

Box 1576  
Grand Coulee, Washington  
July 8, 1959

Hayden C. Covington  
124 Columbia Heights  
Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

Dear Brother Covington,

On July 7, 1959 I had a hearing before the hearing officer. Enclosed please find a 4 page summary.

As you may note near the end of it I examined my file and found several letters concerning my case which were not in my file at any time before when I examined them at the Draft Board Office. These were not kept in my file nor were they made available to me. They are letters that directly affect my case. For example the minutes of, or the finding of the Appeal Boards which outlined their reasons for not granting me a I-O or a IV-D. Also letters from the State Directors Office which (if I am not mistaken on this point) were addressed to me or at least had my name on them which directly affected my case outlining in numbered paragraphs their position in my case. My file was in a shambles as to order and so could not take the time to find all the other letters that may be in my file while it is in the hands of the Appeal Board but have been withheld from me and not made available to at the Draft Board Office. I have the dates on some of these letters and also a witness to the fact that they exist and to some of the contents.

Is it illegal for them to withhold such information from me? Isn't everything pertaining to my case to be kept in my file? Do you suggest I pursue the matter further when my file is returned to the local board from the appeal board? If they are not in my file again at this time I could have the local board chairman make a statement written and/or before witnesses that such documents do not exist or cause him to make these documents available to me.

Do you have copies of the Sicurella, Gonzales, and Simmons cases mentioned in the June 22, 1955 that I could get? Would it be appropriate to quote or use these cases in so much as their points applied to my case, when presenting my case before the boards?

I am now starting to prepare to answer the final recommendation from the Department of Justice and the Resume of Inquiry when I receive it. When I receive it I shall send a copy of it to you for your suggestions as mentioned in your Dec. 16, 1957 letter. I noticed that in 'New Procedure' under heading of 'Final recommendation...' it says to ask the appeal board for the full F.B.I. report and also request them not to take action in the case until I have it and an opportunity to comment on it. However this is not mentioned in the later July 1957 'Counsel' under the heading of 'Answering the Recommendation' Is it still proper to follow through with those points mentioned in the April, 1955 'New Procedure'?

With you in defending and legally establishing the Good News, I remain

Your brother,

Richard M. Rawe

What help would this be? Spiritual and physical help which is by far the most important and beneficial.

Are you a Patriot? Or no more.

What I want to understand is why you people are willing to pay taxes, which we know at least God is for your purposes, but at the same time you refuse to serve in non-military or non-combatant occupations that the government asks you to serve in? Why don't you at least do this and help out to some extent, like the Yukers, who are a respected group and are Co O. but not help out to this extent? Why not at least your part-time ministers, who could just as well do this type of work as not or in place of the present jobs they may have and also at the same time carry on their part-time ministerial work? (This is substance of question asked) (Substance of answer follows.)

Such individual has to so answer for himself, according to the dictates of his conscience. As for me, I view myself as a minister or ambassador, which the Bible so describes a Christian as being at 2 Cor. 5:20. Let me draw you an illustration. Say that an ambassador from this country is sent to another country. His duties there are for the purpose of creating good-will for his country. He is commissioned by his government to perform services for his country. It would be improper for that ambassador to quite his post to take another occupation, he would be disrespectful and unloyal to his assignment and country. Further, if the nation to which he was sent got itself into war with yet another nation it would also be improper for him to take sides in this conflict, as it is really none of his business. In fact it would be creating ill will for his country by the opposing nations. Again, it is improper for such an ambassador to meddle in the internal affairs of the nation to which he is sent, it wouldn't be proper for him to take sides in issues of that nation nor it's politics. How let's apply some of the points of this illustration to my work as a full-time minister or ambassador of God's heavenly kingdom.

Since I view myself as such an ambassador as above then it would be Scripturally improper for me to engage in such outside activities as is not becoming and ambassador of God's Kingdom Government. Isa. 9:6, Jesus plainly showed that paying of taxes to Caesar was not in contradiction to being a ambassador of God's Kingdom. Mr. 12:13-17. I, being an ambassador of Jehovah's Kingdom, dedicating my life to HIM, could not conscientiously give up doing the work he has commissioned me to do.

