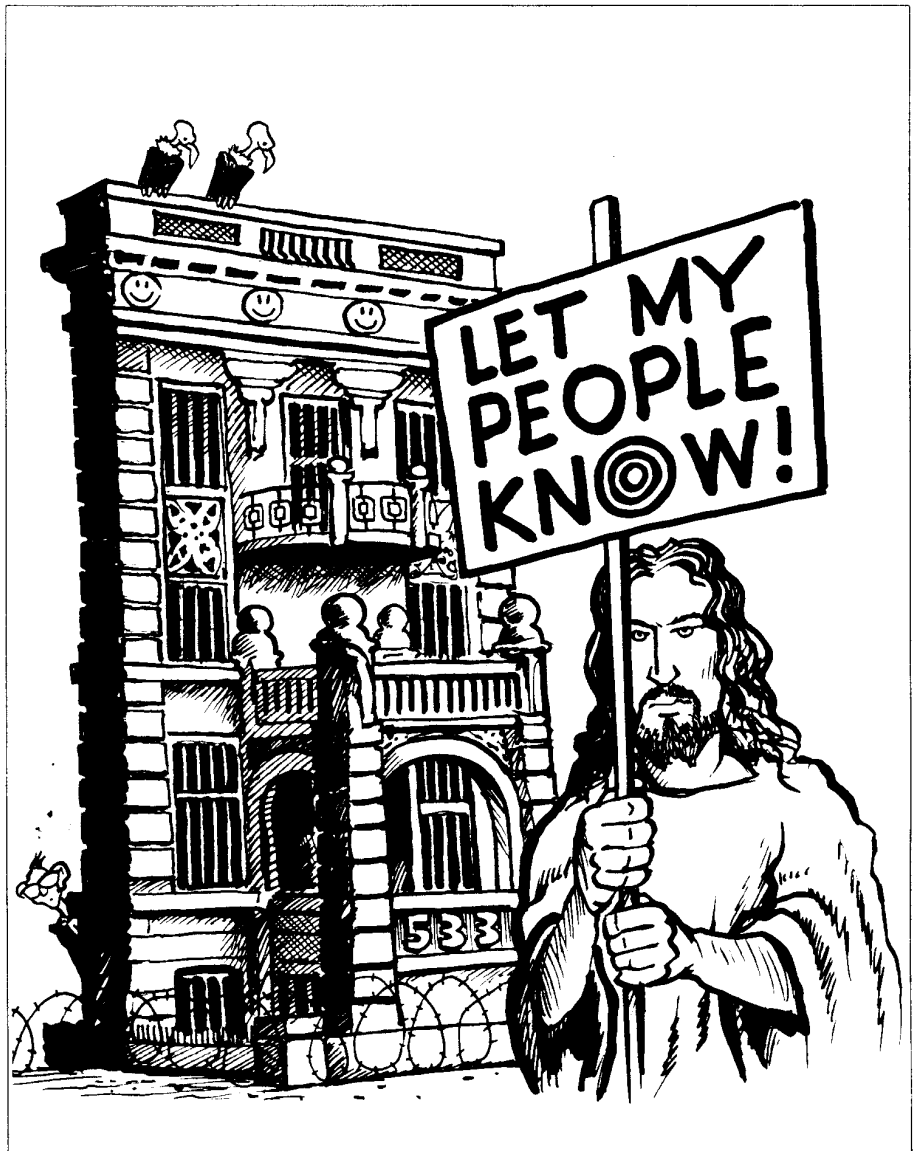


had suffered enough abuse and that the day of the emergence of the United Readers had come. Ultimately, the Council agreed and now we are now all in this together. My hope is that the new United Readers Association will emerge and function more openly and systematically, avoiding such emergencies and continual crisis management.

It is sad to comment that the separation of powers and representative government in the affairs of disseminating the Book and its teachings is not a dominant issue in most reader's minds. Those who desire to work and organize under the direction of the Foundation are free to do so once the trustees decide what relationship, if any, they desire with readers. I would only ask that all future groups be open about their structures, and not use the terms "autonomy" and "democracy" to disguise a secret oligarchy. People have the right to know the true nature of their organization.

The key issue at the moment is what sort of an organization FEF will choose to become. Currently the readership is generally supporting the Executive Committee. Enough persons had been exposed to the bizarre condescension of the Foundation and need little prompting to choose independence from their heavy handed actions. Besides, members of Urantia Brotherhood had joined the Urantia Brotherhood, not Urantia Foundation. Separating from UF was a non-issue. The two groups had always been separate, in the minds of most readers anyway. The autonomy resolution had only clarified what had previously been a tacit understanding to everyone, except it seems, Martin Myers.

Both the Foundation and any new United Readers Association need to open up their activities. Increased representation and closer cooperation with societies or local organizational units is essential. Enfranchisement of the readers-at-large in the selection of new elected representatives would be a good step. Consultation with societies would be another. Requiring that all official policies and constitutional amendments be ratified by 2/3 of the societies would also be helpful. There never has been an orientation process for General Councilors, and perhaps had there been better job descriptions and



clarifications of responsibilities, this current crisis might not have been so dramatic.

My suspicion is that the majority of readers who choose to organize following the demise of Urantia Brotherhood will develop a new structure that is more democratic than the previous organization. The majority of readers will demand a new form of book dissemination and socialization that is more directly responsive to its membership. Over the short term, as many as a dozen new regional groups will form around local leaders. Some of these will probably embody more church-like activities, and will foster religious socialization activities not unlike local Christian denominations. Others will be like loosely knit guerilla forces, disseminating and introducing the Book without any official sanction. A great number will choose "none of the above" and cease participation with other readers, but that would be a shame since failure to support the democratic process is a silent vote for the autocrats. We need to recognize the