there are 50 chairs. This room would hold 50 folding chairs, and I have seen that full. I have seen others -- I mean, this room, my living room, would take care of an overflow of

people.

Q. You're talking about a room that is adjacent to this room divided by a sliding door?

A. Right.

Q. Is it bigger or smaller than this room that we're in today?

A. It is a little smaller; not quite as wide. It reaches back.

Q. Was there any -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

A. At that time it was not occupied by a family. It was still part of the Doctor's offices.

Q. The adjacent room?

A. Right.

Q. Were members required to do anything in order to continue to be members?

A. No. You mean --

Q. What level of participation?

A. Well, they had to be present, attend 50 percent of the time because we were limited space.

Q. A minute ago you said that at the beginning of the meeting someone, I think you gave the examples of Dr. Sadler or Bill Sadler, Jr., would begin reading the Paper?

A. Right.

Q. In your experience, would anyone in the room other than the person reading the Paper have a copy of the Paper?

A. No.

Q. I would like to ask you about what you would see in their hands when they were reading. Do you know whether what they were reading from was handwritten or typewritten?

A. I was told it was typewritten. It was on a yellow sheet of paper; I think the size was 8 and a half by 11.

Q. In the course of the reading or the presentation of the Paper, would any information be given about where the Paper came from, who furnished the Paper?

A. Once in a while I think it would be introduced. It might reveal -- the person that was indicting the Paper would say it was by so and so; but that is about all they could say, only what was in the Paper.

Q. Are you familiar with what has now been published as The Urantia Book some years ago?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you familiar with the statements that

appear at the end of each Paper, we are using words similar to what you just described, indicted by or presented?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you compare what you were hearing at those meetings with what you now see as the Papers; were they the same kind of things or different?

A. Sure. Yes.

MR. LEWIS: Objection to the form of the question.

BY MR. OWENS:

Q. Let me see if we can clarify that.

The things that would be read that you mentioned a moment ago, can you compare them with what you now see at the end of the Urantia, of each Paper in The Urantia Book?

A. You mean was it the same as I heard as in the book now?

Q. That is what I'm asking.

A. Yes, they are the same.

Q. In ordinary practice, how many Papers would be read at a particular meeting?

A. One.

Q. I believe you mentioned earlier that after the Paper was read, there would be questions?

A. Right. Yes.

Q. Can you describe how that would work?

A. Well, they would write out their questions and we had sometimes a basket, sometimes what was a so-called fishbowl. They would drop their questions on slips of paper into this fishbowl, and they would be collected after the meeting was over by Bill.

From there on he would analyze them categorize them, combine them and present them to the midwayers and wait for the answer.

Q. Where would this box or where would this fishbowl or basket be placed for people to put their questions into it?

A. On a table, on a chest of drawers that is out there by the mirror now; but it was where the big table is right now.

Q. Are you pointing to the foyer next to this room?

A. Yes.

Q. Were members of The Forum ever told in meetings that information was given in response to these questions?

A. Yes. I think it is safe to say they were, but I wouldn't be able to identify them. In discussion,

the answers would be discussed and questions would be discussed.

3 Q. When you started participating in The Forum, I believe you said you first became aware of the Papers in 1935?

A. Right.

Q. When did you start participating in The Forum meetings?

A. In September of '35.

Q. Beginning then and going for as long as it went, can you tell us whether you and the other members were told that the Papers being read were being read in these meetings for the first time as new Papers or being reread as old Papers or she had any light on that?

A. Well, I think that just went along with the discussions among the group because you couldn't help but ask is this new or is this something that has been revised.

I'm sure I heard enough of the discussions that the answer would have to be yes. We were aware when they were receiving revisions or new.

Q. Were you told that on some occasions you were receiving a new Paper?

A. Yes, I think we were. That is a hard

question to answer because, sure, we thought they were all new to us at one time.

Q. Were you ever told about Papers being revised or expanded or divided or altered in any way in subsequent versions?

A. Yes, I was told about Paper No. 1 being expanded to two papers to five papers.

Q. Were you given any information about whether there was any relationship between questions being asked at one point and revisions being made in the Papers; did those two have any connection with each other?

A. Were questions being asked and revisions of the Papers?

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. Yes. I think we would be informed. Would you state --

Q. I'll try again. You said the questions were asked and you were also told about revisions. Did you have any information about whether the revisions were made in response to questions?

A. Oh, sure. We were told that.

Q. That they were made in response to questions

A. That they were made in response. In fact, you would recognize some of the questions. The

revisions of the new Paper that came in, you could
2 recognize where they were.