Doesn't the Bible say that you should return like for like? Are for eye? Yes, Jesus quoted this scripture at Mat. Ch. 5, (which we read) Yes, but isn't there another one? Yes, in Ex. for one place. 'Read that! (read it) 'Now, doesn't that show that we have a right to defend our nation in a war? (In answer I referred back to Mat. 5 to show how Jesus changed it under the New Covenant arrangement, also pointed out that it was not necessarily an obligation to give eye for eye, but punishment could be withheld; Under the Law covenant you were to show mercy for those opposed to you)

What are your views on Communism? What do you think about it? I only know what I read about it in the newspaper and news magazines, I understand that it is more Socialism then pure Communism.

During the war we heard of Collaborators, ones, who collaborated with the enemy when they took over. If Russia was to take over this country, would you act as such a collaborator (ans.) No. I would carry on my preaching work just the same as I am doing now, my position would be the same as it is now. It would not change.

Do any of your church or faith belong to the military service as far as you know? Not that I know of off hand. I do know of some who were J.W.'s and joined the army but I have not seen them for some time and don't know whether they view themselves as J.W.'s or not nor do I know the extent of their association.

How do you view military men? Do you preach to them? Do you allow them into your Congregational meetings? Do some come to your Congregational meetings? I ask this because I know that you are near to Larson Air Force Base. (Ans) Yes, I preach to army men, have studies with them and some have attended meetings. I have no hatred for them but view them as any one else I would preach to.

Would you preach to military men on the base? Yes, but not as an agent of the Government or being paid to do so by them as a Chaplain. I have no objections as to calling on them from house to house nor conducting Bible studies with them.

If after becoming a J.W. and then one joined the army, could he remain a J.W.? Or would he be required to give up being a J.W.? (ans.) The matter would be entirely up to him. I would have regard toward him if his conscience so dictated him. I don't feel that I would harbor any ill will toward him if he wanted to change his convictions.

How do you view the Military campaign of Israel? Don't they show it is all right for a Christian nation to defend itself? (ans) Yes it is true the JHYV authorized the Nation of Israel to fight battles. In fact Jehovah fought those battles for them. He said 'stand back and watch'. "But didn't they use swords and do killing themselves" Yes, Jehovah it was that was backing them up. He was the real source of their strength. When they went against the instructions he gave they lost the battle. Those are wars that were authorized by Jehovah and backed up by him.

Don't you believe we are to only have one master? Yes, Jehovah is my master through Christ Jesus. "Ain't governors here on earth to be obeyed"? Yes, if there instructions are in harmony with God's. (Ac. 5:29) Gave an illustration of a family. If one of my big brothers in the family asked me to do something that was not in harmony with my parents wishes, I would obey my parents. Likewise today, we are all 'brothers' in a fleshly sense, being from Adam. If one of my 'brothers' asked me to do something in harmony with my fathers wishes then I would do it, not necessarily because my 'brother' asked me to but because my Heavenly Father instructed me to. So it is with things that are not my 'father's' will, these I would not do.

How would you defend yourself if not with carnal weapons, with words? What if someone was ready to shoot you? What would you do? In answer I referred to 2 Cor. 10:3-5 again and show how Paul said we were to use words to bring every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ. Cited how Jesus got away from those who wanted to mob him. How Paul divided them nobsters of the Supreme Court @ @ @ @ @ against themselves by shouting out, 'Over the hope of the resurrection I am being judged! When he asked, " Don't you think Paul would have used carnal weapons if they would have been at his disposal?" I answered, no, and supported by referring back to 2 Cor. 10:3-5.

Would you take part in wars authorized by Jehovah? Yes, but I see no such wars for the future. Referred to Supreme Court decision on this matter, he said he was very familiar with it.

What positions do you hold in the church? Bible Study servant, Magazine-Terr. servant Ministry School Instructor, and until just recently Service Center Conductor also.

Now let's assume for a minute that you were to change your convictions in regard to your C. O. claim? Would you be required to give up these positions in the congregation? (ans.) If I gave up such Co.O. principles most likely I wouldn't want to have such responsibilities as I now have. I know of nothing that would require me to give up such positions.

