

Amended Minutes Local Board Meeting

January 5, 1954

Prepared AFTER JAN. 20, 1954  
Look over JAN 10

Rawe, Richard Martin- 45-22-34-183

~~with file~~

Complying with the request of State Director dated January 20, 1954 Local Board makes these amended and expanded minutes of the January 5, 1954 meeting for the purpose of informing those who maybe concerned with the reasons for action taken at said meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

In compliance with the State Director's request of December 1, 1952 the local board reopened the classification of the above registrant and considered it anew, using as a guide the Supreme Court decision in the case of Dickinson vs United States.

The registrant's principal claim is for classification as a minister of religion. Information submitted by the registrant in support of this claim was carefully studied to determine whether he is the leader of his particular religious organization, as referred to in the Dickinson case. He is a member of the Ephrata congregation or company of Jehovah's Witnesses. In his seven-page summary of informantion, sworn to by him on November 30, 1953, he states he has been assigned the duties of "Territory Servant and Theocratic Ministry School instructor in Ephrata, Wash. Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses". In a letter dated June 7, 1953, Clifton Webb, who identifies himself as "Congregation Servant" states "the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society recognizes him As Assistant Congregation Servant and Theocratic Ministry School Servant to the Ephrata Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses". In an undated letter received by this local board on June 11, 1953, Laurence L. Woodall, who identifies himself as "Company Servant of Grand Coulee Company of Jehovah's Witnesses", states "At present he holds the servant's position of School servant with the Ephrata Washington company of Jehovah's Witnesses". In a letter dated June 7, 1953 Verne D. Woodall, who identifies himself as "Assis. Cong. Servant, Grand Coulee, Wash", states "He has been appointed by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Soc. as Assis. Congregation Servant and Theocratic Ministry School Servant in th Ephrata, Wash. Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses". The file contains seven other letters from persons not identified as having official positions in the organization, whose addresses are shown as follows: one from Ephrata, one from Spokane, one from Coulee Dam, one from Electric City, and three from Grand Coulee. The file does not contain a document or a copy thereof issued by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society or any official of Jehovah's Witnesses identifying the registrant as having been appointed to the principal position in any congregation or company of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The local board's conclusion is that the registrant has submitted voluminous evidence that identifies him as having spent a large amount of time in the activities of the religious organization of which he is a member, but that his induction would not "leave a congregation without a cleric" in the words of the Dickinson decision.

The local board also noted that the rigistrant, in his own hand, in Item 25 of Report of Medical History (Standard Form 89) completed by him at the

Armed Forces Examination Station, Seattle, Washington, on August 27, 1953, showed "wood working" as his usual occupation.

The local board has not sought information from other sources to contradict or controvert the registrant's claims. He has had ample opportunity to submit evidence which would fully establish his eligibility for classification in Class IV-D. The information he has submitted falls short of convincing the local board that in the light of the definitions in Section 16 of the Act the registrant is other than an active lay person who has given evidence of considerable devotion to the tenets of his religious belief.

Consideration was also given to the registrant's claim of being conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form. In attachments made a part of his Special Form for Conscientious Objector (SSS Form No. 150) The registrant subscribes to the belief that Jehovah's Witnesses will fight *NOT WITH GARNAL WEAPONS* under certain circumstances and that they will fight in defence of their ministry and their brothers. The local board does not believe that ~~when the local board granted this registrant classification in Class I-A~~ this is conscientious objection to war in any form. It was also noted that when the local board granted this registrant classification in Class I-O he appealed to the appeal board from that determination, and that when the appeal board classified the registrant in class I-O he requested the Director of Selective Service and the State Director of Selective Service to appeal to the President in his behalf from that classification. The local board fails to see how it could classify the registrant in Class I-O when he has indicated his dissatisfaction with that classification on two separate occasions and exercised a statutory right in appealing to the appeal board against that classification when it was made by the local board.

The local board therefore voted, in view of the above, that the registrant be classified in Class I-A.

(signed)  
James A. O'Connor  
Chairman