

1400 W. Salvington Place
Wheeling, IL 60090
November 14, 1985

Mr. David N. Elders
143 Five Mile River Road
Darien CT 06820

Dear David:

I'm finally getting around to responding to your kindly letter of May 8. Your comments were most appreciated at the time and I, too, am hopeful our friendship continues.

I have been too preoccupied with Tom's recovery until recently to get my thoughts in order. Several months have elapsed since the March 25th debacle, but I think misconceptions persist concerning my involvement in the affair. The April 20 Executive Committee meeting was not a satisfactory inquiry. They didn't have the perceptions or patience to deal with it, and the usual tendency of non-participants in an event is to oversimplify. I was hoping some of those involved would speak up about my activities, and when they didn't, certain impressions were left with the group which I feel are erroneous.

The last thing I want is to stir up another controversey, but if you encounter anyone still harboring suspicions about my actions in March, I would appreciate it if you could discreetly share parts of the following information with them. I'm sending copies of this letter to a few people I especially want to know my thoughts.

1) Copying records at 533. Rumors circulated that I pulled records from the files at 533, copied them and took them to Clayton.

At no time have I ever entered the files, copied or removed them, without authorization. On Wednesday, March 20, at John's invitation, I went to the office to copy minutes of General Council and Triennial Delegate Assembly meetings, from 1955 to the present, to have extra copies available in case confirmation of the "messages" occurred. Duplicates of Executive Committee meeting minutes already existed. We also reviewed a list of files, checking off ones that could be considered "vital records."

We hoped with all our hearts the warnings that nuclear war was imminent were false, but we didn't want to risk being caught unprepared if the warnings were later confirmed independently. Of course, no verification ever occurred, so we both agreed nothing would be mailed or moved to Clayton from 533. All decisions were made jointly by John and myself.

2) Did I defy the other officers by returning to Clayton? Also it seemed to be the consensus of the Executive Committee and other folks afterward that I defied the 1984 Council resolution by giving credence to claims of persons who received "messages."

An impromptu discussion on Friday, March 22 occurred between John, Marian, Glorianna and myself. It was not technically an officers' meeting because Ticky had not been notified and no business was discussed. After John reviewed the situation and I read the "messages" to Marian and Gloriann (their first knowledge of what was happening), we explained that there had been absolutely no verification of the warning. No show of hands was asked as to who believed, or disbelieved, the "messages."

I assured them I was not asking that books and records be transferred either to Clayton or to the Door County farm. (Research had been done earlier that week to ascertain express mail and shipping procedures in an emergency situation.)

I told them I was interested in going back to Clayton the next day, partly

because I still thought it possible, though at that point questionable, the "messages" were genuine, and partly because I wanted to observe first-hand, and later report, what happened out there. I knew the Clayton folks would be demoralized if the predictions failed to materialize, so I wanted to be there to try to bolster their spirits and help them redirect their energies. After all, they were all URANTIA Book readers. I added, ". . . unless any of you think I shouldn't go."

No one mentioned the impropriety of my going. No one mentioned conflict-of-interest or fiduciary untrustworthiness as relevant issues. They did not relate the 1984 Council resolution to the question of my going. While serving on the Executive Committee, I have never undertaken unilateral action, so if they had taken either an informal or official position against my proposed trip, I either would not have gone or would have resigned before leaving. When I left Chicago, I believed I was going with the understanding and personal approval of John, Marian and Gloriann.

All week, John and I had taken a wait-and-see attitude. Since nothing actually occurred, no official action was called for. No one suggested apprising the other members of the Executive Committee because there was no indication the warnings warranted either informal or official consideration.

3) It has been implied that I resigned before inquiry was complete and that I shortcircuited the inquiry process by resigning pre-emptively.

Monday evening before the Executive Committee meeting Frank called to ask if I still believed the messages. When I tried to explain the complexity of the "messages," or that I still hadn't reached a conclusion about them, he said, "That's all I want to know," and began lobbying for my resignation even before reading my report. If someone like Frank prejudged a situation, I knew others would probably assume the same attitude.

