

AN OPEN LETTER TO DOUBTING THOMAS WRIGHT

So you believe MANKIND UNITED is a hoax, do you Tom?

Well, I don't think so. I don't think so because I have found no evidence of it and thus no justification for thinking so.

"The political authorities have spent tens of thousands of dollars over a period of years to prove this movement a racket and have finally closed their case to save their own court costs. The hundreds of skilled investigators who have fine-combed the actions of the movement found not so much as one statement in error even by their unjust and unconstitutional methods of investigation. If our Government cannot find us dishonest certainly those who truly want a world of Peace to live in MUST accept a movement as ABSOLUTELY HONEST OF PRINCIPLE AND PURPOSE."--Quotation from the Bulletin, "Be Wise", October 13, 1941.

A Los Angeles legislative committee is one of the more recent of the governmental investigating agencies which was forced to the conclusion that MANKIND UNITED is not subversive, a hoax or a racket.

Yes, it has been semi-officially announced that the Research Department has developed atomic power. Why do you, a science fiction fan, find it so unbelievable that a group of the world's most brilliant engineers and scientists should develop such a power in over sixty years of research and experiment?

Of course, we all have a right to believe as we please about any subject and it is no one's business why we believe as we do. But your statement verges on the libelous and it is customary in such cases to accompany your accusations with substantiating data.

It is to be hoped that, as a science fiction fan, you have used the scientific method in arriving at your conclusion. The scientific method, as you no doubt are aware, demands that you delay your reactions "until you have enough data on which to make a judgment."

In fairness to me, to other VOM readers and particularly to yourself, that we do not misjudge you, you should now come forward with whatever evidence you have in support of your claim. Also, I am sure that the F.B.I. would be interested in the proof of your charge. It is something they have not found. The address is, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

Sincerely, Lloyd Connerley

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ANSWER TO MR. CONNERLEY

In the first place I want to make it clear that this will be my first and last letter concerning Mankind United. I am an exceedingly poor writer, and I know it. I cannot write well enough to convince myself, much less other people.

You say, Mr. Connerley, that the F.B.I. have spent much time and money investigating Mankind United. This is proof enough for me that it must be shady in some way, else why would they waste so many years and so much cash investigating it?? Many criminals and bunko agents have evaded the law successfully, that certainly does not prove they are not crooks. They (the representatives of M.U.) have admitted in their lectures that they make a profit of 100% on each book they sell! They sell membership pins for 10c that certainly couldn't cost over 2c apiece to manufacture! They keep asking for money, money, and more money. Buy more books, they say. Keep a library of 25 copies of the same book!!! Tell me, Mr. Connerley, where does this money go? No, I'll tell you: to support the 'heads' of the organization. And this research department they talk of. Where is it? Who is it? O, that's a secret that can't be let out right now. or fifty years from now. Promises! They are continually promising this and that: a sensational broadcast that was to reveal all, that was to come in some new, mysterious way. It never came, of course, and the feeble excuse was 'lack of the proper cooperation.'

As for atomic power, no, I wouldn't find it hard to believe that it is in existence today. But if it is why don't they show it?

They promise, and promise some more, but show me just one thing that they have come through with. O yes, they prophesied the war, but who didn't? They even claimed they could stop it any time they wished. Then why in the hell didn't they?

If the thing was to succeed at all, it would have been four years ago, when the organization was at full strength?

I have enough data to be convinced that I am right, I think. I have read the book, I have joined the organization, and I have seen the results.

There were none. There are none.

Understand, I have nothing against the ideal or the purpose of the organization . . . it just won't work; has any utopian scheme???

Very cordially, Tom Wright

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IN REPLY TO TOM WRIGHT'S ANSWER

When I asked for proof in support of your accusation that MANKIND UNITED is a hoax, I was asking for something more tangible than the arguments you have presented in your Answer. You made an unqualified statement and when you do that you should be prepared to back it up with incontrovertible evidence. This you have not done. You have not given one bit of evidence that would stand as proof of your charge in a court of justice.

We can only judge a movement by its actions; but if those actions are not provably fraudulent, we are not justified in making positive, unqualified statements to that effect.

In the absence of positive proof, we can, of course, form a tentative opinion, but it should be formed only after considering both sides of the question.

You have stated one side of the case, now I will give the other and also include a few facts which you have failed to mention.

So! You think that even though the authorities have been unable to find anything wrong with the MANKIND UNITED movement, it must be "shady" or they would not

have investigated it! If a man were tried for a crime he did not commit, I suppose you would be in favor of convicting him, on the theory that he was tried for the crime, therefore he must be guilty! Personally, I am glad that the movement has been investigated. If there is anything wrong with the movement, I want to be among the first to know what it is. I think every movement should be investigated periodically. Living under a capitalistic economic system, as we do, it is natural and no more than is to be expected, that an organization dedicated to the establishment of a cooperative, non-profit economic system should be subjected to an endless round of investigations. You can be sure that they will pounce on the slightest irregularity and use it as a pretext to stop us or impede us in our work.

The library of 25 copies of "Mankind United" is part of a center manager's supplies and is vital to the release of the program. The center manager will not lose anything on the books, for at the time the program is released, he will sell his entire stock of books at the same price for which he bought them.

