

Box 443
Soap Lake, Washington
Dec. 2, 1959

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

Dear Brother Covington:

Enclosed please find my reply to the Appeal Board on the Department of Justice recommendation and resumé. I plan to send it in sometime after Dec. 10, so that it will be sure to reach them by Dec. 15. The dead line is Dec. 16. I am sending you this copy in advance so that if you have any suggestions it will give me time to rewrite it. Do you think I went into enough detail on my ministerial work?

In case there classification is not IV-D and there is no dissenting vote, do you think it advisable to request the National and State Directors of Selective Service to take an appeal to the President for me as outlined on page 24 and 25 of the booklet "Procedure of Jehovah's Witnesses Under Selective Service" and as I have done twice before?

Then too, I would like to know if I am to be put in Class V-A when I reach my 26th birthday on May 10, 1960 or, because my case has always been on appeal, whether I will be continued until I am 35, or just what the procedure is?

Thank you very much for your time and attention to my case. I pray Jehovah's rich blessings on you and your work. Will be waiting to hear from you if you think it necessary to write right away concerning the above.

Your brother,

Richard Dave

Box 443
Soap Lake, Washington
Dec. 14, 1959

Selective Service System
Appeal Board For The Selective Service System In The Eastern
Federal Judicial District Of The State Of Washington
N. 214 Wall Street, Spokane 1, Washington

Dear Sirs:

This is in response to your letter of November 16, 1959 informing me of my right of a written reply to the Department of Justice recommendation.

May I first of all state the purpose of my appeal was for a minister's classification of IV-D and not for a conscientious objector classification, although I believe that I am eligiable for this classification also. The reason why my file was referred to the Department of Justice was because it contained a special form for conscientious objectors and the Department of Justice is confined by law to consideration of my conscientious objector claim. It can not consider any other claim that I may have. However, as 1626.26 of the Regulations point out the appeal board is not so bound. It says that you can give "consideration to the various classes" for which I may be eligible and then you should classify me "in the lowest class for which" I am eligible. In my opinion this would be class IV-D.

It should not be overlooked that the recommendation of the Department of Justice is just that--a recommendation. You are not bound by the recommendation and should not consider yourself to be bound by it as it only gives a one-sided picture of my status--the side that the Department of Justice is confined to by law. As Section 1626.25 (d) of the regulations says, in part, "in its determination (the appeal board) shall give consideration to, but it shall not be bound to follow, the recommendation."

Even though the recommendation dose not concern itself with my ministerial claim still, its contents proves that I come under the provisions of Section 1622.43 for a ministerial exemption and classification of IV-D. For example, on page one of the recommendation it mentions that "registrant was baptized in that faith in September 1942" In reality this refers to my ordination ceremony at which time I became a minister just as Christ Jesus began his ministry at the time of his baptism. For the next ten years I served as a part-time minister.

Page two, paragraph two of the recommendation makes mention of my training and education for the ministry by simply stating that "he began attending church with his mother in early childhood". This was actually far more then just "attending church". It included regular and dilligent study for the classes attended as well as actual training in the field ministry work. The next sentence makes mention of this regular and systematic study which I followed. The last two sentences of this paragraph testify to the fact that as a result of my study and ordination others view me as a "bona fide minister".

The last sentence of paragraph one on page three of the recommendation says: "He has been very active in his religious work and continues to serve as a Pioneer." In fact this testifies to the great amount of time I spend in my ministerial

activities which include about 50 hours a month of actual door-to-door ministry work, using prepared sermons in preaching to the people in their homes. Then too, this includes at least another 50 hours a month in calling back on people who are willing to learn more about the Bible through a systematic study of it. Longer sermons are preached to these people and a regular study of the Bible started with the use of other text books. A full course of instruction is available to the many people I serve in this manner. This activity is included in the term "Pioneer". Besides all of this there are still other ministerial obligations I perform and for this reason the statement says, "He has been very active in his religious work". These other obligations include visiting the sick and weak ones of my congregation, travel time to and from studies and meetings, attending many and various meetings, preparing sermons and doing personal study, taking care of duties of the several offices I hold in our local ministerial association (appointment to these positions are mentioned in the Resumé of December 28, 1955, page two, paragraph one) and various other ministerial activities. This takes up approximately another 200 hours a month of my time which means that I spend up to 300 hours a month taking care of all my ministerial obligations.

~~This is the~~ reason I have "no steady secular work, but from time to time (I) work part time" and "devote practically all of (my) time to (my) religious work and activities", as stated in the resumé prepared December 28, 1955. Thus it can be seen that the greatest portion of my time is spent in the ministry. That is why the report goes on to say; "Many of the persons contacted...generally agreed that they believe he is sincere in his religious beliefs and in his present claim." They have reference especially to my ministerial claim.

As page two, paragraph one, of this December 28, 1955 resumé points out, my full-time ministerial career started in May of 1952 and continues till now. The 100 hours a month mentioned here do not include the additional 200 hours a month I mentioned above.

Concerning the Resumé prepared May 23, 1958: This too testifies to the small amount of time I spend at secular work and the "great deal of time" I devote to my "religious activities". The days Thursdays thru Sunday on which I do no secular work are the days I regularly schedule my public field ministry work. The other days of the week I take care of my other ministerial obligations, and work in my part-time secular work with which I support my self, in part, together with other contributions made to me. In this way, as the report says, not only do I believe "in the principles of the Jehovah's Witnesses religion but practice those principles in...everyday life." Let it also be noted that several persons interviewed "were of the opinion that the registrant should be granted a ministerial classification." This is because these people recognize my activities as those of a bon fide minister.

The above should clearly establish that the ministry is my vocation because of the great amount of time I spend in fulfilling my duties as a Minister. Therefore I respectfully request the Appeal Board to place me in class IV-D.

Sincerely yours,

Richard M. Rawe
Ordained Minister