

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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February 18, 1998

Gay

Dear Gay:

During the past board meeting your letter of December 5, 1997 – "Minority Report" was the subject of considerable discussion. We all appreciated the sincerity of your concern.

Your Report was on the agenda of the trustees' Committee on the Conference and the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums Committee. Both the Conference and International Conventions Committees referred the matter to the Finance Committee since it had been addressed by that committee last year.

As you know, the January board meeting is attended by the Conference Committee Chairs, six of whom were present during the discussion at the Finance Committee. Of course, the chairperson of the Conference Committee on Finance, who participated in the entire discussion at last year's Conference, was among those present.

The minutes of the meeting, which were accepted by the board on Monday morning, state:

"Following significant sharing from the committee members and guests, the committee felt that the best interest of the Fellowship would not be served by forwarding this report and related documents to the Conference Committee at this time."

I can tell you that the word "significant" doesn't adequately describe the fullness of the discussion. Everyone in the room had a chance to speak if they so desired, and many did. There were, quite frankly, just a few who felt this matter should again be sent to the Conference Finance Committee. However, in the course of the discussion it was made clear that the Conference Finance Committee was entirely free to take up the matter again if they so wished.

As the chairperson of the meeting, I felt that there was a sense that the minority voice had been heard last year at the Conference, and that there was opportunity to reconsider had that been the group conscience of the Conference. Further, it was my feeling that the sense of those present was that an informed group conscience had been reached at that time.

Gay Contd
February 18, 1998

There was the thought expressed that while the actions of any one Conference are not binding on another, and while everyone has a right to express a minority opinion and displeasure with the group conscience, a time should come when the acceptance of the process calls upon us to leave an issue alone, at least for a while.

On a personal note, Gay, I feel the issue was fairly and rigorously discussed at our meeting. Let me also tell you how much I miss you at our board weekends and hope all is well with you.

Cordially,

/signed/
Art Knight
Treasurer
General Service Board

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