3 Would you like an example?

Q. Certainly.

5 A. Well, I remember one time this was a group
that was just meeting on a Saturday evening for just a
social gathering and actually every time a group would
8 get together, there was the subject of the Papers -- I
mean, this would be Forum members that would get
0 together. The subject of the Papers would come up, and
the evening would be spent in questions and answers and
discussions.

I remember at that time everybody was
puzzled about personality. Somebody asked the question,
well, what is personality? In a short time it just came
through in a Paper, the definition of personality. That
had been in The Urantia Book, and I know that was a
direct answer to the question.

Q. You have described how in the Sunday
afternoon meetings there would be a copy of the Paper
that would be read to people who were sitting in the
room. Did members of The Forum have any other
opportunity to actually read the Paper for themselves?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe how that would work?

A. Well, they had to call -- of course, they had to be a member of the group. They would just call for a chance to come to read the Paper. They didn't necessarily have to read the Paper, the same Paper that was read on Sunday.

In fact, many of them started right at the beginning, beginners started right at the beginning of the Papers that they had and would just one by one read to catch up with the regular meetings of The Forum. I think just to learn more about the Papers.

Q. Where were the Papers kept?

A. In a chest of drawers on the third floor.

Q. The third floor of what building?

A. 533 Diversey Parkway.

Q. Is that the building we are in today?

A. That is the building.

Q. If someone wanted to read Paper No. 1, what would they have to do if a member of The Forum wanted to read Paper No. 1?

A. They generally call the secretary downstairs, and the secretary would pass the information on to someone. That Paper would be made available when the person got here.

1 Q. Was anyone allowed to take these Papers out
2 of the building?

3 A. They were not.

4 Q. When a member of The Forum would come to read
5 the Paper, would they be allowed to make notes of any
6 kind?

7 A. They would not be allowed to make notes.
8 They were asked not to make notes. What they did, I
9 don't know.

10 Q. Were they allowed to keep any kind of
11 notebooks?

12 A. Only late in the -- when we had a study group
13 going called "The 70," they kept notebooks.

14 Q. Let's go ahead and talk about The 70 then.
15 Can you tell us what The 70 was?

16 A. The 70 was a group of members of The Forum
17 that were more or less advanced students in the
18 movement. It was the Doctor's desire to start preparing
19 teachers and leaders, so he wanted to give this
20 intensive study to people that had read the book at
21 least once. When he counted them, registered these
22 people, that reached 70 people. So he called them The
23 70 group.

24 In the book itself refers to a group of

1 believers that Jesus had in his teachings, and there
2 were just 70 that belonged to it. So he thought that
3 was a good idea to name this group The 70, so we have
4 always been known as The 70.

5 Q. Were you a member of The 70?

6 A. I was.

7 Q. Did The 70 have any sort of regular meetings?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. When did they meet?

10 A. Wednesday afternoon -- Wednesday evening.

11 I'm sorry.

12 Q. Were they allowed to keep study notes or
13 notebooks?

14 A. Yes. Three-ring binders, small three-ring
15 binders. They were all stored in the bookcases over
16 there. They were given a number from 1 to 70. When
17 they would come to the meetings, they would pick up
18 their book for the evening; and they would file it back
19 in the bookcase when they left.

20 Q. You're pointing to some bookcases here in the
21 room where we are?

22 A. Yes. Right over in the corner of the room.

23 Q. Prior to the time that The Urantia Book was
24 published, were members of The Forum or members of The

1 70 allowed to take notes or notebooks out of the
2 building at 533 Diversey?

3 A. Prior to the publication?

4 Q. Yes, ma'am.

5 A. No, they were not allowed to.

6 Q. After the publication of the book, The
7 Urantia Book, were the members allowed to take their
8 notes or notebooks out of the building?

9 A. They were requested to take their books home,
10 their notebooks.

11 Q. You described how members of The Forum could
12 make arrangements to come and read a Paper in the
13 building. Could anyone other than a member of The Forum
14 come and read a paper in the building?

15 A. Well, if they came at all, they were a member
16 of The Forum later in the game or the games, later when
17 the membership was left to request by other members,
18 there was sort of a way that you could bring in a
19 visitor.

20 Q. The visitor would come to do what?

21 A. To listen to the reading of the book, and
22 they would make -- they didn't have to really belong.

23 Well, I think I'm confusing you. The
24 requirements such as 50 percent of the time was more or

1 less lifted later, right before the publication.

2 Q. Members did not have to come 50 percent then?

3 A. That's right because they were moving out of
4 the -- they were coming and going. They would move, and
5 the membership actually would change from time to time
6 because of the movement of people out of the city and
7 new members -- new people coming in. They weren't
8 really called members of The Forum. They were just
9 members of the study group or Sunday afternoon meetings.

