

REVEREND BERRY'S SPEECH IN DEFENCE OF HIS REPORT

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Bishop Reid, and members of the General Conference, ladies and gentlemen. I come before you once again, as I have come on many occasions during my tenure of office as your Secretary of Missions, during the last 21 years. My appearance today is totally different from any that has occurred in the past. I am just as proud to be your Secretary of Missions today as any time in the past. But like an unsuspecting partridge, shot in ambush, my pride has been wounded here today. My Christian dignity has suffered some embarrassment; My integrity has been attacked by a bold and willful misstatement of the truth. The majority report approves my stewardship with highest acclaim as stated in the releases which you hold in your hands. In the twilight of my 45 years in the Christian ministry, not in my wildest dreams could I have anticipated this nefarious attack upon my integrity. But unlike Cardinal Woosley in the days of old, I have not served a false God or an earthly King. I have served the true and living God; King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who knows the good and evil in the hearts of men.- so I am not deserted in my later years-yes my head is bloody but it is unbowed.

Bishop Bonner's statement corroborating the audited aspects of my report has just been greeted by your long and overwhelming applause. I can not adequately express the sentiments in my heart more forcefully than by the words of the poet who said, "He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who steals my good name, steals that which enriches him not, but leaves me poor indeed". Today we witness the fulfillment of the Holy word which says "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"; free like an eagle soaring into the light of a rising sun; so as I bring

these remarks to a close, my Christian friends, the record of my stewardship is before you. I have no fear of your judgement of righteousness. For I believe that Truth crushed to earth shall rise again. Truth is forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne; Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadows; keeping watch above his own.