1-14-1971

From/To: Allen Killom (Chalk's reply filed first)

Allen Killom
January 14, 1971

Mr. Allen Killam
Church of Christ
321 East Holmes Road
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Dear Brother Killam:

I can appreciate the concern that the Bill Cavender bulletin caused you when it was handed to you recently. This is a major attempt to discredit me and to destroy my influence across the brotherhood, the first effort having been made by Ira Rice in one of his recent Newsletters.

It is interesting that even your letter with the genuine concern that prompted it does not stop to first ask the question, "Did either of these men have the facts?" You seem to begin with the assumption that Mr. Cavender is correct in what he says and that, therefore, I ought to make a public statement.

The fact of the matter is, neither Mr. Rice nor Mr. Cavender asked for the facts. Neither of these men attempted to contact my elders.

The point also is that I have already acknowledged my poor judgment in making a public statement about the movie, even though the statement I made about the movie clearly and strongly reveals my disapproval of all of the sin that was represented by the movie.

For your personal information and for whatever assistance you can be in setting the record straight with those to whom you talk, I am enclosing the sermon I preached on the Sunday after the article appeared in our local newspaper and I am also enclosing a two-page set of questions and answers recently sent
out by our elders to more than nine hundred Herald of Truth key men. No, Brother Killom, "it won't hurt" for me to say that I was wrong "in getting involved in this controversy" but it certainly would help if brethren would get the facts before they rush to print or to give advice.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:1c
Dec. 30, 1970

Dear John Allen,

A deacon handed me this little paper Sunday. I've read it. In fact, I've seen several reports about this matter. It certainly puts you in a bad way. I suppose you have twisted a thousand times that you were never involved in this. However, you do owe the brethren some statement about the incident. It won't hurt you to say that you were wrong in getting involved in this controversy suggested in Christian love.

Allen Killom

P.S. Probably you have already seen the enclosed paper.