10 Q. They were members of that instead?

11 A. Well, it just kind of evolved into less
12 restriction I would guess.

13 Q. Were those people allowed to take any Papers
14 out of the building before the book was published?

15 A. No, they weren't.

16 Q. Were those people allowed to take any notes
17 about the Papers out of the building before the book was
18 published?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Were the members who came to these meetings,
21 the people who came to these meetings given any
22 instructions about whether to talk about the Papers to
23 other people before the book was published?

24 A. They were asked not to talk to anyone other

1 than the people that they knew were members of The
2 Forum.

3 Q. Did these Forum meetings continue after the
4 book was published?

5 A. Oh, sure. We continued to study the book on
6 Sunday afternoon. We still do.

7 Q. You described for us earlier this question
8 process where people could submit questions, and you
9 said you started participating in 1935. I would like to
10 try to ask you some questions to help us define over how
11 many more years that question process went on.

12 Can you give us any way of defining how
13 many years after 1935 that question process went on?

14 A. Well, I know it was long after 1939, and I
15 would say a good ten years. I don't know. I know that
16 it could be ten years.

17 Q. After 1939 did you say?

18 A. Yes, after 1939.

19 Q. Ms. Carlson, that is all the questions that I
20 have of you right now. Mr. Lewis gets to ask you some
21 questions.

22 A. There is a question I would like to ask you,
23 just something that I think maybe you might be
24 interested in knowing.

1 Q. Yes, ma'am.

2 A. The number of people, the venture that
3 actually participated in these questions and answers
4 from time to time.

5 Q. Yes, ma'am. I would like to know that.

6 A. I just mention that because of your question
7 about how many members or something or how many members
8 came; they were coming and going all the time. So that
9 the aggregate number of people that attended these
10 meetings and contributed to the questions and answers,
11 it went into the hundreds.

12 Q. Over what period of time are you talking
13 about?

14 A. Well, I'm talking about from the time it was
15 started to '55.

16 Q. When you say from the time it was started,
17 are you talking about before you started?

18 A. Yes, because there was quite a number when I
19 was in The Forum, when I was initiated into it, when I
20 joined.

21 Q. When you say when it started, roughly when is
22 your understanding of when that was?

23 A. Oh, it varies. The actual study for the book
24 I remember being mid-20s, early 1920s maybe.

1 Q. Early 1920s?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you have any other questions before
4 Mr. Lewis asks his questions?

5 A. No, I don't think so.

6 EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. LEWIS:

8 Q. Ms. Carlson, I'm also going to ask you a few
9 questions. If you are unclear as to what I'm asking,
10 please ask me to clarify it. At any time too if you
11 want to take a break, that is fine as well.

12 When you joined The Forum, you said you
13 received a letter that notified you. Who sent you that
14 letter?

15 A. Dr. Sadler's secretary.

16 Q. Since you were a relative, Dr. Sadler, of
17 course, knew you before 1935?

18 A. Since what?

19 Q. Since you were a relative, a family relative,
20 Dr. Sadler knew you before 1935?

21 A. Well, yes. I came to Chicago after my
22 husband passed away in '32, so shortly thereafter I met
23 Dr. Sadler.

24 Q. Do you know why he waited until 1935 to

1 formally invite you to be a member of The Forum?

2 A. Well, he didn't invite me. My sister did.

3 Q. Prior to her inviting you, did you know about
4 The Forum?

5 A. No, I did not.

6 Q. Do you know why she waited until 1935 to
7 invite you?

8 A. Well, she didn't marry until 1935. She
9 married the Doctor's son, and he is the one that asked
10 to have her considered for a membership in The Forum.

11 Q. Do you know who decided who could be a member
12 of The Forum?

13 A. No, I don't really know. I can't answer
14 that. I just can't -- I mean, I don't know the answer
15 to that question.

16 Q. If you knew somebody who you thought might be
17 interested, who would you talk to about having them
18 become a member of The Forum?

19 A. By that time I would have talked to Bill.

20 Q. Did you ever suggest any members for The
21 Forum?

22 A. Yes, I have.

23 Q. Do you recall who those were?

24 A. Just friends.

1 Q. Were they accepted into The Forum?

2 A. No. Some of them declined. They weren't
3 ready for it.

4 Q. At The Forum meetings, you talked about the
5 things that happened. You said they announced what
6 Paper would be discussed and there were some questions.

