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January 26, 1974

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To: Dr. Martin E. Marty Chicago University Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Marty:

Re: Bibfeldt, Dr. Franz

Suggest: Misunderstood Prophet: title for book. The last chapter deals with the theme of ecclesiastical misadministration. Because Dr. Bibfeldt had written two important books, The Crooked Way and The Relieved Paradox, Dr. Bibfeldt, having newly arrived in the United States on a lecture tour, was through a clerical error of the Catholic Church in the high order ordained as an Archbishop and was through the ceremony thus justly appropriated to one of the high offices of the Catholic Church. The ceremony having been accomplished and the ordination having been completed it was two months more or less, give or take a day, that someone in the administrative offices of the Catholic Church discovered that he was in point of fact not a member of the Catholic Church either by faith or through Baptism. That Dr. Bibfeldt had written numerous articles for various religious publications in the name and concept of the Church Universal (embracing all faiths) and as a result of the Ecumenical Movement, Vatican II, under the then-presiding Pope, John XXIII, who would have understood the meaning of the existence of a man like Dr. Franz Bibfeldt, was advised by a Tribunal Council through the Church that he had been (Dr. Bibfeldt) inappropriately ordained as an Archbishop into the Catholic Church - a faith which proclaims the same theological concepts and principles that obtain in the theological world whereupon (in spite of that fact) it was decided by an ecclesiastical tribunal committee that he should be indicted and placed on trial for the purpose of not specifically proclaiming in his writings the exclusive theological posture of Catholicism as a denominational, theological entity and he was therefore indicted for mis-representation as a consequence of the administrative ecclesiastical error, was accused in the trial as a heretic and was removed by an ecclesiastical action of the Catholic Church (excommunicated from an honor bestowed upon him which was an Archbishoprick). The result of this misadventure with the Catholic Church and Dr. Franz Bibfeldt created a rebellious spirit in a man who was misunderstood and was in point of fact an inspired prophet. His subsequent work in the form of his writings created a new spirit in the concept and understanding of the meaning and the power of the Christian principle as it obtains in the very complicated technological world which seems to have lost the nature, the spirit and the meaning of God and the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. The structure of his messages to the world were in point of fact universal which is to say what Catholic really means. He was a man of God devoted entirely to the prophetic message of the meaning and the reality of what God means to man and how man relates himself to God and the close spiritual relationship. Dr. Franz Bibfeldt has been a misunderstood prophet in our time. He cared enough to

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come himself.

Light Rinhardt

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