

(copy of Bush letter)

Local Board No. 10

Clark County  
Cith Hall  
Neillsville, Wisconsin

REQUEST FOR REOPENING  
OF CLASSIFICATION

Gentlemen:

In Sept. of 1956 I wrote to you, completely new and additional information not before considered by any board in classifying me. No favorable action toward my proper classification as IV-D was taken on the obvious merits of that material.

At this time, therefore, I am renewing my request and appealing to you to exercise your authority under Section 1625.2 of the Selective Service Reg. "The local board may reopen and consider anew the classification of a registrant (1) upon the written request of the registrant, if such request is accompanied by written information presenting facts not considered when the registrant was classified, which, if true, would justify a change in the registrant's classification."

This new information that I am submitting at this time is a sample copy of a certificate that shows I am authorized or recognized to perform marriages in the state of Wisconsin. I have obtained this and sent it to the board to substantiate what I have heretofore told the board in my papers and orally, which apparently, the local board chose to disregard of disbelief. I have reference to the claim that I have made that I am a minister.

To obtain this I had to register with the Clerk of Circuit court my credentials as an ordained minister. To firmly establish my credentials I submitted a photostatic copy of my "Pioneer Certificate" to the Clerk of Circuit Court which has been filed with the Court. This certificate is in effect a certificate of my ordination.

- I have filed a copy of this same "Pioneer Certificate" with the Local Board, doing so on September 14, 1956, I wish to call your attention once again to this Certificate because I feel that it was not given proper and ample consideration and weight.

This certificate is something the local board requested from me on March 6, 1956, in order, apparently, to enable the board to grant me my desired classification of ~~V~~ IV-D.

On record at this time, in my Selective Service file, I have a "Memorandum of my Personal Appearance" which was submitted after my personal appearance on Sep. 20, 1955. On the second page of that memorandum the opening line of paragraph four stated the board's future policy and dealings relative to my case.

I submitted the evidence on Sept. 14, 1956 but the material in your letter to me dated Oct. 26, 1956 indicated you were not coherent with your preceding statement.

At the time of my personal appearance you stated you would reopen my case in event of further evidence. Your letter dated Sept. 14, 1956 says that if my case were reopened I would be notified on SSS Form No. 119?, Notice of Classification, since I have not received any form of this nature since April 4, 1956, I can only

conclude the board did not reopen my case upon reception? of the additional material it received on September 14, 1956.

To this, my pioneer certificate, then, (which was a part of this additional material) which the board apparently chose either to disregard or overlook I now wish to direct your attention.

You will note that the Certificate speaks of my ORDINATION. A religious organization may select any ceremony it wishes as its form of ordination. Section 1622.43 (b) of the the Regulations just says that a 'duly ordained minister of religion' must be ordained according to the ceremony or practice of his religious organization. Therefore my ordination, being in the manner prescribed by my religious organization, must be recognized.

My ordination, however, does not qualify me for the ministerial classification of IV-D. This is because Section 1622.43 (b) lays down one other test. That is whether a man, in addition to having been ordained according to the principals of his religion, preaches and teaches "as his regular and customary vocation." Now, if I meet both of these test, then the regulations, is they are administered without prejudice or partiality, say that I "shall be placed" in Class IV-D.

Is the ministry my vocation? That is the question. At the time of my first personal appearance before the board I had mentioned that I devoted about 20 hours a week at the ministry work. At this time However that statement is no longer meritorious. It is erroneous, actually I now devote, each month, well over 200 hours in performing my various ministerial duties. I spend about 115 hours monthly in public and teaching alone. Other time is spent in morning worship and devotionals, comforting and aiding the spiritually sick and afflicted; caring for my functions as Theocratic Ministry School Conductor and Magazine-Territory Servant (two Positions of servant responsibilities) in my local congregation of Jehovah's witnesses; preparing and researching public sermon; and other such Christian responsibilities. All in all, the majority of my time is devoted to ministry.

It may be that you have denied that I am a minister because I perform a little part time secular work to support myself... about 10 hours a week. In my "Memorandum of my Personal Appearance" on page two, paragraph 1-4 particularly, I discussed this subject. It is not at all strange that I should be working part time at a secular job. From apostolic times this has been an honorable practice. The Apostle Paul, as ever Bible student knows, made tents as a secular by-line to his ministry. I hardly believe that the local board would deny Paul a IV-D classification! He said: "by labor and toil, night and day we were working so as not to impose an expensive burden upon any one of you." He said of those who did not work but lived off the congregation: "We hear certain ones are wasking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them." (2 Thes. 2:8, 11 N. W. Trans.) I am no such a one "wasking disorderly" but do a little part time secular work aside from my vocation of the ministry so as "not to impose and expensive burden on anyone."