7 At the end of The Forum meetings, was it
8 the practice to read a benediction?

9 A. At one time I think, yes, we did have a
10 benediction.

11 Q. Did that benediction appear in the Urantia
12 Papers?

13 A. It is in the Urantia Papers, yes.

14 Q. Do you remember whether people held hands
15 during the meeting of the benediction?

16 A. No, I don't think so. I never did.

17 Q. You mention the questions that were left in
18 writing in a fishbowl. Was it Dr. Sadler or Bill Sadler
19 that worked with them?

20 A. Bill did most of the screening.

21 Q. He presented these to midwayers you
22 testified?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. Can you explain what a midwayer is?

1 A. I'm afraid you would have to read The Urantia
2 Book for me to explain that to you.

3 Q. Is a midwayer a superhuman being?

4 A. Yes, not of this planet. It is a being about
5 halfway between the spiritual and the human.

6 Q. Now, when Bill did this work, he didn't
7 report to The Forum which questions he passed on, did
8 he?

9 A. I don't think he had to report. They all
10 took for granted that the question would be answered and
11 the answer would be submitted.

12 Q. Well, you mentioned that he was screening
13 questions. Would that mean --

14 A. What he screened was put -- many would ask
15 the same question, and he would organize them and put
16 the relevant or the questions that were related to one
17 another together and finally get maybe a page of
18 questions to be answered.

19 Q. Do you know how those questions were
20 presented to midwayers?

21 A. They were put in a certain spot and were
22 taken by them.

23 Q. Where was that spot?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know the answer to

1 that. I tried to find out sometimes, but I wasn't
2 successful.

3 Q. You were not successful because you were
4 told -- Who did you ask?

5 A. Anybody I could find.

6 Q. Did they indicate to you that they had
7 information that they were not free to disclose to you?

8 A. Would you repeat that?

9 Q. Did they tell you in response to your
10 questions that they knew information about the
11 questioning process, but couldn't tell you about it?

12 A. Oh, I think that probably was told to me from
13 time to time.

14 Q. They indicated perhaps that -- Did they
15 indicate that there was an oath of secrecy involved with
16 the Urantia Papers?

17 A. Well, I heard that said. I know the answer
18 to that, but I'm not permitted to disclose it.

19 Q. Which people have told you that?

20 A. I'm not permitted to disclose that. I
21 couldn't tell you that.

22 Q. I'm not asking for the information. Which
23 people have told you that they were under an oath?

24 MR. OWENS: I think that is what she has answered.

1 I think that was the intent of her answer.

2 BY MR. LEWIS:

3 Q. Can you tell me the number of people that
4 have told you that they were under an oath of secrecy?

5 A. No, I couldn't. I don't know the answer to
6 that. I didn't keep a record of anything like that.

7 Q. Well, do you recall any of them?

8 A. Oh, jokingly I think my brother-in-law might
9 have mentioned something like that at one time or other.

10 Q. Did they tell you why they were not permitted
11 to tell you information?

12 A. Well, it was discussed in The Forum itself
13 why and it is also discussed in the book that people are
14 quite prone to get egotistical about what they know. So
15 it is better that they don't know a lot of things, and
16 that was the way it was.

17 They just said even in the Papers will
18 admit that they know things that they can't tell.

19 Q. Have you taken an oath of secrecy regarding
20 information dealing with the Urantia Papers?

21 A. I did not have to take an oath, but I was
22 asked not to talk to anybody other than the people in
23 The Forum.

24 Q. At the time the book was published publicly

1 in the 1950s, were you then free to discuss what
2 happened at The Forum?

3 A. Well, that was never really defined. But I
4 assumed that once true, it was always true; that there
5 wasn't any use to tell anybody else, to discuss it.

6 Q. You mentioned people left The Forum from time
7 to time. Once people left The Forum, did they have any
8 further participation?

9 A. Oh, they moved to California and were very
10 active in the study. They formed study groups. They
11 went everywhere.

12 Q. But what about before the publication when
13 people might have left The Forum before The Urantia Book
14 was published?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did they continue to have any interaction
17 with The Forum?

18 A. Oh, yes.

19 Q. What type?

20 A. Yes. They would come back and visit The
21 Forum. Any time they were in Chicago, they would come
22 to the meeting.

23 Q. Then were they permitted to read any Papers
24 that had come in the meantime?

1 A. They were always permitted to read.

2 Q. Did they attend The Forum meetings if they
3 were in town during the time of the meetings? Did
4 people who had left The Forum attend any of The Forum
5 meetings?

6 A. Oh, sure. You're using the word "left."
7 They didn't actually leave The Forum. They just went
8 out of town, moved. So they were always -- once a
9 member, they were always a member unless they chose to
10 resign.

