

1 PAGES OF DEPOSITION IN THE TRIAL OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

2 Q (BY MR. MORGAN) NOW WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT YOUR
3 CONCLUSIONS WERE ABOUT THE BOOK, DOES IT FAIRLY REPRESENT
4 WITNESS LEE'S TEACHINGS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH AND THE LOCAL
5 CHURCH PEOPLE?

6 A SIMPLE ANSWER, NO.

7 Q CAN YOU TELL US IN WHAT WAY IT DOES NOT GENERALLY?

8 A WELL, THE FIRST THING IS THAT THE BOOK TAKES WITNESS
9 LEE OUT OF ITS CHRISTIAN CONTEXT, NO ATTEMPT TO SEE IT
10 HISTORICALLY, WHICH IS A VERY GREAT FAULT BECAUSE IN OUR
11 CULTURE WE TRY TO USE HISTORY TO UNDERSTAND PRACTICALLY
12 EVERYTHING.

13 PSYCHOLOGICALLY, SOCIOLOGICALLY, AND EVEN IN THE
14 COURTS. A HISTORY OF THE INDIVIDUAL CAN GIVE A VERY DIFFER-
15 ENT IMPRESSION TO THE JUDGE OF WHAT A PERSON IS LIKE, SO
16 THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE HISTORY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH,
17 WHERE IT CAME FROM, ITS ROOTS AND THE PLYMOUTH BRETHREN.

18 IT CAME ALL THE WAY TO CONTEMPORARY FUNDAMENTALISM.

19 THEN, OF COURSE, I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONCLU-
20 SIONS WERE ALREADY SET AT THE VERY START AND THAT THE AUTHOR
21 WAS SKIMMING THE PAGES, OH, THIS FITS INTO HERE, AND THEN, OH,
22 YEAH, THIS FITS INTO HERE. SO IT WAS ALMOST LIKE WHAT WE
23 CALL IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES SCISSORS AND PASTE METHOD OF MAKING
24 A STUDY. YOU CUT THOSE LITTLE QUOTATIONS WHICH YOU THINK
25 WILL FIT.

26 Q DID YOU FIND IN YOUR OPINION THAT THE BOOK MISREPRESENTED
27 THE TEACHINGS OF WITNESS LEE?

28 A YEAH, AND WHAT WORRIES ME MORE IS THAT I COULDN'T SEE

1 HOW A PERSON COULD HAVE DONE IT WHO HAD SOME ACADEMIC BACK-
2 GROUND AS THE AUTHOR HAD. THAT IS STILL A MYSTERY TO ME.

3 Q DO YOU HAVE ANY OPINION AS TO WHETHER THE MISREPRESENTA-
4 TIONS WERE DONE DELIBERATELY?

5 A I HATE TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON PEOPLE BUT IN THIS CASE I
6 WOULD BE INCLINED TO SAY THEY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN NOT
7 DELIBERATE.

8 Q LET ME DO THIS, FATHER.

9 THE COURT: COULD I ASK YOU SOMETHING? FATHER,
10 WAS THERE ANYTHING IN THE GOD-MEN -- OBVIOUSLY I HAVEN'T
11 READ IT. IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE GOD-MEN THAT IS COMPLI-
12 MENTARY TO THE LOCAL CHURCH?

13 THE WITNESS: I HAVEN'T FOUND ANY. I MADE A LIST
14 MYSELF OF WHAT I CALL RELIGIOUS ACCUSATIONS AND CIVIL
15 ACCUSATIONS. BECAUSE WHAT THEY DO IS THEOLOGICALLY THERE
16 ARE THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND WE ALL DISAGREE WITH
17 ONE ANOTHER, BUT I CAN DISAGREE WITH YOU THEOLOGICALLY
18 WITHOUT CALLING YOU NAMES, AND THERE IS A LOT OF NAME CALLING.

19 THE COURT: SO IN YOUR OPINION, THEN, THE BOOK
20 DOES NOTHING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY AS FAR AS HELPING THE
21 LOCAL CHURCH BUT THAT IT IS A BOOK WRITTEN STRICTLY FROM THE
22 STANDPOINT OF TRYING TO DOWNGRADE THE LOCAL CHURCH.

23 THE WITNESS: THAT IS THE IMPRESSION -- AND I
24 THINK ANY PERSON WHO READ IT WOULD GO AS FAR AWAY AS HE CAN
25 FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH.

26 Q (BY MR. MORGAN) FATHER, WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT
27 NOW IS THE UTILIZATION BY SCP AND MR. DUDDY OF CHRIST VERSUS
28 RELIGION. DO YOU HAVE THAT IN MIND?

1 A YES, I DO.

2 Q FIRST, AS A CATHOLIC PRIEST, DOES THAT TITLE GIVE YOU
3 SOME CONCERN?

4 A NOT AT ALL. IF YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SOME THEOLOGY THE
5 LAST 20 YEARS YOU WILL REALIZE THAT THE IDEA OF CHRIST VERSUS
6 RELIGION HAS BEEN FIRST IN THE PROTESTANT AND EVEN SOME
7 CATHOLIC WRITINGS AND BASICALLY WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO SAY
8 IS THIS, THAT OVER THE CENTURIES RELIGION, CHRISTIANITY
9 INCLUDED, HAS BUILT UP A LOT OF ACCRETIONS AND OBVIOUSLY
10 SOMETIMES WE HAVE MADE THE MISTAKE OF TAKING THESE ACCRETIONS
11 AS BEING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE CENTER THEME OF CHRISTIANITY,
12 AND THERE IS A CONSTANT BATTLE GOING ON IN THE CHRISTIAN
13 CHURCH OVER THE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS FIGHTING THIS THING,
14 AND AS DR. MELTON MENTIONED, KARL BARTH WAS PROBABLY THE
15 FIRST ONE WHO CRYSTALLIZED IT IN THIS TERM. CHRIST VERSUS
16 CHRISTIANITY -- OR RELIGION.

17 Q FATHER, LET ME GIVE YOU THE FOUR-WAY HERE. I AM GOING
18 TO ASK YOU TO GO TO PAGE 141. DOWN HERE ON THE BOTTOM, IT IS
19 THE LAST SENTENCE BEFORE THE LAST PARAGRAPH AND IT SAYS "THE
20 LOCAL CHURCH, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY FAILS TO EXPRESS SOCIAL OR
21 MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS BUT EXPLICITLY COUNSELS ITS MEMBERS TO
22 AVOID ANY SUCH AWARENESS." NOW, FIRST, WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND
23 THAT MR. DUDDY IS SAYING TO THE READER?

24 A WELL, FIRST, KIND OF -- MY IMMEDIATE REACTION IS THAT
25 HE TRIES TO ISOLATE THEM FROM SOCIETY AT LARGE ALMOST LIKE --
26 WHATEVER HAPPENS IN SOCIETY, FORGET IT. IVORY TOWERS.

27 SECONDLY, MORALITY IS OBVIOUSLY NOT INCULCATED. IN
28 OTHER WORDS, WHAT YOU CALL THE AVERAGE THING, DON'T STEAL,