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September 23, 1974

Mr. R. H. Ankeny
Rt. 3, Box 1
Apollo, PA 15613

Dear Mr. Ankeny:

This will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter, which reached me on September 19, 1974.

I have read your letter with great care and appreciate your taking the time to express your views so candidly to me.

The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America is a church governed by a representative form of government, similar to that which we know in civil life. The several presbyteries of the Church elect delegates to the General Assembly, known as commissioners. These commissioners are one-half ruling elders and one-half ordained ministers. The decisions of this elected representative body are binding upon me in my capacity as an officer of the General Assembly.

Many of the actions which trouble you were taken by the 186th General Assembly (1974), meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, or by prior General Assemblies. These decisions are not binding upon the general membership of the Church, but the general membership should give them serious consideration to ascertain whether or not the commissioners elected to the General Assembly have properly understood the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and its application to the problems of the world in which the Church seeks to witness.

At a meeting of the General Assembly the Stated Clerk serves as parliamentarian. This is required by the Manual of the General Assembly. Also contained in the Manual are the Standing Rules of the General Assembly. Standing Rule 20 provides for the appointment of a Committee on Conference. The Standing Rule reads as follows:

"COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE. As soon as possible after the election of the assembly committees, the Moderator shall appoint a Committee on Conference consisting of eight commissioners, four ordained ministers and four ruling elders, including one member of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, and such members of other assembly committees and of the Assembly at large as to afford adequate representation. The Moderator shall designate one of these or an additional member whom the Moderator shall appoint to be the chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Conference. The duties of the Committee on Conference are:

(a) To be informed regarding the subjects being considered by the several assembly committees and to advise the chairpersons of those committees which are considering the same or related subjects.

(b) To confer with persons who may wish to communicate with the General Assembly regarding the time and manner in which the concerns of such persons shall be brought to the attention of the commissioners.

(c) To make proposals regarding these matters to the General Assembly."

The Moderator of the 186th General Assembly (1974), the REv. Robert C. Lamar, appointed a Committee on Conference.

This committee received a request that Mr. Cesar Chavez address the Assembly. It deliberated regarding the matter and recommended to the Assembly that it hear Mr. Chavez. The Assembly discussed the matter and voted by an overwhelming majority to assign a period on its docket to hear the presentation. There were several commissioners who urged that the contrary view to that anticipated from Mr. Chavez be presented. However, these commissioners did not present the name of any person whom they wished to hear, and no application was formally made to the Committee on Conference that such provision be made. Consequently, the Committee on Conference did not present any recommendation to the floor of the Assembly requesting that time be provided to hear a rebuttal to Mr. Chavez' presentation.

The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly does not have the power to prevent any such matter being heard by the General Assembly, and I had no opportunity to exercise such a function, if it had been mine at the recent meeting in Louisville.

If you have further specific questions, I shall be happy to respond to them.

Sincerely,

William P. Thompson

WPT:pf

Wm. P. Thompson
State Clerk of the N.A.
475 Riverside Drive
N.Y.C., N.Y.

NOTE, THIS
LETTER IS NOT
FOR PUBLICATION.

SEP 19 1974

Dear Sir, - It's no wonder the U.P. Ch.
is losing members by the thousands,
losing financial support by the
many remaining members, ~~at~~
especially for sex. missons, when
the high officials do what they
do in supporting many kinds
of organizations which we as
the "dehub" few warmers object
to, like S. Chaver without any
response allowed. Dictatorship!
(See? Delegates, deprived of their
rights!! Right? YES!!!)

Boycott? SURE!!! Note: - I'll
eat whatever grapes I wish. Don't
tell me not to! NEVER!!!

Chaver absolutely had no busi-
ness at N.A. let alone speak!
If the U.P. Ch. paid more at-
tention to its own business,
it would prosper in many ways.

As I see things we should keep
out of Rhodesia's & Africa's busi-
ness. Much of our money is go-
ing to support XCC & WCC or the
gerrilla outfits in Africa &
other lands. (Don't do that so)

In my opinion that we
could get along with ~~out~~ out
NCC & WCC. I shot through with
those who harm the proper work
of the whole church.

For one & my wife for another
and many members of our Apollo
V.P. Ch. have quit giving to Gen.
Mission for many reasons -
Davis & now Chevys etc. Wow!!!

Can't you understand that the
Pew-wormers are not as "un-
knowledgeable" as they once were.

The clergy are not the only
educated, and the quines
our clergy find this out the better.

My wife & I for 5 or 6 yrs, now
have been supporting other move-
ments of Christian nature. We've
been titheing & much more, all our
life time together & that's not
been a small amount.

Presby-Byrd later AD, suffered
because of dissatisfaction among
members. We don't receive AD any
more.

\$ 202,257 loss in last yr. wow!
wow!!! wow!!! W O W!

I'm not blaming you with the
actions of the top officials - the
way they use church money &
and some actions of the church that
are hurting our church.

I wanted to say that ours
is not the only one in a "fix"
but this doesn't excuse us.

I've been a member for
over 70 years and a deacon

over 40 years, attended four
Synod meetings, one S.A. Meeting
and Presbytery about 60 times.
I've also done some Lay
Preaching.