11 Q. When the Papers were read at The Forum, were
12 they read straight through without questions or
13 comments?

14 A. In the beginning they were because they found
15 that the questions might be answered in the next
16 paragraph. So to save time, they were asked not to ask
17 questions or requested not to ask questions until they
18 had heard the full Paper.

19 Q. During the reading of Papers, was there ever
20 a statement that this Paper was in response to any
21 question raised by a Forum member?

22 A. Yes. I think that was discussed many times.
23 Any time that they found something new in a Paper, they
24 even went back and tried to trace it to see where it was

1 in the Papers.

2 Q. But my question is: Did the person reading
3 the Paper actually indicate that this was a response to
4 a question?

5 A. Well, that example of the personality. Yes,
6 we were told about that; that it was a response to a
7 question.

8 Q. How was that stated?

9 A. How was it stated? The definition of
10 personality was received.

11 Q. But was there any statement that this is in
12 response to a question, or was it rather that you
13 recognized it as a response?

14 A. It was recognized as being a response.

15 Q. Well, that particular question you said came
16 about at a Saturday evening social function?

17 A. Yes. That is when it really came through. I
18 mean, that is when it was finally put in a question and
19 I understand was submitted because the answer came back.

20 Q. But other than the fact that the answer came
21 back, do you know that it was, in fact, submitted by
22 someone?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Who submitted it?

1 A. Well, I for one did. I don't know how many
2 others did.

3 Q. About how long after you submitted it did you
4 receive an answer?

5 A. Oh, I guess in a week or a couple weeks.

6 Q. You talked about the group of 70 and relating
7 that to teachers and leaders I think you said?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did some teachers come out of that group?

10 A. Well, not that particular group while that
11 is, generally speaking, teachers and leaders. We always
12 spoke of people studying the Papers would become
13 teachers and teacher/leaders. But there were no
14 so-called teacher/leaders out of The 70. They
15 eventually came through as leaders or teachers and are
16 teachers and leaders today, but they weren't certified
17 or anything like that.

18 Q. Well, at one time they were certified,
19 weren't they?

20 A. You mean The 70?

21 Q. Well, teachers and leaders?

22 A. That was after the book was published.

23 Q. You were involved with that, weren't you,
24 personally?

1 A. Yes, the school.

2 Q. When you say "the school," are you referring
3 to what has been known as The Brotherhood School?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What was your function at the school?

6 A. Registrar.

7 Q. People who graduated from that program were
8 given the title of ordained teachers; isn't that
9 correct?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. At some time the Urantia Papers were typeset?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now, you have testified that the questions
14 continued for at least ten years after 1939?

15 A. That's my recollection.

16 Q. Do you recall when the Papers were typeset;
17 isn't it true they were typeset in the early '40s?

18 A. I would say in the late '40s or early '50s.
19 I know there was a waiting period. I'm not too sure
20 about the dates on those.

21 Q. After printing plates were prepared, did The
22 Forum continue to meet?

23 A. Oh, yes.

24 Q. Did the process of asking questions continue?

1 A. Not to be submitted to a group, but there
2 were always questions that you could ask. But the
3 answer would be in The Urantia Book then.

4 Q. At that time you were not expecting any
5 further Papers?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What was the reason for that understanding,
8 that there would be no more Papers?

9 A. Well, we were told when the Papers were
10 released for publication, I don't know that they were
11 told they would be born, but I guess as time went on
12 they were given permission to go ahead and print.

13 Q. Who was given permission?

14 A. Well, the so-called contact commission I
15 suppose.

16 Q. Who gave the contact commission permission?

17 A. I can't answer that. I mean, I don't know
18 the answer to that. I'm not aware of the arrangements
19 made.

20 Q. How do you know they were given permission?

21 A. Well, I have heard. It was discussed.

22 Q. So you have no personal knowledge then?

23 A. No. The Papers themselves, some of them are
24 said, released for publication.

1 Q. Do you know what the case is about in which
2 you're testifying today?

3 A. Yes and no.

4 Q. When did you first find out that this case
5 was pending?

6 A. A couple of years ago.

7 Q. How did you find out about it?

8 A. Well, I live here. You just happen to hear
9 about it.

10 Q. Do you have a written lease or something with
11 the Foundation regarding your living arrangements?

12 A. Do I have a written release?

13 Q. A lease with the Urantia Foundation regarding
14 your residency here.

15 A. A lease regarding my residency?

16 Q. Your apartment here.

17 A. No, I don't have a lease.

18 Q. Do you know why they permit you to live here?

19 A. Yes, I do.

20 Q. What is the reason?

21 A. Well, my sister lived here and her family and
22 she could live here as long as she lived and they passed
23 that on to me.

