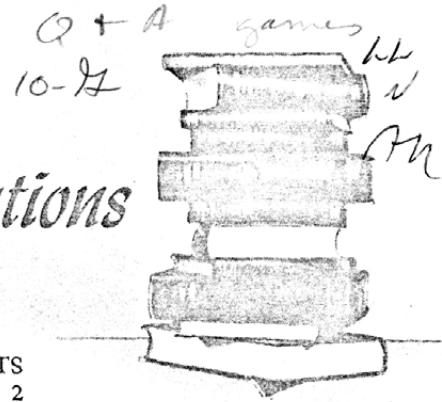


Ellen G. White Estate, Inc.

PROPRIETOR OF

# ELLEN G. WHITE Publications



Office Address:

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS  
TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012

April 29, 1970

Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, Michigan 49104

Dear Brother

Some months ago you wrote to Arthur L. White raising the question of use of chess and checkers and the E. G. White counsels concerning these games.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter that I just wrote to one of our teachers in the west. I wish that you would read this letter. It may or may not be helpful to you, but the thoughts expressed there represent, I think, the Christian philosophy Ellen White tried to teach our students and teachers and parents.

I am not aware that gambling was associated with the playing of chess or checkers 75 or 100 years ago. Perhaps so, I've never heard of it. I do not think that there is anything essentially wrong with chess or checkers, anything more than there is essentially wrong with baseball, volleyball, basketball. It is in the involvement of the whole person, of the players with unreality and the ephemeral thing that games really are, that concerns the servant of the Lord.

Why waste time with trivia when the world is dying about us and spare time might be spent giving the warning message, helping lost souls into the kingdom. The kingdom of life itself makes demands upon us higher, stronger, than we have resources to respond. How can we spare the time for those things that in their very nature demand more and still more of our time attention and affection.

Could it be that games become competitors, rivals with God Himself and the worship of the Lord? I think so. Could innocent little games keep people out of heaven? Where do big, bad ideas begin? With little innocuous looking ideas. It is the thing to which games lead that make them dangerous. These things must be kept in mind in any discussion of this subject, Mr. Manley.

Explain this to young people--its extremely difficult. It sounds like "peanuts," even fanaticism, to youth today whose problems are not chess and checkers, but sex, LSD, dropping out of school, finances, etc. Chess and checkers would be piety for some young people. What are we going to do?

Mr.

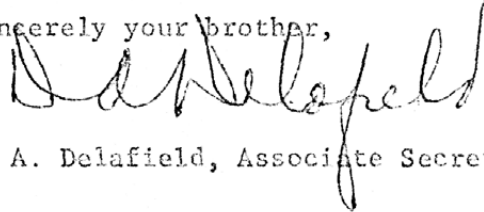
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The discussion of these subjects with some young people, particularly those who are involved in the bigger problems, only creates distaste for Ellen White and puts her in the very heart of the "establishment." I think this subject has to be discussed only in a select group, not in an open way, where it can be avoided. Sister White is misunderstood.

Brother Manley, I wish you success in meeting these situations. I do not know what to do except teach principles, apply the principles wisely, fairly, avoiding catagorical pronouncements.

Sincerely your brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. A. Delafield". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

D. A. Delafield, Associate Secretary

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DAD/cy

Encl.