

Andrusen

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MEMORANDUM

page 1

In the month of February 1958, some of our leaders were in Glendale, and one evening called me down to ask me a question. Did I intend to continue my agitation? I answered that I did. A few more words were spoken, and the interview ended. As Eld. Figuhr had invited me to come to Washington for a hearing or discussion, a few days later I wrote him:

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"If this is your desire, I am ready to come. . I have only one request, that the hearing be public, or that a stenographer be present, and that I be given a copy of the minutes."

Feb. 10, I received this answer:

"In compliance with your wish, the brethren see no objection whatever to recording our conversation. It is suggested that tape recording would likely be the most practical way of doing this." R.R.F.

(The tape recording was his suggestion. It was very satisfactory to me. )

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(Several letters passed, but there was no further ment/ of a tape recording, nor of my copy forme. As this was most important to me, I wrote him again on Feb. 21:

. . . "you did not answer my request that I be given a copy of the minutes. This is necessary, for in any discussion of what is said or not said, it will be my word against that twelve. I cannot afford to put myself in the position. I must have a copy of the minutes. This is the condition upon which I come." M.L.A.

Feb. 28 I received this reply:

"In regard to a record of the meeting, I think I indicated in my letter of Feb. 10 that the brethren had in mind recording on tape the proceedings of the meeting. This would provide a full record of what is said and done. We assume that such a complete record would be agreeable to you." R.R.F.

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(Such a complete record would be very agreeable to me. It was what I had asked for, and now I would get it. In my last letter I had written: "I must have a copy of the minutes. This is the condition upon which I come." To that he had answered that a full and complete record would be made and he assumed that this would be satisfactory to me. I could draw no other conclusion ~~that~~ then that I would get a copy. That is what I asked for. And how else could he assume that it would be satisfactory to me? Yet, his answer did not sound just right to me; he avoided saying right out that I would get a copy. Why, I wondered./ So I wrote him again on March 4:

"I have received no answer. I am still awaiting it. On this point I must have definite assurance. I would appreciate an early reply." M L. A.

( I was beginning to be suspicious. For some reason he wanted me to believe that I would get a copy of the minutes, when he did not intend to give such copy, and yet wanted me to believe that I would. It did not sound honest and straightforward to me. So I wrote March 12:

"I am still waiting for an answer that not only will a tape recording be made, but that I will get a copy. As stated before, this is a necessary condition." M. L. A.

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(By this time five letters had passed, and I had still not received an answer to the question that was so vital to me. This time, however, I did receive an answer. It was what I feared it would be. On March 18, he wrote:

"You have referred to the desire to have minutes kept of the meeting and also a copy of the tape recording. In discussing this with the officers, it occurs to the brethren that we do this, which would seem fair to all concerned - a secretary to be appointed from the group to write out the conclusions we arrive at, and these to be submitted to the entire group for approval, after which each will be given a copy. We believe, Brother Andreasen, that this suggestion will be agreeable to you." R. R. F.

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(In a later letter from him, he makes the astonishing claim that I was the one who suggested that only the conclusions be written down. I fail to understand how a man in his right mind can make such a statement that is so evidently untrue. I shall discuss this later. In his letter of Feb. 28 I was promised a "full record", "a complete record." Now there is to be no record at all, no stenographer, no tape recording, only the conclusions! This is the first of several deviations from truth to which I shall call attention, false statements unworthy of a Christian, and fatal to Seventh-day Adventists.

(Four times, Feb. 5, 21, March 4, 12, I had asked for a copy of the tape recordings. Each time I received an answer that was intended to allay my fears, but instead increased them, and now I had the truth. He informed me that he had never promised me a copy, thereby showing that he was not sincere. Every letter was a deceptive one. Not until I kept on prodding him, does he tell the truth: There will be no record of any kind. I was completely perplexed at his duplicity.

(After thinking the whole matter through, and knowing that no justice could be had from a man with such traits of character, I wrote him the following letter:

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"I have your letter of March 18 that I will not get a copy of minutes, thought I was led to believe that I would. . . You state that "a secretary appointed from the group will write out the conclusions, we arrive at, and these will be submitted for approval to the entire group, after which each will be given a copy. What I want, and what I was promised, was a "full record," "a complete record." YOUR BROKEN PROMISE CANCELS THE AGREEMENT."

M. L. A.

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I could wish that the story ended here. But it only begins. It is not a story to be proud of. And when it goes out to the people - and I have kept it back till now - it will be a fatal shock to our people to learn the truth. They will have difficulty placing trust in a man whose words are not up to the standard of sure truth. He wrote me on April 13:

. . . "It is true, as you state, that a tape recording was suggested at first, without a promise, however, of giving you a copy. Since making that suggestion we have thought further about the matter, and believe that such recording would not be a wise plan to follow". (He had himself suggested the plan) "A tape recording", he continues, "of every little remark would not be fair to the participants." (Would it not be as fair to the one side as the other.

He then affirms that a record of the conclusions is all that is needed, and then makes the astonishing and violent perversion of truth by stating: AS I LOOK OVER YOUR LETTERS, THIS WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN ACCORD WITH YOUR OWN ORIGINAL SUGGESTION."

This is the greatest falsehood ever uttered, and this recorded over his own signature. After I have argued in letter after letter for a complete and full record on tape which was his own suggestion - he now turns around and says that I am the one who wanted the conclusions only, and that I was the one who originated the idea. But he adds the further untruth that he finds that after looking over my letters. He sits with my letters in hand, looking them over, and finds that the ideas of having only the conclusions recorded "is in accord WITH YOUR ORIGINAL SUGGESTION. God save His people from such leadership/.

In the last few years I have written a number of letters to Eld. Figuhr. He has counselled with some of his officers, as he says, and pretended to tell them what I have written, but he has not told them the truth, nor what I have written. Not having my letters themselves, all they knew of the situation was what he told them. And he did not always - or ever? - tell them the whole truth. Consequently they only had his version of what was taking place, and hence they were not in possession of the facts when they voted my suspension. Had they known the truth, they never would have voted as they did. He withholds from them the truth that I had written him: Your broken promise cancels the agreements, and tells them that OTHERS have told him this, another falsehood told with a purpose. He tells them that I have never asked for a trial, another falsehood. For years I have asked for a hearing. But I will, by the grace of God BE HEARD.

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I have sent out six copies of this letter to certain officers. In two weeks I will send the same letter to a larger group. After that, I will to a still larger group. It will vitally affect the standing of Eld. Figuhr. After that I have not decided if I will send to the field, or gather my material together and make a book of it, copyrighted, so the different ones who are copying my material cannot reprint it, and send it where I do not wish it to go.

I love the church and have given my life to. My books have all been ~~xx~~ proscribed, and cannot be had - which is not according to God's order. I never have, I do not now, intend to hurt the church. I love it. But some of the leaders are unworthy of their office. God will deal with them. The time to deal with some men has come, and I shall be faithful to the trust given me. MEET IT. I will do my part.

Let me say, however, that if there is any inclination on the part of the leaders to undo the evil they have done, to lift my suspension, I shall, after that be willing to negotiate. But I will not bargain on the suspension. That must be lifted,

M. L. Andreasen.