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August 1st, 1917.

President Joseph E. Robinson,  
San Francisco.

Dear Brother Robinson:-

It has been reported to us that Bro. George F. Hickman of Provo is registered as a student in the summer school at Stanford University. We desire you to undertake a little special investigation for us and to report results at the earliest possible time.

Please call at Stanford University as early as possible, taking with you some one of the brethren whom you can trust to be like yourself, prudent. Ascertain the correctness or incorrectness of the report as to George F. Hickman being there at the present time, or as to his having been there; and if he be still there, call at his lodging or boarding place and find out whether any woman is living there with him. It is believed by some that Zina Wolfe, who disappeared from her home about the time he is said to have deserted his family, is living with him. The woman named is crippled and generally uses crutches.

We leave to your judgment the matter of inquiring into the relations existing between George F. Hickman and the woman, provided you find that they are there or that they have been there together. We shall appreciate a report from you as early as you can make it, and in case of your finding evidence that Bro.

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Hickman is living there with the woman named, or any other woman,  
a statement to that effect signed by yourself and companion who  
visits with you should be sent to us.

With best wishes for your success in your Mission,  
we are,

Your Brethren,

ANTHON H. LUND

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CHARLES W. PENROSE,

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In behalf of First Presidency.

JOS. E. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT

*California Mission*  
*Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*

724 BRODERICK STREET

*San Francisco, Cal.* August 11th, 1917.

Pres. Jos. F. Smith and Counselors,  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Brethern:-

In consonance with your letter of August 1st, Elder Thomas M. Irvine accompanied me yesterday to Stanford University but we learned that Prof. George F. Hickman was not there - so we concluded to go to Berkeley where we located him this A.M. at 2428 Haste Street.

He was evidently uneasy when he recognized me but quite communicative later. His story is this - that he was "absolutely alone" - had been in Berkeley a year and had taken out his degree and would move in about a weeks time; that he had applied for a commission in the second Officers Reserve Corps at the Presidio and had been notified that he was number "twelve" on the "alternative list." As there will doubtless be more than twelve out of the six hundred men on the first list retired, enlisted, released or excused, Bro. Hickman is confident he will have a chance to be chosen. He said he had told the government of his large family of dependent children and the government might think it could not afford to care for them and would reject him but that he felt it would give him prestige and an excellent field for development.

He looks, and said he feels, well but did not know we had missionaries in Berkeley and he been so busily engaged with his studies, he had not gone elsewhere to find us.

We saw two ladies in the residence but neither were cripples and as it was a large home with several roomers in it, we had no opportunity of ascertaining by inquiry of others whether Bro. Hickman was alone or not as the landlady called him to meet us and we were conducted into the sitting room and did not see his apartments nor their location in the house. When Elder Irvine stepped into the hall to use the telephone, Bro. Hickman closed the sitting room door and I asked him if his family was with him or any member of it and he said again "No. 'I am absolutely alone" and then asked me if the Church authorities had not sent me to see what he was doing, etc. I evaded him by saying "the missionaries were on the next street and we were trying to locate all of the Utahns in the neighborhood and I had just learned from a student that he was close by." He said "Well! I know that Pres., Lyman- well of course he has'nt sent you but when I first saw you I concluded you were sent to find out about me." I answered "Doubtless the Brethern were interested in knowing something of him as he had been in the Church Schools." He said "Well: tell them I'm well and doing well and have my degree, but be honest now, did'nt they send you here to find out about me?" I said "They have understood you were at Stanford- Is Zina with you?" "No! she is not!" he

JOS. E. ROBINSON, PRESIDENT

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724 BRODERICK STREET

*San Francisco, Cal.*

Pres. Jos. F. Smith and Counselors No 2./

answered, not by- and then Elder Irvine returned and we said no more about Miss Wolfe.

I shall discover within a day or so, if I can, whether he has been alone all the time or not and Elder Irvine, Conference President here, will "keep tab" on him should he come to the Presidio.

Your telegram giving "Berkeley" instead of "Stanford" as his address received after we determined to go to the former place.

Awaiting your further commands, I have the honor to be

Yours sincerely,

*Jos. E. Robinson*

I hereby certify that the above statement, which is reported as transpiring while I was present, is true and correct.

*Thos M Irvine*

*Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including a circular stamp.*

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Aug. 22, 1917

President Joseph E. Robinson,  
California Mission,  
153 West Adams Street,  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Brother:-

We have considered the report made in your letter of August 11th, concerning the visit of yourself and Brother Thomas M. Irvine to the house in Berkeley at which George F. Hickman was stopping.

You say "I shall discover within a day or so, if I can, whether he has been alone all the time or not", etc. We desire you to follow up this matter and let us know at the earliest possible time as to whether George F. Hickman has had with him at any time during his stay in Berkeley a woman companion, and specifically, Zina Wolfe. It may be well to inquire at the lodgings whether "Mr. and Mrs. Hickman" are stopping or have stopped there during the past school year, or at any time. If he has lodged at any other place similar inquiry should be made there.

We have been reliably informed by a member of our Church who was a student in the University at Berkeley up to the close of the summer school this year, and who is acquainted with Hickman, that the woman named above has been living with him during recent months.

The brother from whom this report has come to us feels some concern lest Hickman's alleged illegal associations with a woman not his wife there in Berkeley may bring discredit or even positive scandal upon our Utah people, and so neutralize to a great extent the excellent reputation our people have had in that University as at other seats of learning.

The summer school at Berkeley closed several weeks ago, as we are informed; and the students very generally have left for their homes. If Hickman be still there it may be because he considers that place his "home" for the time being. It is perhaps well for you to know that, according to the report of the President of the Stake in which Hickman formerly lived and in which his family is still residing, he has actually deserted his wife and children; and their condition financially would be pitiable but for the assistance rendered by the local authorities.

We rely on you to use your well known wisdom and discretion; and we request that you investigate and report at the earliest possible time. Cordially your Brethren,

*Joseph F. Smith*  
*Luther H. Lyford*  
*Charles W. Peurson*  
First Presidency.

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P.S. We have been informed recently that since his departure Hickman has furnished some little means for the support of his family; but that he has sent the money through a third party, and that his wife has been left in ignorance as to his whereabouts.

*J. F. S.*

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