

The David Dennis Legal Requests

PART ONE OF FOUR

On November 4, 1996, attorneys representing the General Conference entered the information contained in our recently published four-part tract set (*David Dennis Update: November 1996 [WM-729-732]*) into the official court record in Montgomery County, Maryland.

But that submission also included an even larger amount of information, which we did not have space to give attention to in that tract set. That information, contained in what are now public documents, is now provided to you.

We were quite surprised that the General Conference would instruct its three high-priced law firms to do this. Yet it must have occurred in the providence of God, so the people might awaken to the dangers facing the Advent cause in these last days and demand that reforms be initiated before it is too late.

Fortunately, this information is now part of the public record, and is therefore freely available to anyone wishing to read and share it.

It is time to pray and seek for changes.

The ongoing disclosure of secret information, which has been provided through papers submitted to the court in this litigation, is remarkable indeed.

And these revelations continue to be made.

Keep in mind that these unveilings never would have occurred if certain General Conference leaders had not decided to defame one of their most capable workers. Their efforts to vilify him throughout the world field and terminate his employment a mere three years before he would have been eligible for retirement has resulted in revelations very embarrassing to them.

The problem was that David Dennis was the last whistleblower still remaining on the General Conference level of the church. Search where you will, in our institutions, conferences, unions, and at world headquarters—and see if you can find a fearless whistle-blower anywhere! They have all vanished. Oh, yes, there are still some good men in

there, but they are keeping very quiet.

Yet, though silence reigns, month after month the crisis in the church deepens as a few men seek to take the reins of power in their hands.

In our recent, above-mentioned, November update on this ongoing disclosure [WM-729-732], we discussed two legal papers, totaling eight pages, submitted by the General Conference on November 4 to the Maryland Circuit Court.

We also mentioned that, appended to the second of those two papers, were four legal papers earlier submitted by David Dennis to the court.

At that time, due to space limitations, we said little about what those Dennis papers contained.

Now we will give you that information in detail.

Those four legal papers are reprinted here in their entirety. The following photographically reduced layouts include the complete pages,

along with their bottom page numbers. (Please note that, in the original papers, no page numbers were placed at the bottom of the first page in each of the Dennis request papers. To clarify where each page ended, we have placed extra space between it and the beginning of the next page.)

Here is a brief overview of what you will find in this present four-part tract set. All **page numbers within parentheses** (p. 3, etc.) refer to page numbers in the present four-part tract set you have in hand. **Paragraph item numbers** in the Dennis papers will be prefixed with an # (#8, etc.)

THE FOUR DENNIS REQUEST PAPERS

Dennis' interrogatory request: Entitled "*Plaintiff's Interrogatories to Defendant General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*," this request is seven pages in length (pp. 3-6), and begins with these words:

"a. The answers shall be fully detailed, complete and under oath and

penalties of perjury.”—page 1 (p. 3).

As are all four of these legal requests, this first legal paper (pp. 3-6) is quite well thought out.

This first request paper is divided into “I - Instructions” (pp. 3-4) and “II - Interrogatories” (pp. 4-6).

“Instructions” (pp. 3-4) lays the groundwork for all the requested data which follows throughout that legal paper, and requires that the requested information be complete and detailed in ten different ways. You will find similar initial instructions prefacing the three legal papers which follow this one.

It is obvious that, if these General Conference leaders are required by the court to accede to these requests, they will have to provide a sizeable amount of factual information. Yet we will find that all of the information and documents requested are necessary to buttress David Dennis’ defense against the charges brought against him.

The second category, “Interrogatories” (pp. 4-6), asks a number of pertinent questions.

Notice #9 and 10 (p. 5). Dennis is requesting organizational flow charts and levels of command and operation; information which should be available to every church supporter, yet which no one can obtain. He must have a special reason for requesting this data. Keep in mind that he knows far more about the inner workings of the higher echelons of our denomination than any of us does. He knows what he is asking for.

Dennis’ first document request: Entitled “Plaintiff’s First Request for Production of Documents [to] General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,” this request is seven pages in length (pp. 6-10).

Why is this second legal request entitled the first request? This is because the first of the four legal papers concerned *interrogations* (answers to questions) which David Dennis was requesting. The other legal requests are for *documents*.

There are 34 pages in these three documentary request papers (pp. 6-16)—and they are filled with requests for papers on file in denominational offices. Yet, thoughtfully reading through the requested items (there are 98 in all), we find that they all relate to David Dennis’ defense against the charges and the wrongful firing.

However, inadvertently, some of these items turn out to be, what some might term, a shopping list of corruption. Yet all are necessary to his defense.

Each of these three formal documentary request papers begins with a “Definitions and Instructions” section, followed by a “Categories of Documents to be Produced” section. This latter section lists the actual types of documents requested, and it is here that we find some interesting information. Dennis’

requests, because they obviously hint at where problems are, make very interesting reading.

The “Categories” section, of this first document discovery paper (pp. 7-10), lists 35 items which are requested.

