

HWAPP# 3489 9254

INTEROFFICE

To: Mr. H. W. Armstrong

Date: September 30, 1976

Department:

Subject:

From: Stanley R. Rader

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

There is another crossroad in the Work--a crossroad of our own manufacture--but, none-the-less, real and crucial for you, for Ted, for me and, of course, the entirety of the brethren.

Last month, after our return from Rome and our five or six day visit to Pasadena, I thought we had effected an intelligent, enlightened and formidable modus operandi for the future development of God's Work, for the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and for the long term future, should the Work not be completed within your lifetime or during such time left to you that you are possessed of all your vigor and faculties, etc.

I thought that your apprehensions about a conspiracy--a plot--an effort by Ted and/or others to relegate you to the past or to the sidelines or to kick you upstairs had been dispelled--particularly in light of our talks with Ted and your own meeting with Robert. On the other hand, I felt that perhaps you were at least satisfied with the status quo.

But I find that those grave apprehensions have not been dispelled, and have perhaps been augmented and reinforced. As long as these apprehensions continue to plague you, they will color your conduct and will seriously affect all your activities. Accordingly, I feel it is better to face the issues directly and to deal with the situation decisively and bravely for the good of the Work, as well as your own peace of mind--so vital to the future of this Great Work.

For more than eight years there has been a persistent, insidious, ugly effort to wrest effective control of God's Work from you. This is so patent to everyone that it is not even worthy of comment. For too long, too many in the organizations resented your authority and were also deeply fearful that Ted would succeed you in due time and exercise the same authority over them. The problem surfaced initially in Al Portune's day, and his efforts literally have brought about a decline in faith within the Church, a decline in the rate of growth of the Church membership, the near destruction of Ted in 1971-72 (because he, too, began to resent acutely your authority during this period), the mass rebellion of the ministry in 1974, the defections of Raymond Cole, Paul Royer and others since 1974, and last, but not least, the defections of Hunting and Plache in 1975.

Al Portune  
blames  
or all !!

Mr. H. W. Armstrong

- 2 -

9/30/76

Unfortunately, even after the problem surfaced, we did not deal with it effectively, and the seeds of discontent and destruction have remained with us. The Carrozzo report, for example, was written during the period of Ted's return to Pasadena, but before his restoration to a position of authority, and the report was a cooperative venture between Carrozzo and others. Al Portune, Rod Meredith and Dave Antion joined him in presenting the report to you, and others even more important aided and abetted him in its creation, in its editorial comment and form, and they gave him the courage to present it, although he ultimately was to take the blame and was the object of your wrath.

Many of these people are still with us, and they still harbor the same basic feelings, but their approach is now different. They realize that you are too strong to attack directly in a fight for power, and they realize they need your great moral strength and reputation. But, they do everything within their own power to exercise real control over the Work, to minimize your past achievements, to minimize and even denigrate your present efforts and to do "their own thing" with as little actual interference from you as possible. As recently as last year, they were willing to further discredit you by their vicious attacks on Gotoh and me, and they still strive to destroy your confidence in me in order that the one person who has thwarted successfully and consistently their every effort be eliminated or discredited.

These are the facts. What to do about them is another matter entirely. There is no reason to speculate or conjecture about the actual state of affairs. It is clearly as you have suspected, and it is perhaps more widespread than your gravest fears.

My recommendation, however, is still the same. It would be better to approach the problem indirectly rather than directly; it would be better to avoid confrontation and confusion that would necessarily follow a direct attack; it would be better to avoid all witch hunts; it would be better to develop constructive programs to rebuild your authority and prestige within the Church.

I would strongly recommend that your efforts abroad be continued with even more vigor and dedication;

I would strongly urge that, after the Feast of Tabernacles, you take firm control of the ministry, revitalize it, reshape it, and make it the vital force (that it is not now) necessary if the ministry is to be effective with the brethren and is to play a role in the fulfilling of the Great Commission;

I would strongly urge that you use our own publications, including QUEST/'77, to help you reaffirm your past, present and future role as the only Apostle in God's Work.

where is the Carrozzo report

An attack on Rader the paints to HWA as an attack on HWA.

ORR aids & abets HWA's paranoia.

9/30/76

NB  
This memorandum is my last word on this subject. I have attached copies of previous memoranda on the very same subject dating back as far as the summer of 1973. I trust that you realize how very serious I am, and how much of a task you have before you. On more than one occasion of late you have indicated that you are tired of fighting (as am I), and maybe it is time for you to take it a bit easier and to let others carry the ball. Either way, you will always have me on your team, and I shall try my best to help you as always. If you find some wisdom in my recommendations, let us go forward with faith and confidence. If you find the problems presented in the memorandum more than you want to confront at this time, let us go forward together and continue to do God's Work as best we can, but without the discontent, the suspensions, the doubtings; without the daily concern about your relative status vis-a-vis Ted; without your concern about Robert's and others' loyalty to Ted as compared to you; without a daily but sporadic effort to reassert your authority by telling others what you are going to do and what you can do; without the daily lamentations about your not being close to Ted, etc.; without the daily lamentations that Ted resents you, wishes you dead, and the like.

I love you very deeply. I have done my very best to help you do your work. I don't like to confirm your gravest fears. I want you to have everything you are entitled to because God knows how much you have earned it. I want the whole world to stand up and pay attention to your slightest comment. I want your son to love, respect and honor you, as well as the rest of the world. And, above all, I want you to be able to fulfill the Great Commission and your great calling.

With love, in your home  
Ha