Part time secular work is a recognized part of the life of the majority of preachers and ministers in the United States today. Not all clergymen are blessed with a financially strong congregation. In the Northern Baptist Convention 80 percent of all clergymen in rural sections "help earn their keep by work not connected with their churches." (Hartshorne and Froyd, Theological Education in the Northern Baptist Convention (1945) Judson Press, Philadelphia, p.72) It is well known that the majority of the ministers of the Society of Friends (Quakers), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), Mennonites and many others are dependant entirely upon secular work for their support, no salary being paid to their ministers as a general rule. Yet they may be given the IV-D classification that I ask for.

It may be that you have denied that I am a minister, because I have not graduated from some theological or divinity school. That is not a valid reason for denying the ministerial classification to me. If that were so, then you would not, could not classify Jesus Christ himself as a minister! The Apostles of the Lamb were "unlettered and ignorant men" (King James Version), "unlettered and ordinary" (New World Translation), Acts 4:13. The Selective Service Regulation lay down no test as to schooling. The only test is ordination and vocation. That I meet in every respect. Therefore I should be classified IV-D.

I preach. I have my congregation of laymen that are dependent upon me for spiritual and scriptural instruction and council. I am not the type of minister who has a church building and a numbered congregation that I can call to church by ringing a bell so they can hear me preach. I am the missionary evangelist type of minister. It is reported of Jesus that he "went round about the villages, teaching". Mr. 6:6. He sent out seventy disciples to teach and preach in the homes of the people, giving them instruction to that effect in Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> Ch.

The very essence of Christianity is to "go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Mt. 28:19) converting them to the religion of Jesus Christ. This I do. There are some 70 million persons in the United States that do not belong to any religious many millions of persons that nominally belong to a religion, do not attend church at all; some only on Christmas and Easter and other special days. Unless there were peripatetic ministers like myself, these would not be spiritually cared for. In performing my ministry there are many persons that have come to look upon me as their religious instructor. I conduct Bible studies in their homes. I regularly call back on them and many others to give them a sermon 'at the fireside' so to speak. They look to me for comfort and guidance, which I give them from the Bible.

Unless I have my ministerial claim, which is a valid one by reason of ministry being my vocation, recognized by the local board, a great disservice will be done to the community and to all the members of my congregation. They will be deprived of a religious leader and teacher. It is for this reason that I so deeply desire the proper recognition as a minister.

It may be that the local board has denied ministerial classification to others of Jehovah's witnesses who have made that claim, but who were only part time ministers. (Note the discussion we had on this subject at the time of my first personal appearance, found on page 2, paragraph 4 of my Memorandum of my Personal Appearance. The board had a case of one of Jehovah's Witnesses, who was only a part time minister, in mind at this time.) I am not a part time minister--I am a full time minister. I devote over 200 hours every month to performance of my ministerial duties, with only 10 hours a week to secular support. Ministry is my vocation in life.

~~In this case~~ In this connection, I would like to mention the case of Dickinson v. United States, 346 U.S. 389, involving a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses like myself. Our situation are quite similar. He was a Pioneer Minister I am a Pioneer Minister. He did a little secular work part time. I do a little secular work part time. The Supreme Court declared that he was a minister and stated that:

"a legitimate minister cannot be, for the purpose of the Act, unfrocked simply because all the members of his sect base an exemption claim of the dogma of its faith. That would leave the congregation without a cleric."

Concerning performace of secular work the Court said:

"The statutor difination of a 'regular or duly ordained minister' dose not preclude all secular employment. Many preachers, including those in the more traditional and orthodox sects, may not be blessed with congregations , with perishes a pable of paying them a living wage. A statutory ban on all secular work would mete out draft exemptions with an uneven hand, to the detriment of those who minister to the poor and thus need some secular work in order to survive."

Since our cases are so similar, I ask the local board to take the same attitude as did the Supreme Court when it said:

We think Dickinson made out a case which meets the statutory criteria. He was ordained in accordance with the ritual of his sect and, according to the evidence here he meets the vital test of regularly, as a vocation, teaching and preaching the principales of his sect and conducting public worship in the tradition of his religion."

Gentlemen, I am only interested in fulfilling my vows to God without interference. As a christian minister, I have a grave responsiblity to God and to the people of my congregation, It is an unselfish desire that prompts me to request the exemption provided for ministers such as I by the Congress of the United States.

The second and third paragraphs from the end of my "Memorandum of my Personal Appearance" says the local board had no adverse or contredictory evidence agains me. Too my knowlege there still is noe against my claims.

Therefore I respetfull ask you to reopen my classification and reclassify me as a minister of religion, in Class IV-D, on the basis of the new evidence presented herewith, and in my notes of last Sept. so that I may vows to God and minister to my fellow man for our mutual blessing from God.

Respectfully,

Stanley M. Bush  
Ordained Minister

(Original written Feb. 15, 1957)