I've been an educator
having taught 1st grade through
the University & some in Germany
and I've been around over 82 years,
and not without knowing about the
workings of our church.

As far as C. Ch^{ristian} Union is con-
cerned, I am not for it. In fact
I've belonged to unions in my time,
having worked in industry and I've
been more or less disturbed by them
in late years. They seem to be too
demanding than helping to cause
"streaking", inflation & raising the
costs of our manufactured items to
run up so far that foreign in-
dustries can ship even coal

from Australia, England & Japan
to our shores, pay their tariffs,
& under sell our own products.

Coal isn't the only item, many
others belong in the same bad
situation, & if this carries us
to lower many over-seas sales,
until our trade-balance with
other lands is in ^{the} bad shape. In
fact, we've had a favorable trade-
balance only once in the last
25 to 30 years. This hurts the U.S.

C. Chavez is a radical leftist,
if what I read is true & this is
surely not good. Lettuce, grapes
etc are a lot higher because of him
and his actions. So you & I & others
pay more for our foods.

We've quit lobbying in Wash., D.C.
unless we pay taxes. It's political.

I'd say that the term "General
Mission" is far too inclusive,

ADDENDUM

Dear Sir, - If the U.P. Ch. would get down to winning souls for Christ and keeping the ones already in Christ, and keep out of the numerous political actions now engaged in, our Church would grow & prosper once more to the extent that we'd all rejoice.

Let's get away from trying to change society en masse, and use our efforts on individuals, for this is the real way to convert souls.

∇ The Social Gospel, man-made, is a flop & never was any part of the Bible.

An old time Minister, Dr. Swartz Crawford said back in 1904, in the Indiana, Pa. Presby'n Ch., when so joined at a communion said, "Receiving so many into our church at

one time causes me to pause for it may be that number 2 may have joined because number 1 joined, and this is never a good reason for anyone to join. The matter must be individuals be convinced in their own minds and hearts that they want to accept Christ as their savior - "no other way!"

This has stuck with me. On that day 6 members of our family joined that church & did often thought of the above statement.

There is no place in the Bible which says "Brotherhood of man & Brotherhood of God" the basis of the man-made social gospel!

Think ~~of~~ on this!

Sincerely
P. W. V.

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

R H ANKENY
RT 3 - *Box 1 corrected!*
APOLLO, PA 15613

ZIP CODE



Wm D. Thompson
State Clerk of Sen. Assembly of U.P. Church
475 Riverside Drive,
N.Y.C., N.Y.

September 23, 1974

Mr. Erwin House
1845-23 Shoshone Drive
Lafayette, Indiana 47905

Dear Mr. House:

I am responding to the question which you recorded on DIAL-YOUR-QUESTION September 20, 1974.

Your question reflects a misunderstanding regarding both the role and the actual practice relating to the Stated Clerk's responsibility as parliamentarian at the meetings of the General Assembly. Let me say at the outset that I had neither the power nor did I refuse to allow a rebuttal to the address which Cesar Chavez made on the floor of the General Assembly at Louisville.

Standing Rule 20 of the General Assembly provides as follows:

"COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCE. As soon as possible after the election of the assembly committees, the Moderator shall appoint a Committee on Conference consisting of eight commissioners, four ordained ministers and four ruling elders, including one member of the Committee on Bills and Overtures, and such members of other assembly committees and of the Assembly at large as to afford adequate representation. The Moderator shall designate one of these or an additional member whom the Moderator shall appoint to be the chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Conference. The duties of the Committee on Conference are:

(a) To be informed regarding the subjects being considered by the several assembly committees and to advise the chairpersons of those committees which are considering the same or related subjects.

(b) To confer with persons who may wish to communicate with the General Assembly regarding the time and manner in which the concerns of such persons shall be brought to the attention of the commissioners.

(c) To make proposals regarding these matters to the General Assembly."

In accordance with this Rule, the Rev. Robert C. Lamar, Moderator of the 186th General Assembly (1974), appointed a Committee on Conference.

The Committee on Conference received a request that Cesar Chavez address the Assembly. After deliberation, the Committee brought to the floor

of the Assembly a recommendation that the Assembly hear Mr. Chavez. The Assembly itself voted by an overwhelming margin to assign a period on its docket to hear this address, and Mr. Chavez was invited to come to Louisville, and did appear before the Assembly as scheduled.

Several Commissioners expressed a desire to have a person or persons expressing a different point of view address the Assembly, However, when these persons approached the Committee on Conference, they were not in a position to propose a particular individual to make this presentation. Hence, the Committee was never presented with a request that a particular individual address the Assembly and brought no recommendation regarding this request to the floor of the Assembly.

If you have further questions, please contact me again.

Sincerely,

William P. Thompson

WPT:pf

WILLIAM P. THOMPSON

DIAL-YOUR-QUESTION

September 20, 1974

2. This is Erwin House, 1845-23 Shoshone Drive, Lafayette, Indiana 47905. This is for the Stated Clerk. Last month we toured Michigan and some in attendance in Louisville were concerned about your refusal to allow rebuttal to Cesar Chavez' ----- speech. I can't find in Robert's Rule of Order how you could rule as you did against rebuttal. Please explain.