24 Q. As best as you can express it, what is your

1 understanding of what the present case is about?

2 A. Well, I understand it is about the copyright.

3 Q. Are you aware of a study aid that was
4 prepared by Kristen Maaherra?

5 A. No, I'm not.

6 Q. Do you know why the copyright is at issue in
7 this case?

8 A. Only from what they have told me recently.

9 Q. At the time you were in The Forum, was there
10 any discussion of copyrights?

11 A. Yes. When the book was published, it was
12 discussed quite thoroughly.

13 Q. Was that at a Forum meeting?

14 A. At a Forum -- at the end of The Forum
15 meeting.

16 Q. What was the nature of the discussion?

17 A. The progress being made.

18 Q. If I use the term "unseen friends," does that
19 have any meaning to you?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What does that mean to you?

22 A. It means that the planet is alive with
23 helpers, midway creatures, people not of this world,
24 permanent citizens of the planet, plus many other

1 personalities that visit the planet.

2 Q. Do you know whether the unseen friends ever
3 provided instructions regarding copyrights?

4 A. I don't know the answer to that.

5 Q. Do you have a belief in The Urantia Book
6 personally?

7 A. Do I have a belief?

8 Q. Do you have a belief in The Urantia Book of
9 any type?

10 A. Yes, I do.

11 Q. Do you believe that The Urantia Book is a
12 divine revelation?

13 A. Do I what?

14 Q. Believe that The Urantia Book is a divine
15 revelation?

16 A. I believe it is a revelation.

17 Q. Do you believe that it is not a divine
18 revelation?

19 A. I believe it is a revelation.

20 Q. Does the meaning of divine revelation have a
21 different meaning for you than revelation?

22 A. I would think so.

23 Q. What is the difference?

24 A. Well, I don't think you can call even The

1 Bible divine.

2 Q. Why is that?

3 A. Because it isn't.

4 Q. At the time of The Forum meetings, were there
5 any religious ceremonies held?

6 A. No.

7 Q. How about in the same room that we are in
8 now?

9 A. Any what?

10 Q. The same room that we are in today, religious
11 ceremonies?

12 A. Well, the only thing we do is celebrate
13 Jesus' birthday which is not a religious celebration.

14 Q. What about weddings; wasn't there a wedding
15 here too?

16 A. Oh, yes. There was a wedding, but that is
17 not religious.

18 Q. Well, Judith and Charles Sadler got married
19 in this room?

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. Wasn't it planned to be a Urantia ceremony
22 initially?

23 A. Well, they wanted it to be just like an
24 ordinary wedding like you would have with a judge or

1 Justice of the Peace or something. They just happened
2 to choose. It wasn't a Urantia ritual or anything.

3 Q. Now, you talked about a number of notebooks
4 that ultimately people were asked to take. Did you
5 retain your notebook?

6 A. Did I what?

7 Q. Did you retain your notebook from the group
8 of 70?

9 A. No, I didn't.

10 Q. You were registrar of The Brotherhood School.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you retain records from the school?

13 A. I did, but they have been destroyed.

14 Q. In fact, you had them destroyed?

15 A. They were destroyed at the request of the
16 education committee. I was secretary to the education
17 committee.

18 Q. Why were they destroyed?

19 A. Well, they were of no value anymore. It was
20 just names and addresses.

21 Q. Wasn't there discussion from time to time
22 about reprinting the study materials from the school?

23 A. I never heard those discussions. I heard
24 that they -- oh, I believe maybe we did submit a request

1 to the Foundation once, and it was denied to reprint.
2 The thing just was tabled and has never come up again at
3 any time.

4 Q. All of the words that appear in the Urantia
5 Papers, they were written by the unseen friends; isn't
6 that true?

7 A. Yes, they were unseen. Yes. I think you
8 could say that they were all written by them. Sure,
9 they were.

10 Q. The Forum members did not write any of the
11 text of the Urantia Papers, correct?

12 A. Not as they are presented in the book, but
13 they contributed to them.

14 Q. The nature of the contribution was the
15 questions that were asked?

16 A. The questions that were asked.

17 Are these questions relevant?

18 MR. OWENS: Yes, ma'am. They are allowed to ask a
19 variety of questions.

20 BY MR. LEWIS:

21 Q. You testified that Bill Sadler read a number
22 of the Papers at The Forum meetings?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You're familiar with his voice?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. I would like to play a tape for you that has
3 been previously identified in this case.

