

DF
C. & A. File No. 37-c.

statement re: ministers bringing
as many children as possible
into the world.
Letter re 8797-b.

November 25, 1957

P. O. Box 284
Yucaipa, California

Dear Brother Niermeyer:

I must apologize for my long delay in answering the second question in your letter, written July 30. This has not been because of any indifference on our part. When it came we were deep in certain manuscript work which we were rushing through for the Southern Asia Division, and this has been followed by other tasks which have made it impossible for me to give the attention to my correspondence which it should have. I am sorry for this and ask you to pardon the delay.

You send to us an excerpt from what reports to be a letter from Ellen G. White carrying to file number DF 97 b. You ask about this, and if it is a statement from Sister White's pen, and what the source reference means. The statement which you have sent for us to verify, we are not able to verify, for we do not have any original E. G. White letter to this effect. There were certain communications addressed to some of our early workers who were multiplying their families unduly. We know that there were such letters. The content of these letters, we do not know. There have come to us in various forms that which reports to be parts of these letters, and these we have placed in our general subject file which we call our Document File, and that accounts for the credit given to this item. The Document File is in no sense confined to E. G. White materials, but is a file of places, and must not be confused with the E. G. White letter or manuscript file.

If Ellen White did pen these words, we do not know the setting in which they were presented. We do not know what came before or what went after, and this so often has a modifying effect upon a brief statement. We would direct our workers and our people to Ellen G. White's counsel on the matter of the rearing of families to Ministry of Healing and to the book, The Adventist Home. In The Adventist Home, you will find some statements written by Sister White on the size of the family. Turn to page 162 and onward. We discourage the circulation or reference to statements of the kind which you have sent to us which cannot be traced to an authentic

source. All we can say that if Sister White wrote something of this kind, she did not place it on file, nor did she place it in the hands of her secretaries for filing. She made clear her intent in counsel concerning the marriage relation and the rearing of families in her messages which have been set before the church in her books.

It is good to hear from you. I am off to Australia this evening, and will be back sometime in February.

With the best of wishes, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary
ELLEN G. WHITE PUBLICATIONS

ALW:j