If the earlier part of the discussion of the Clayton affair at the April 20 meeting was an indication, there was little hope the later part would be orderly. The meeting was amorphous and wandered off into irrelevant paths. Everyone had a different view of why what I had done was improper. It was hopeless to try to address each point because they kept interrupting me and each other. No one who knew anything about my activities in March spoke up.

I didn't have to resign--it looked like a slight majority preferred to just let my term run out, but Dan was trying to persuade others I would certainly adversely influence the Council meeting if I remained. (As he pointed out, an officer's term ends after election of a successor at the Council meeting, not at the Triennial.) Doubtless he and Frank would have kept up the pressure in the interim. The Triennial and Council meetings would have been unpleasant and unproductive.

* * * * *

I wanted to share my conclusions about the recent "messages" and the FOG situation with you. (In my April 12 report, I used the names "Ken" and "Linda" to shield the identities of the so-called "contacts," which I'm continuing in this letter.)

"Linda's" experiences began January 2, 1985. By February, "Ken" was also claiming to experience "contacts." His stuff was impressive. It was sophisticated and exceptionally well-articulated. Some of the "best" material came in response to questions posed by Mark and Barbara Kulieke, who were aware of the so-called phenomena over a month before I was. It was lengthy; when typed, it totaled more than 20 pages. Besides the dictated material, there were intriguing sidelights and coincidences. (There were also inconsistencies which I've since learned existed.)

Some of it was received in answer to questions I was invited to submit, supposedly to the midwayers, when I visited Clayton in early March. The "answers" dealt with my projected role "after the war." Improbable as that part seemed at the time (and now), I was afraid to reject it because the rest of "Ken's" material sounded so coherent.

"Ken" repeatedly said he believed that what was happening to him was genuine; if he had any doubts, he kept them to himself. He seemed sincerely admiring of "midwayer minds" in action, and related examples of "midwayer" humor and playfulness. His material was eloquently expressed, worthy of what we've come to appreciate as the highest type of midwayer writing. Coincidentally, or not, March 25th, the date "selected" for the attack, was long celebrated as New Years Day on the Julian calendar in Europe and as late as 1918 in Russia.

Before March 25, Vern said he was on the fence. He couldn't prove the "messages" were real but couldn't disprove them either. He expressed concerns to me about "Linda's" material because of quality and language structure. If "Linda's" stuff was questionable, was "Ken's" valid? Vern joined in the final preparation of the building with everyone else on the chance the "messages" were genuine.

The real promoter of the "messages" was David Gray. He seemed to have the self-appointed task of reassuring me about their authenticity. I'd always appreciated David's discrimination and judgment. After March 25, David attacked the entire "message" phenomenon, including Vern's. He blamed Vern for the fiasco, for not quashing it at the beginning of "Linda's" experiences, and for not repudiating his (Vern's) own messages.

On the morning of March 25 "Linda" repudiated her experiences, ascribing them to some kind of mental aberation. I certainly go along with this assessment, and it is based solely on quality of material, though she appeared sincere and normal in every way.

"Ken" also repudiated his messages that morning, assigning mental aberation as the cause. For months, I have puzzled over the situation: the coincidence of two people in the same group claiming to develop identical mental problems within one month of each other and then being able to terminate them simultaneously; or the problem of two people having real contacts when there is a differential in quality; or the possibility of collusion by two unlikely co-conspirators to perpetrate a hoax; or two people consciously but independently carrying off a hoax; or one aberant individual and the other genuine. There is one additional possibility: one was aberant and one was deliberate.

I am aware that a certain paper on the subject of war preparation which has circulated in the underground of the movement for years, finally surfaced in Clayton around the first of the year. It may have stimulated the subconscious minds or conscious imaginations of the two people involved. "Ken," knowing of "Linda's" experiences, may have gotten the idea of pretending to have contacts in order to get FOG off dead center. As an avid follower of news reports about international terrorist operations and Soviet military buildup, he might have believed nuclear war was imminent. The institute was inadequately prepared. Defections were occurring by members of FOG, frustrated over not being able to carry on with outreach projects. His wife opposed preoccupation with war to the neglect of other activities.