4 THE WITNESS: Is that permissible?

5 MR. OWENS: I think what he is going to do is just
6 ask you if you recognize the voice.

7 BY MR. LEWIS:

8 Q. That's correct. This is Bud Kagan Exhibit
9 No. 1. It is side one.

10 (Whereupon, the following
11 proceedings were transcribed from a
12 tape-recorded proceeding.)

13 He is completing his present break.
14 First he escapes from the fatality of infinity by moving
15 the yolk away from the egg and by reunifying the yolk
16 with the white through the universal absolute --

17 (Whereupon, were all the proceedings
18 had in the above tape-recorded
19 proceeding.)

20 A. That is Bill's voice. He said it right in
21 this room.

22 Q. Does the tape bring back memories for you?

23 A. Yes. It sure does.

24 Q. We would be happy to supply you with copies

1 if you would like.

2 A. I think we have copies everywhere. I think
3 somebody has it.

4 Q. Prior to today have you ever met the
5 Defendant, Kristen Maaherra?

6 A. No, I haven't.

7 Q. And you have not met myself?

8 A. No, I haven't.

9 Q. How about Mr. Owens, have you met him prior
10 to today?

11 A. Yes, I have.

12 Q. When was the first time you met Mr. Owens?

13 A. I don't remember the day.

14 Q. You said you knew about the case for a couple
15 of years. When you first learned about the case, did
16 you talk to any attorneys at that time?

17 A. No.

18 Q. When did you first learn that you might be
19 asked to testify in this case?

20 A. Maybe six months ago.

21 Q. Who mentioned that to you?

22 A. My niece.

23 Q. Who is that?

24 A. Patricia Mundelius.

1 Q. Did she tell you what you might be asked to
2 testify about?

3 A. We just discussed the problem.

4 Q. How did she describe the problem to you?

5 A. I'm afraid to answer that question.

6 Q. Well, let me ask you to put it as best you
7 can. Of course we understand that nobody likes court
8 cases, but how did she describe it to you?

9 A. Well, she just described it as it was
10 something that they had to tend to and get as much
11 information together as she could. But describing the
12 case, I don't know how she would have described it. I
13 think she finally did tell me about -- just review the
14 problem of the copyright.

15 Q. As you studied The Urantia Book, was there
16 ever a time when a particular passage came to mind and
17 you wanted to find it in the book?

18 A. Oh, sure.

19 Q. How did you find it?

20 A. Oh, I used the index and my memory.

21 Q. What index are you referring to?

22 A. In the book.

23 Q. When you say --

24 A. By subject.

1 MS. MAAHERRA: Table of contents?

2 BY MR. LEWIS:

3 Q. By index, are you referring to the table of
4 contents at the beginning of the book?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It was said a comprehensive index was being
7 prepared, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. That index was not for many years?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. Did you work on that index at any time?

12 A. No, I did not.

13 Q. Did you ever discuss this case with Martin
14 Meyers (phonetic)?

15 A. No, I didn't. No, I didn't know about it
16 then. I think I had heard the name Meyers, but I never
17 pursued anything like that. I truly wasn't interested
18 in it too much.

19 Q. You mentioned attendance records at The Forum
20 meetings, was any permanent record of those kept?

21 A. I don't know whether the brotherhood kept
22 them or not or the first society. I don't think a
23 complete record was kept.

24 Q. Do you have any present official relationship

1 with the Urantia Foundation?

2 A. Do I have any official?

3 Q. Official title.

4 A. No, I don't.

5 Q. Are you a member of a group known as Friends
6 of Urantia Foundation?

7 A. I'm trying to figure. Can I ask a question?

8 Q. Please.

9 THE WITNESS: Is that part of the --

10 MR. SOLONE: You're the first member.

11 THE WITNESS: I guess I am. I'm the first one.

12 BY MR. LEWIS:

13 Q. I gather it is not an active group?

14 A. I think it is. Isn't it, Bob?

15 MR. LEWIS: I object.

16 BY MR. LEWIS:

17 Q. I'm just interested in your understanding.
18 You're not aware of any activities in that group
19 recently?

20 A. I'm too old to get involved anymore.

21 Q. Or even if they have activities, are you
22 aware of any that they have personally?

23 A. No, I'm not.

24 MR. LEWIS: I have no further questions.

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MR. OWENS: I have no other questions. Thank you very much.

THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

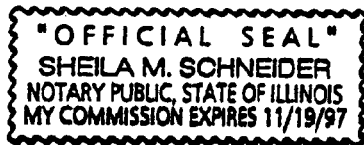
MR. OWENS: We will reserve signature.

