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Sept. 14, 1994

TO: General Service Board
FROM: Jacob B. Ham – Northeast Regional Trustee

Dear Board Members,

I have not heard from any member of the General Service Board in regard to my query concerning the Mexico situation. Did you know that members of Mexico Seccion are being sued on criminal charges? Once again, are we going to respond to the Mexico Seccion grievance as was their right to petition to the General Service Board under Concept V?

The requested date to answer the censure letter (Sept. 1st) has passed and a new letter signed by ten Delegates (a significant number) has been mailed concerning this censure. Since this censure was addressed to the whole General Service Board, are we not, as the Board, going to answer this? There was a letter, dated August 12, 1994 from the Chairman of the Board, Jim Estelle, addressed to the Conference members regarding 'a proposal' (did this proposal mean the statement of censure?) This letter implied it may have been a response to the statement of censure. The Sept. 10th letter to all Conference members regarding the censure lays claim to the fact that Jim Estelle's letter was not regarded as an answer to the statement of censure. The fact remains that the statement of censure was addressed to the entire General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and no one person on that Board may speak for the General Service Board. Though the deadline for a reply to the censure has passed, at what juncture will the Board "carefully consider" this petition for the redress of personal grievances that is our duty as outlined in our 5th Concept?

One of the ten Delegates who's name is on the Sept. 10th letter has sent me a Grapevine article. I have enclosed this article and do believe that it is something we as a Board will need to step back and reflect on.

Do you anticipate that the General Service Board, as required by the 4th Warranty, will discuss policy in regard to public relation/public controversy, anonymity, as they relate to litigation? Are a few hours on a Sunday night adequate to address these grave issues which vitally affect Alcoholics Anonymous?

I look forward to your response in regard to these issues. If we are indeed committed to free and open communication, then it is incumbent on use to commence the dialog amongst ourselves, the Conference and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Sincerely
/s/

cc Pat Rosenstiel
Michael Alexander
Bob McElroy, Panel 43, Eastern Massachusetts
Charles Burns, Panel 43, Central New York
John Hughes, Panel 43, Northern New Jersey
Tom Dougherty, Panel 43, North Florida
Jack Connors, Panel 44, Southwest Ohio
Al Johnson, Panel 43, Northeast Ohio
Cathy Ferrante, Panel 43, Northern Indiana
Bill Clark, Panel 44, New Mexico
Jesse Leming, Panel 44, New Mexico
George Dorsey, General Manager
Tom Jasper, Service Director