Perhaps the speakers did make a profit of 100% on the books they sold, but I doubt if there is one among them who has realized any more than enough from their sale to pay his own traveling expenses. Most of them, I am quite sure, sustained a personal financial loss when on their speaking tours. Other groups also received discounts on the books they sold. The Bureau Managers received a discount on each book or center they bought to be resold to a registrant and the registrant in turn received a discount on what he bought for resale. All of these discounts represent money not received by the "heads" of the organization. If these discounts add up to 50% of the price of the book (as you say they did in the case of the speakers), that would leave a total of \$1.25 per book which finally would reach Headquarters. But it cost 85¢ to produce the book, leaving a total of 40¢ to cover the costs of transportation, storage and insurance, and the multitudinous expenses of maintaining an office large enough to keep a systematic, cross-indexed record of all persons registered in this manner--with the result that "there is over a 50¢ loss to Division Headquarters each time a person becomes registered through the purchase of a book." --Quotation from a printed form letter circulated by one of the Bureaus.

Besides, the book is no longer for sale and has not been at any time in the past two years. Does that sound like MANKIND UNITED is a book-selling racket?

Yes, they did sell membership pins, but I never before knew of anyone accusing them of making a racket of it. Their sale was never pushed--at least not at any meeting I attended--and as a consequence only a fraction of the membership ever bought them. I am wondering if you figured the probable profits from their sale. To your 2-cent production cost, I have added another 2-cents for handling charges and discounts to agents. That still leaves a profit of 150%, but such a small percentage of the membership bought them that I am unable to figure a net profit of more than \$1,500 from their sale! But just to give you the benefit of any doubt, let us assume that they made a profit of \$3,000 from their sale. Even that would not begin to meet the 50-cent deficit sustained each time a person was registered through the purchase of a book. But just suppose, for the sake of argument, that this deficit was met from some other source and let us further assume--in the face of the fact that I have not seen a membership pin offered for sale at any time in the past two years--that they have made another \$2,000 from their sale during the last two years, making a total of \$5,000 net profit. Do you honestly believe that a group of people, or even any one person would go to all of the work and trouble involved in forming and directing a movement for the sole purpose of making a paltry \$1,000 a year profit? Anyone with the organizational and executive ability required to organize and superintend a movement so closely knit and efficient as MANKIND UNITED could easily command a salary of \$5,000 per year with any one of hundreds of legitimate business firms.

Do you really believe that the location of the research laboratory and the identity of the engineers who work in it should be revealed? What would have happened if the site of the secret laboratories and the identity of the scientists in "Barton's Island" and "Power" were made known? Wouldn't the cause have been lost? Wouldn't the leaders have been hunted down and exterminated, and their discoveries used to further oppress the masses? In that respect, the situation is just as desperate today and calls for the exercise of just as much caution. That is why the laboratory and its technicians are so closely guarded.

As for why the Sponsors do not show their atomic power now--well, every discovery or invention of science has been used, either directly or indirectly, to the detriment of the human race. I do not mean that all discoveries have been less of a help than a hindrance, but that they have been used, to some extent and at some time, to the hurt of mankind. It would not be different with atomic energy.

"One need only observe the rapidity and efficiency with which the earth's resources and man-power have been organized for the purposes of wholesale slaughter, on a world-wide scale, to realize the ease with which sufficient power--(in the hands of such persons as may desire to bless and benefit mankind)--could be used for the building of a peaceful, secure and happy world. It quickly becomes apparent that the present actual though 'hidden' rulers of the world have no intention of ever using the earth's resources or its man-power for any purpose other than their own monopolistic control and dictatorial stranglehold over the affairs of men. Hence the impossibility of our running the risk of releasing the secrets of our inventions or sources of any greater powers than those already known to the rulers of mankind, until the human race has shown its willingness to seek the leadership of righteous ideas of brotherly love and full economic equality in place of the moral idiocy which now dictates the major policies and activities of our present-day world." "If even one piece of our equipment fell into the hands of present World Rulers, civilization would surely be lost." --Quotation from an official Bulletin issued May 4, 1942, and from the Bulletin, "Would You Be Informed?", issued October 22, 1941.

You ask for just one instance in which the organization has come through with

what it promised. This is stating the case in reverse. It should be, "Show me just one instance in which the organization has broken its promise." One condition of every promise has been that the people must do their part. This is a cooperative movement and we should not expect the organization to act without the proper cooperation from the people. Not once have the people shown the proper spirit of cooperation or met their quotas; when they do, the organization's promises will be kept--they will have to be kept, or it would mean the end of the movement. The authorities know better than you or I do, whether or not the public has kept its end of the bargain and when we do our part the organization will be forced to act--or the authorities will.

This money that you so strenuously object to their collecting is being used for many things, some of it for supplies and equipment of several kinds, which are to be delivered into our hands immediately upon the completion of the preparatory steps which must be taken before the supplies and equipment can safely be released. The evidence that the facts are exactly as represented to us and that we are not being misled is too varied to mention here, but there is one outstanding fact I would like to call to your attention. It simply is that here again the organization would not dare to make a promise it did not intend to keep. The impossible has never been asked of us, therefore it is quite possible for us to take the steps required of us. If we did our part and the organization failed to do as it had promised, it would soon find itself in all kinds of legal difficulties.

