



BISHOP'S HOUSE
DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE
FORT WAYNE, IND.

February 10, 1941

Mr. C. E. Longacre
Religious Liberty Association
Takoma Park
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Longacre:

Your letter addressed to me in care of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR was sent here for an answer, and I beg to reply as follows:

I can readily see how the clause within the sentence which begins "Communists, Socialists, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormon, the Seventh Day Adventists" might be related to those groups, but that was not my intention. If the word "and" had followed the word "Adventist", it could not be given the construction which you give it, and which was not at all in my mind.

In that article appearing in OUR SUNDAY VISITOR an effort was made to stimulate our Catholic people to show a little zeal for the spread of the Catholic Press, such as do members of the organizations mentioned.

I have long known the zeal of the Seventh Day Adventists and not only have admired it, but have often praised it in public addresses as well as in OUR SUNDAY VISITOR in past numbers.

No, I certainly do not rate the Seventh Day Adventists with the Communist and Socialists nor with any anti-Christian group.

What was really in my mind when I wrote that article was to ally the Seventh Day Adventists with the members of other organizations who make great sacrifices to further their particular cause. I am more familiar than you may realize with the Adventists' battle for freedom of conscience, having seen quite regularly your periodical LIBERTY while I was actually the editor of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR, prior to 1925. My name still appears as editor, although I have not very close contact with the publication any longer and do not get to its office more than once in every three months.

I assure you once more that instead of entertaining any animosity towards the Adventist organization I have considerably more sympathy for it than for Protestant organizations generally who are far less consistent than is the Adventist in this that while repudiating the authority of the Catholic Church, they have not only accepted the Bible from her hands as genuine and inspired,

Mr. C. E. Longacre

Page 2

but they have followed the Catholic Church also in observing Sunday rather than the Saturday as the day of public worship.

with best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Fort Wayne.