The class of information requested in this first of the three documentary request papers concerns charges against David Dennis spread to church workers around the world field, charges which were used as an excuse for firing him. Yet, when other workers are similarly charged, they are routinely defended in court by the church, even though at great expense.

We have spoken with attorneys not connected with, yet familiar with, this case. They have told us that they are shocked that—immediately after concluding their side of that discovery—the General Conference would dare to ask the judge to stop the two-sided discovery in this case! Such effrontery to court processes is amazing. It is arrogant and it is crude. If church leaders run slipshod over workers as they are trying to do to Dennis in this case, we fear for the spiritual health of those who must be subjected to it.

The unfairness of their request for termination of the discovery process is simply remarkable. For example, review the items asked for in this first documentary request (pp. 7-10)—and notice the kind of information the General Conference is trying to keep Dennis from knowing:

Why he was fired. Who will be called in to testify against him and how much they will be paid to do so. Copies of church policies which he could use in his defense. The press releases issued to slander him. Data relating to the woman (who was induced with false memories syndrome as a result of visits to a professional hypnotism-trained mental therapist) which might aid him in his defense. The lack of evidence supporting slanderous charges made against Dennis’ occupational competence. Documents they took and hid. Documents regarding the termination and retirement benefits accruing to Dennis.

Dennis’ second document request: Entitled “Plaintiff’s Second Request for Production of Documents to General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,” this request is eight pages in length (pp. 10-13).

The “Categories” section, of this second document discovery paper (pp. 11-13), lists 20 items which are requested.

A quick survey of this section reveals that these requests also directly pertain to the charges which have been brought against David Dennis. There is simply no excuse for the arrogant attempt of the General Conference not to supply such documents:

#1-3 (p. 11) relate to Dennis' employment contract. #5-6, 8-18 (pp. 11-13) concern other men who have been involved in charges, and how the church dealt with them.

#4, 7, 19-20 (pp. 11, 12, 13) relate directly to charges made against Dennis and his defense against those charges. For example, documents for item #4 (p. 11) would show that Dennis was the only person whose election Folkenberg tried to block at Utrecht, thus demonstrating that Folkenberg was out to get rid of him before the false memories charge surfaced (cf. #22; p. 15).

So far, we have encountered only document requests which deal directly with the charges and Dennis' defense. Yet, after attempting to destroy Dennis' reputation throughout the world field, the General Conference wanted to stifle his efforts to defend himself.

Dennis' third document request: Entitled "Plaintiff's Third Request for Production of Documents to General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists," this request is nine pages in length (pp. 13-16).

The "Categories" section, of this third document discovery paper (pp. 14-16), lists 43 items which are requested.

In some respects, Dennis' third documentary request paper, dealing as it does with other General Conference situations, are of special interest. Why are these requests included? The answer is simple enough. Dennis contends that he was fired, not because of a false memories syndrome charge, but because he was a whistle-blower.

In order to support that claim, he is seeking evidence regarding the kind of problems which he was whistle-blowing about before he was fired.

Is a car dealer giving you gratuities (in the dealer trade it is called a "bird dog" arrangement) because you spend your spare time selling cars for him? That is what #8 (p. 14) implies; cf. #14 (p. 15). But what if you could advertise the cars through the General Conference newsletter (#21; p. 15)?

And then there are the other business ventures you might be conducting on the side, made possible because of your high office (#7, 29, 31, 41; pp. 14, 16).

Do you get special "interest-free" loans to buy houses with (#1-3, 31-37; pp. 14, 16) or get appointed to a high-paid, do-nothing job because you helped launder that and other contributions through the Columbia Union "Worthy Student Fund" and pass them on to the General Conference and North American Division presidents? (See Chapter 8 in our book, *Collision Course*; \$5, plus \$1.50 p&h. Cf. *The Donald Folkenberg Transactions* for still more; \$3.25, plus \$1.50 p&h.)

If you were a church worker, would you ask for the most expensive class of air travel (#4-5; p. 14) or receive free housing perks (#6; p. 14)? Sounds like deals Clinton would get.

Would a new, but totally uncalled for, managerial position over the China Division be custom-made for your son (#11; p. 15)?

And we should not forget the Parsonage Exclusion Allowance, designed to cheat the IRS (#9; p. 15); the cozy Global Mission financial arrangement (#10, 38; pp. 15, 16); the intriguing ADRA relationship (#25-28; pp. 15-16); the \$200,000, plus, salaries for Adventist Health Systems upper-level managers (#20, 23; p. 15); and the earlier Harris Pine (#15-19; p. 15) and Donald Davenport (#12-13; p. 15) scandals. (See our *Collision Course*, chapters 2-4, 7, and 12, for more on many of those issues.)

It is little wonder that those men are doing all they can oppose such revelations! For, indeed, such disclosures have never before been made by our church leaders.

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should have this material made available to them, for it concerns a number of officers and ministers in their church, which they support. It is a tragedy that these things are going on. Our people need to wake up before it is too late.