The program was not promised unconditionally. Before the program could be released, we had to have an international registration of 200,000,000 sincere men and women, and 8,000,000 centers. At the time of the check-up in the Spring of 1939, it was found that:

"Of a total of slightly over 173,000,000 persons who were thought to have indicated a desire to become members of our audience, less than 75,000,000 have actually qualified for this privilege. Of this number only 15,000,000 are citizens of the English-speaking nations.

"Of a total of 7,150,000 registrants who expressed a willingness to act as our center managers, to assist in conducting the elections during the world-wide 30-day program, only 3,000,000 have actually qualified for such duties. Of this number only 500,000 are citizens of the English-speaking nations." --From the Bulletin, "A Proclamation for all Registrants of the Pacific Coast Division of the International Registration Bureau", published in May, 1939.

If you think that a membership of 200,000,000, or even 20,000,000, is fantastic and impossible for any one movement to obtain, I would like to point out--just in case that you have forgotten it--that MANKIND UNITED is only one of the many branches of the great world-wide Peace and Economic movement known on the Pacific Coast as MANKIND UNITED and that soon all these movements will be united under ONE banner--MANKIND UNITED. In other words, many of the Peace and Economic movements we see about us are sponsored and directed by the same organization as MANKIND UNITED, and at the time the program is released, will unite with MANKIND UNITED and be known thereafter by that name. There are hundreds of these movements and it is their combined membership which must total 200,000,000 before the program can be released.

In view of the above-quoted facts, I think the reason for not releasing the program is quite apparent and something more than a "feeble excuse".

There is nothing new or mysterious about the way in which the program was to have been broadcast. The principles are well known to science and similar equipment is in daily use throughout the world.

It is true that the war was predicted by others, but it is also true that there are comparatively few, at the time "Mankind United" was first published (1934), who predicted that it would come at any time within less than ten years. The general impression was that we in America did not have to worry about it for many years to come. Admittedly, there were a few writers with enough independence of thought and sufficiently clear vision to see that there was a real and immediate danger, but they were in the minority. "Mankind United" made the most nearly accurate prediction of the date of its occurrence of any I have read. The number who predicted another world war at an early date was small; but there are few indeed who have been so bold as to state that wars are deliberately planned behind barred doors and executed in accordance with such predetermined plans; and that the next war (this one) would destroy civilization as we know it. The only organizations that I know of, other than MANKIND UNITED, which have even hinted at just one of these statements, are the Fortean Society, the Worker's Esperanto Movement and the Lemurian Fellowship. There no doubt are others--I think I could name at least one more--but these are the only ones of which I am sure.

To have stopped the war at its inception, without a large enough world membership to set up the Corporation, would have been but a temporary measure and one not worth the risks involved. "If we started and failed, and our power fell into wrong hands, it is estimated that it would require thousands of years before civilization could again be restored to law and order. If even one piece of our equipment fell into the hands of present World Rulers civilization would surely be lost. The present World Rulers of unlimited finance--called Capitalists--who are in control of the earth's resources, have their organization of millions now all propagandized, trained, and ready to take over world affairs. Our trained workers are outnumbered one thousand to one; therefore, we will make but ONE bid for World Peace--just one. We dare not fail." --From the Bulletin, "Would You Be Informed?"

The organization was not at full strength four years ago, as I have already shown. "MANKIND UNITED" has never been so strong--never so close to the release of its world program"--as it is today. "Once more we say that we are fully able--with the 'simultaneous' action, throughout the world, of a sufficient number of right-minded men and women--to end within a matter of days (and for all time to come) both war and poverty, and to permanently remove the need for constant labor and the ceaseless struggle to exist." --Quotations from "Would You Be Informed?" and an official Bulletin released May 4, 1942.

It is true that no Utopian plan has worked in the past; and there is just one of two reasons why they have not worked--either they were not practicable, or they were not given a fair trial--but it is also true that every Utopian movement in the past--including the Christian movement--has been led by a human personality. In the past, to destroy a movement it has been necessary only to remove the leader by one of four means--bribery, flattery, intimidation or assassination. And therein lies the secret of why MANKIND UNITED will succeed--we follow the leadership of no human personality, but the leadership of Right Ideas and Truth, which are eternal and indestructible.

The fact that no Utopian plan has worked in the past does not constitute a justifiable basis for the assumption that no Utopian plan ever will work in the future. Such an attitude is negative and unscientific, and can result only in economic and sociological retrogression, if maintained by the people of the world. Positive results cannot be obtained by negative thoughts and actions, therefore it is the duty of all--particularly science fiction fans, who profess to believe in progress--who conscientiously desire to see law and order brought out of the chaotic mess the world is in, to support whatever movement or movements which, in his judgment, seems to be taking a step in the right direction.

I think that answers your accusations, Tom. You see, there are two sides to everything. Very truly yours, Lloyd Connerley