(FURTHER DEPONENT SAITH NOT.)

Allen Cohen

Sheila M. Schneider
Notary Public

Signed and sealed on August 12, 1994



The following changes were made by me to the transcription of my deposition of June 29, 1994.

Page 21, line 9 should read:

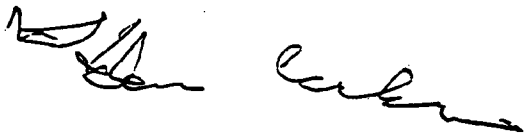
"They were told they could take their books home,"

Page 28, line 4 should read:

"Yes, not of this realm."

Page 46, line 16 should read:

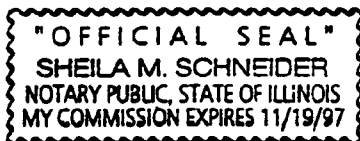
"I think I had heard the name Maaherra, but I never"



Helen Carlson



Signed and sealed by Sheila M. Schneider on August 12, 1994.



000101

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

2) SS:

3 COUNTY OF C O O K)

4 I, KIMBERLY A. OTTO, C.S.R. and Notary Public
5 within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois,
6 do hereby certify that heretofore, to-wit, on the 29th
7 day of June, 1994, personally appeared before me at 533
8 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, HELEN CARLSON, in a
9 cause now pending and undetermined in the Circuit Court
10 of Cook County, Illinois, wherein URANTIA FOUNDATION is
11 the Plaintiff and KRISTEN MAAHERRA is the Defendant.

12 I further certify that the said witness was first
13 duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and
14 nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the
15 testimony then given by said witness was reported
16 stenographically by me in the presence of the said
17 witness and afterwards reduced to typewriting by
18 computer-aided transcription, and the foregoing is a
19 true and correct transcript of the testimony so given by
20 said witness as aforesaid.

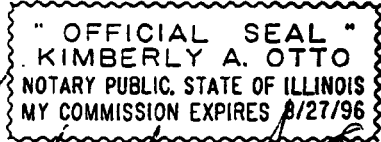
21 I further certify that the signature to the
22 foregoing deposition was reserved by counsel for the
23 respective parties.

24 I further certify that the taking of this

1 deposition was pursuant to Notice, and that there were
2 present at the deposition the attorneys hereinbefore
3 mentioned.

4 I further certify that I am not counsel for, nor am
5 I in any way related to the parties to this suit, nor am
6 I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

7 IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my hand
8 and affixed my notarial seal this 13th day of July,
9 1994.



Kimberly A. Otto

C.S.R., NOTARY PUBLIC, COOK COUNTY,
ILLINOIS

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Record Excerpt of Appellant Urantia Foundation
Docket # 174

DEPOSITION OF HELEN CARLSON

June 29, 1994

(Filed November 14, 1994)

The deposition of HELEN CARLSON called for examination pursuant to Notice and the Rules of Civil Procedure for the United States District Courts pertaining to the taking of depositions, taken before KIMBERLY A. OTTO, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the County of Cook and State of Illinois, at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, on the 29th day of June, 1994, at the hour of 11:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY: KIMBERLY A. OTTO, CSR
LICENSE NO. 084-003713
McCORRLE COURT REPORTERS, INC.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - (312) 263-0052

MR. OWENS: This is the deposition of Helen Carlson taken in the Urantia Foundation versus Kristen Maaherra action for purposes of preservation of testimony for us at trial and all other purposes allowed under Federal Rules.

My name is Dale Owens, attorney for the Plaintiff, Urantia Foundation. Mr. Lewis will enter his appearance. Go ahead.

MR. LEWIS: My name is Joseph Lewis; and I'm appearing today on behalf of the Defendant, Kristen Maaherra.

Before continuing, I want to point out that the notice of deposition did indicate that the deposition would be recorded by both stenographic and video means. There is no video camera here today.

Yesterday at about 4:00 p.m. or in the afternoon at some point, I was asked whether I intended to get a copy of the video recording that was to be made. I indicated that it was my intention to get that for purposes of trial preparation.

It was explained to me that there was some concern over the distribution of the videotape, and I assured Mr. Owens that I would work with him. I voluntarily agreed to restrictions on distributing a videotape but that I did want to have a copy for my own use. He was unwilling to proceed with the videotape deposition under those terms, but I'm willing to appear today on behalf of the Defendant.

MR. OWENS: Would you like to introduce him?

MR. LEWIS: With me today are David Cleary who is employed by our law office and the Defendant, Kristen Maaherra.