He may have hoped the "contacts" would inspire a crash program to finalize the building and grounds preparation (which they did). When the attack failed to come it could be explained away by any plausible excuse: the U.S. must have learned through covert intelligence about the impending attack and scrambled defenses; the Soviets cancelled, etc., etc.

"Ken" is regarded as a hero because he promptly recanted his experiences as having had a psychological basis. Yet "Ken" rejected the idea of undergoing psychological examination--strange for a man who claimed to have undergone such a monumental blip. Much as I dislike thinking it was possible, I can't rule out

premeditation, and that he was chary of being found out by a skilled practitioner.

* * * * *

I doubt if "Ken" foresaw the virtual disintegration of FOG. Vern hadn't required belief in his messages as a price of friendship, but others demanded he repudiate them as their price of continued association and friendship with him. For years, Vern's broadcasts generated large contributions which were generously shared with FOG members for their publications, multimedias and travels. Since March, most of them have excoriated him as responsible for the "Linda" and "Ken" chronicles, and for having diverted money from outreach to war preparation--an activity in which they all cooperated. Interestingly, with one or two exceptions, all of them stayed in the building the night of March 24-25 awaiting planetary doom.

Nancy and Vern have been our friends for 20 years and will remain so as long as they desire. We four have been through a lot together, and their solicitude during Tom's illness was deeply appreciated. I am admiring of their lifelong dedication to carrying the good news message of the Father's love and overcare to the world. I can only conclude that those who are trying to interfere with that type of ministry on this pitiful world are grievously misguided. I don't observe many of his detractors conducting nearly so valuable and effective outreach programs.

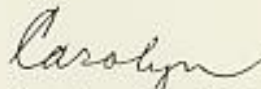
* * * * *

If "Ken" consciously devised the scheme, or even if it was unconscious, it was elaborate enough to involve the Brotherhood leadership. I must wonder about the intent behind including me so prominently in the charade. John also took an openminded attitude toward the situation and didn't render instantaneous judgment. There were built-in test of validity, but nevertheless, I shudder to think what would have happened if John and I had gone ahead and carried through with what "they" were requesting. It would have been devastating.

It is not the organization's business to investigate and pass judgment upon "messages" that allegedly come to an individual for his own benefit. But when "messages" occur that claim to involve the revelation or the organizations, investigation should not be precluded. I hope a similar situation never occurs, but if it does, it should be approached without prejudice. Content, quality of the material, long-term emotional balance of the claimant, and time are the elements of unprejudiced inquiry.

I was asked to resign because I traveled to a fallout shelter in March. Yet, the General Council later elected as chairman of Finance Committee a man who had spent thousands of dollars outfitting a fallout shelter in a cave in Arkansas, which was in full swing March 24-25. This seems inconsistent with what happened to me, but I guess it represents progress: it is a return to the longstanding practice of electing persons to office, not because of their positions on changing issues or their behavior in non-official activities, but because of their ability to carry out the duties of office.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Kendall

Copies to:

-Frank Sgaraglino	-Mark & Barbara Kulieke	"Ken"
-John Hales	-Vern & Nancy Grimsley	"Linda"
-Marian Rowley	-David & Bettina Gray	
Gloriann Harris	-Marvin & Francyl Gawryn	
-Lynne Kulieke	-Rebecca Marshall	
-Harry McMullan	-Scott & Carol Forsythe	

November 25, 1985

Dear Carolyn;

While I have neither desire nor intention to enter into a discussion of the Clayton incident, I must go on record as having stated that your conclusions expressed in your recent letter are completely wrong.

The situation was and remains a vastly more complex reality than your over-simplified solution would adequately describe. While there are many valuable lessons to be learned from what happened here, a relatively clear picture of basic causative factors must await the passage of more time. Such an analysis must wait until the participants have all worked through their emotional reactions--their anger, their frustration, and their embarrassment at having allowed themselves to get caught up in such a sham, as well as their needs to rationalize and justify their own involvement.

My regards to both you and Tom,

Ken

Copies to all who received your original letter.