Would you defend yourself if attacked? Yes, to point that Scriptures @ @ @ @ @ authorize me to.

Do you believe that this Government is doing anything good? Yes, there are many good services that this Government reforms from the taxes it receives.

What training did you receive to become a minister? Did you attend any school? Yes, (I described details of training I received, Ministry School, Mt. Lebanon Hill) Isn't it true that you were brought up to believe that it was wrong to serve this country in war? I was taught the principles of God's word, yes.

But wasn't it your interpretation of what the Bible said that you were that JHY? Are these interprets itself on these matters and is clear enough for any reasonable person to discern.

How did this point of C. O. develop in your mind? At what point in life? As I remember it, it was something that developed from early childhood, built upon the principle of love, love of enemies, doing good to those persecuting you.

Do you feel that your C. O. are just as strong now as they were when you started with the draft or more so now? I feel I have the same strong convictions than as I do now, but of course these have been strengthened and deepened through the years. This is only natural with anyone who has strong convictions on anything and continues to think along these lines. I am still only human.

Isn't yours an attitude of resistance against the government? Don't you oppose the government? This is the impression I get from other J.W.'s that come here. (ans) No, I am not against the government nor do I know of any J.W. that is of this attitude. We co-operate with the government in every way we can, to the extent that our conscience as trained by God's word, allows us. I have no attitude of opposition, resistance or hatred toward this government.

Mrs. Norton was asked to testify as to my sincerity as a C. O. She had known me over a period of many years and testified to my sincerity as a C. O. She herself is an active minister of J. W.'s and has been associated with me in the work and meetings. Her testimony included a witness to the fact that the Bible says we were bought with a price and that this being the case we, as dedicated servants to Jehovah, could not be slaves to others.

Mrs. Rowe, my mother, was next called to testify and give information. She described the early training that I was given as child. "Do you feel that you played a part in the development of his C. O. conviction?" Yes, naturally this home training from God's Word would impress these principles of love on his mind. Every mother is happy to see her son succeed. I am especially happy to see my son succeed in the most important vocation, the ministry, I feel I had a part in this.

Mrs. Hall was then called in. How long have you known Richard? Since he was about 14. Are you a neighbor? I was but am now living here in Spokane. Are you also a J.W.? Yes. Can you testify to his C.O. conviction? Do you feel that he is a C.O.? I most certainly do. Have you been associated with him in the work also the meetings? Yes. Dismissed

Comment was made by hearing officer as to my request in my letter to him to have available the full F. B. I. report. He said that this was not available to me as it was the property of the Department of Justice and is not made a part of the Draft Board file. I commented that the reasons I ask for it were outlined in my letter to him. He said that the Summary was an accurate reflection of the full report and added that there was no unfavorable evidence. All evidence was complementary to me, from the viewpoint of those who testified for me. This ended the hearing itself.

Following I asked to see my file. He obliged. I asked permission to copy the last local Board's minutes as I didn't have them. He granted but shortly changed his mind.

I noted several documents in my file with dates, July 1, 4, 1953 June 11, 1953, Jan. 10, and 11, 1958 and if I would have had the time I am sure there must have been others. These documents were findings by the Appeal Boards, and communications with the State headquarters that had my name on them and beyond doubt belong in my files they were there then, but these have not been in my file while at the Draft board office. I have not been permitted to see these although I suspected that they were in existence.

Observations on Hearing Officers Attitude: He was nervous, high strung and emotional. Had attitude of trying to make out the J.W.'s were doing things illegal as can be seen by the above questions he asked. Was visibly upset at the effectiveness of the answers I gave and was afraid to press the matter further as I felt that he felt his conscience might be swayed in our favor by a continued discussion of the point. He seemed to just want to ask questions that he felt could not be reasonable and intelligently answered by J. W. He was a religious man and somewhat familiar with the Bible. He said his father was a minister. After the meeting was going for a while he assumed a diplomatic attitude and the meeting ended with a lot better spirit prevailing. Even shook hands. He at no time would reveal, directly, his attitude or definition of C.O. and tried to protect himself from every angle. I have the impression that he has been treated prejudicial against J. W.'s but with efforts to restrain himself. This, of course, is just my opinion.