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December 4, 1954.

St. Andrews, Tennessee.

Dear Brother

Elder White has passed to me your letter of November 22, with the request that I gather what information is needed to answer the questions you have raised.

First, you ask that a certain quotation from the General Conference Bulletin of 1901, page 25, be verified or refuted.

In reply to this, I would say that the words do occur on this page, but the sentences are not consecutive as you give them. The first sentences are found in a paragraph referring particularly to the management of the Review and Herald. The latter part of your quotation in which the General Conference is mentioned, is in another paragraph. So really the quotation as it stands, is misleading.

You ask regarding the reorganization that was called for in this talk by Sister White. On another sheet I shall have copied for you the response to this very plain talk by Sister White of Elder G.A. Irwin, the president of the General Conference and Elder A.G. Daniells who was placed at the head of the work at this time. As you read these talks, you will be, I am sure, impressed by the earnestness of these men in their desire to know and follow the leadings of God's Spirit.

There was a thorough reorganization of the General Conference at this meeting and still further steps were taken at the next General Conference in 1903. For the details of this reorganization, please read pages 629 to 633 of the book entitled, "Origin and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists."

Three important changes were made. First, the immediate enlargement of the General Conference Committee from 13 to 25 members, making it a more widely representative body. This feature of reorganization has continued until today the members of the General Conference Committee occupy three full pages of the Year Book. The second important change brought about at the General Conference of 1901, was a plan whereby the funds of the denomination were more equitably divided among all countries of the world. The third achievement of the Conference was the plan of distributing the responsibilities of administration from the small general committee among many local leaders through the organization of Union Conferences. This work then begun has also

continued until today we have many Union Conferences.

Sister White was freely consulted by the leaders of the work and expressed great pleasure at the steps that were taken in harmony with the instruction given her.

In view of these facts, it is manifestly misleading to refer to the statements made regarding the control that was vested in a very few men at that time as though no effort had been made to carry out the instruction that was given at that Conference.

We feel that your application of the statement regarding the General Conference as being the "voice of God," to the teachings and practises of some individual members of the General Conference Committee is not consistent.

On pages 260 and 261 of "Testimonies for the Church," Volume 9, is a clear and balanced statement by Sister White, herself, which lays down the principles involved in the questions you raise. This instruction is as follows:

"At times, when a small group of men entrusted with the general management of the work have, in the name of the General Conference, sought to carry out unwise plans and to restrict God's work, I have said that I could no longer regard the voice of the General Conference represented by these few men, as the voice of God. But this is not saying that the decisions of a General Conference composed of an assembly of duly appointed, representative men from all parts of the field, should not be respected. God has ordained that the representatives of His church from all parts of the earth, when assembled in a General Conference, shall have authority. The error that some are in danger of committing, is in giving to the mind and judgment of one man, or of a small group of men, the full measure of authority and influence that God has vested in His church, in the judgment and voice of the General Conference assembled to plan for the prosperity and advancement of His work.

"When this power, which God has placed in the church, is accredited wholly to one man, and he is invested with the authority to be judgment for other minds, then the true Bible order is changed. Satan's efforts upon such a man's mind would be most subtle, and sometimes well-nigh overpowering; for the enemy would hope that through his mind he could affect many others. Let us give to the highest organized authority in the church that which we are prone to give to one man or to a small group of men.

With very kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely your brother,