

1 WERE ALWAYS UNDER CONTROL WHEN THEY DID STUDY IT, AS IF THERE
2 WERE SOME DISTORTION GOING ON.

3 Q IN OTHER WORDS, THAT THE LEADERS ARE TELLING THE PEOPLE
4 THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL READ AND THIS IS ALL YOU WILL READ AND
5 THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST INTERPRET AND, IN EFFECT, YOU CAN'T DO
6 YOUR OWN THINKING OF THIS?

7 A YES, AND, OF COURSE, THE IMPLICATION IS THAT ALL THEY HAD
8 WERE THE WRITINGS OF WITNESS LEE TO STUDY.

9 Q RIGHT.

10 A I DID NOT REPORT THE FIGURES HERE BECAUSE EVERYBODY SAID
11 THEY STUDIED THE BIBLE ON THEIR OWN. AND THE VARIETY OF HELPS
12 THAT THEY SAID THEY USED WERE JUST ALL OVER THE MAP FROM ONE
13 PERSON SAYING, "WELL, I HAD A CONCORDANCE," OR "I USED THE
14 WRITINGS OF --" OR "I WENT TO SEE THE WRITINGS OF THE BRETHREN"
15 OR "I JUST READ IT ON MY OWN."

16 I THINK, BY THE WAY, IF I WERE WITNESS LEE, I WOULD BE A
17 LITTLE EMBARRASSED HOW FEW TIMES THEY MENTIONED MY BOOKS --

18 (LAUGHTER.)

19 A (CONTINUING) OR USING THEM WHEN THEY DID SELF-STUDY. IT
20 CERTAINLY WAS NOT AN IMPERIALISTIC "THIS IS THE ONLY THING WE
21 READ," YOU SEE.

22 Q AND WHAT DOES THAT INDICATE TO YOU?

23 A IT INDICATED THAT THE ACCUSATION THAT THEIR MINDS WERE
24 BEING CONTROLLED BY INPUT FROM AS FAR AS WHAT THEY WERE USING TO
25 STUDY THE BIBLE WAS A FALSE ACCUSATION.

26 Q LETME GO ON TO THE NEXT ONE, NUMBER FIFTEEN: "HAVE YOU
27 EVER FELT BRAINWASHED? COERCED?"

28 A NONE OF THE PRESENT MEMBERS, ONE OUT OF THIRTEEN OF THE

1 EX-MEMBERS, AND NONE OF THE METHODISTS FELT THAT WAY. AND I
2 CONCLUDED CHANCE VARIATION. QUESTIONS FIFTEEN, THIRTEEN, AND
3 TWELVE ARE RELATED, YOU SEE.

4 Q IN THE COURSE OF THAT, DID YOU COME ACROSS A COMMENT BY
5 ANY EX-MEMBER ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF ANOTHER EX-MEMBER?

6 A YES.

7 Q OKAY. AND WHAT WAS THAT IN RESPONSE TO?

8 A WELL, IT WAS AN INTERESTING COMMENT, AND I CAN'T REMEMBER
9 WHETHER IT WAS THE ONE THAT REPORTED THEY FELT BRAINWASHED OR
10 NOT, BUT THERE WAS ONE EX-MEMBER SAID, "YES, I FELT IT,
11 DEFINITELY, FROM ONE LEADER WHO HAS NOW LEFT THE CHURCH AND
12 WHOSE BEHAVIOR WAS NOT CHARACTERISTIC OF THE LEADERS OF THE
13 CHURCH.

14 Q OKAY.

15 A YOU WANT ME TO NAME THE LEADER?

16 Q SURE. DID THE PERSON NAME THE LEADER?

17 A YES. A PERSON NAMED RAPOPORT.

18 Q LET'S NOW GO TO NUMBER SIXTEEN: "WHAT ROLE DOES WITNESS
19 LEE (JOHN WESLEY) PLAY IN YOUR FAITH?"

20 NOW CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE QUESTION FIRST?

21 A THE QUESTION HAD TO DO WITH THE ACCUSATION OF WITNESS LEE
22 EXERCISING, AS THE TEXT SAID, ALMOST PAPAL AUTHORITY, AND HIS
23 BEING -- THE INFERENCE BEING THAT HE WAS SOMEHOW EVEN QUASI
24 DIVINE, SOMEHOW HAVING A SPECIAL ROLE.

25 AND I ASKED THE METHODISTS, THEIR LEADER WOULD BE JOHN
26 WESLEY, THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH IN THE SEVENTEEN-HUNDREDS, AND
27 WITNESS LEE WOULD BE THE PARALLEL TO TODAY.

28 Q WHAT RESULTS DID YOU GET?

1 A AND AGAIN, THESE ARE ALL ANECDOTAL, SO I COULDN'T
2 SUMMARIZE THEM. WITNESS LEE WAS PICTURED AS AN ELDER BROTHER, A
3 TEACHER, A RESPECTED LEADER. I WAS EMBARRASSED MANY OF THE
4 METHODISTS DIDN'T REMEMBER WHO JOHN WESLEY WAS --

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 A (CONTINUING) BUT EACH OF THEM SAID THAT WITNESS LEE WAS
7 IMPORTANT TO THEM. THEN I PREFACED THAT QUESTION WITH A SUBSE-
8 QUENT QUESTION: "IS WITNESS LEE DIVINE?" AND THERE WAS NO
9 UNIFORMITY, "OF COURSE NOT," THAT SORT OF ANSWER.

10 Q WHEN YOU USE THE WORD "DIVINE," THAT HAS A SPECIAL
11 SIGNIFICANCE?

12 A YES.

13 Q WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

14 A IS HE SOMEHOW A GOD? DOES HE HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE OVER
15 AND ABOVE BEING A LEADER, SIMPLY A LEADER? AND THERE WAS DENIAL
16 THROUGHOUT.

17 Q AND THAT'S BOTH EX-MEMBERS AS WELL AS PRESENT MEMBERS?

18 A ACROSS THE BOARD. NO DIFFERENCE THERE.

19 Q SO, BASICALLY, HE WAS LOOKED UPON AS EITHER --

20 A AN ELDER BROTHER, A PERSON WHO TEACHES US THE SCRIPTURE,
21 A LEADER, ANSWERS I THINK THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN TO ANY IMPORTANT
22 LEADER IN A GROUP.

23 Q OKAY. FINE.

24 A NO DIFFERENT.

25 Q LET'S GO TO NUMBER SEVENTEEN: "IS THE LOCAL CHURCH THE
26 ONLY CHURCH?" WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT QUESTION?

27 A WELL, TO SOME EXTENT, I HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT MY WORDING
28 OF THESE QUESTIONS REFLECTS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL