

Chronology of the slander story Jolly vs. Hoefle

Date	Place	Event [in brackets comments of Martin Reuter]	Printed/referred to in
September 12, 1954	Springfield,	The main point of the controversy: whether or not Eschrich told Gavin, that Jolly told Eschrich that Hoefle was dishonest in his business dealings with the investment of Sister XY	Letter April 1, '55 Letter May 19, '55
A day in fall, 1954	Detroit, Mich.	Gavin told Hoefle what Eschrich told Gavin in Springfield; [this is the correct behavior in such case]; Hoefle explained him the matter concerning Sister XY	Letter April 1, '55 Letter May 19, '55
The next day	Detroit, Mich.	Gavin asked Sister XY about this matter [again the correct behavior in such case]; Sister XY confirmed to Gavin that Hoefle did nothing wrong to her; then Gavin told Hoefle that he already "surmised there was some malice on the part of Brother Jolly"	Letter April 1, '55
Later in fall, 1954	Mount Dora, Fla.	Gavin guest at Hoefle: Gavin offered – in the presence of witnesses – to write Brother Eschrich that he had proven without doubt that what Brother Eschrich had heard and passed on to him was simply nothing but slander	Letter April 1, '55
October 30, 1954	Letter	Hoefle to Eschrich: "Will you please let me know immediately if you are guilty as stated above. If so, then I ask you to tell me the name of your informant, and the exact content of what you were told."	EBS, No. 1 Letter April 1, '55
November 2, 1954	Letter (respond)	Eschrich to Hoefle: only evasive answers, mainly about what he was talking with Sister XY	PT '56, 20 Letter April 1, '55
November 18, 1954	Letter (respond)	Hoefle to Eschrich: asking for a clear, clean answer	Letter April 1, '55
Nov. '54 – Feb. '55	/	Eschrich never replied	Letter April 1, '55
February 27, 1955	Jacksonville, Fla.	Convention: Hoefle asked Eschrich about the slander, Eschrich gave Hoefle his "solemn word" that he had repeated it to no one except his wife; Gavin was asked and stated most emphatically and in minute detail that – "You told me that on September 12 in Springfield, and you said Brother Jolly had told it to you"; Hoefle asked Eschrich if Jolly had told him that and asked for a clear "Yes or No". Eschrich refused to answer.	Letter April 1, '55
Feb. 27 - March 16, 1955	Mount Dora, Fla.	Gavin guest at Hoefle: the matter was discussed frequently and at length with Gavin; it was clearly understood that Jolly was to be questioned about it during his visit at Winter Park Ecclesia, March 15 – 16, 1955	Letter March 17, '55 Letter May 19, '55
March 15-16, 1955	Ecclesia at Winter Park, Fla.	Question-meeting: (Br. Hoefle was absent) Sr. Hoefle asked Jolly if Eschrich had told him what happened at the Jacksonville Convention. Brother Jolly replied "No", further stating that Brother Eschrich had not told him anything . Sr. Hoefle by her question to Gavin, plainly revealed what the complaint was, namely, that Gavin had not given the same story to the Winter Park Ecclesia that he had previously given to Brother Hoefle in Detroit, and again at the Jacksonville Convention.	Letter March 24, '55 Letter April 1, '55 Letter May 20, '55 (b)

		Brother Gavin denied before the Ecclesia, that he had said Brother Eschrich told him that Brother Jolly gave him this report.	
March 17, 1955	Orlando, Fla.	Conversation of Br. and Sr. Stanford with Jolly: Jolly mentioned that Brother Eschrich told him that the spirit shown at the private meeting with Hoefle at Jacksonville Convention was so bad that he, Bro. Eschrich, thought it best to open the official meeting right away and put an end to the private meeting	Letter May 20, '55 (b)
March 17, 1955	Letter	Hoefle to Winter Park Ecclesia: „It has just been reported to me that Brother Gavin flatly denied before you all this week that he ever said he had been told by Brother Eschrich that Brother Jolly had told him (Bro. Eschrich) a tale to the effect that I was imposing upon Truth widows, that I had accepted \$1,000 from one, not even giving her a receipt for it.“ then explaining the events in Detroit, Jacksonville and Mount Dora („the matter was discussed frequently and at length with Gavin; it was clearly understood that Jolly was to be questioned about it during his visit at Winter Park Ecclesia, March 15 – 16, 1955“)	EBSA, No. 1
March 24, 1955	Letter	Jolly to Hoefle: defending against charges against him at Question-meeting at Winter Park Ecclesia; “The charges made against Brother Gavin and against me before the Winter Park Ecclesia and visitors (Sister Gavin and Sister Wilson, of Lakeland, Fla.), were news to me, as I then heard them for the first time.” “I understand that Sister XY has no complaints against you”; “Gavin stated three times that my name was not mentioned when Eschrich talked to him”	EBSA, No. 1 Letter May 20, '55 (b)
March 30, 1955	Letter	Gavin to Winter Park Ecclesia: „Sr. Gavin received a copy of a letter that Brother Hoefle addressed to you regarding some things regarding myself.“ “as I remember when Bro. Eschrich told me about Bro. Hoefle, Bro. Jolly's name was not mentioned, and for Sister Hoefle to act as she did was a breach of confidence as I see it.“	EBSA, No. 1 Letter May 19, '55 Letter May 20, '55 (b)
April 1, 1955	Letter (respond)	Hoefle to Jolly: asking these questions: „1. Did you discuss that matter with Sister XY during the past year or so? If so, please state what prompted the discussion, and give me a resumé. 2. Did you discuss it with Brother Eschrich about the time of the last Philadelphia Convention – or any other time? If so, please state what prompted the discussion, and give me a resumé. 3. Have you discussed it with any one else? If so, please give details, 4. Did you discuss with Brother Eschrich the Jacksonville item described above? If so, please give a resumé, and what conclusions you reached. ...“; and telling that: „last Fall at Mount Dora Brother Gavin offered – in the presence of witnesses – to write Brother Eschrich that he had proven without doubt that what Brother Eschrich had	EBSA, No. 1 Letter May 20, '55 (b)

		heard and passed on to him was simply nothing but slander.”	
May, 1955	Present Truth	Page 37: [instead of answering Hofle, Jolly wrote an article about evil speaking] “A case has recently come to our attention in which a prominent Truth brother had a certain financial transaction with a widowed sister in the Lord, in which some money she had entrusted to him was lost, though apparently [why not “certainly”?] through no fault of his.” [Jolly in the letter of March 24: “I understand that Sister XY has no complaints against you”] „... regardless of how good or honest the intentions of those who repeated the matter may have been“ [what good intentions they may have had in repeating the matter instead of going to Hoefle and talking with him?]	EBSA, No. 1 Letter May 20, '55 (b)
May 16, 1955	Telegram	Hoefle to Jolly: “WHEN MAY I EXPECT YOUR ANSWER MY LETTER APRIL FIRST”	EBSA, No. 1
May 17, 1955	Letter (respond)	Jolly to Hoefle: “In view of paragraph 2 sentence 2, of your letter of May 22, 1954 (“You never hesitate to tell a lie when it suits your convenience”), and other considerations, I can see nothing of benefit to you or others that would be accomplished by my writing to you further at this time.”	EBSA, No. 1 Letter June 25, '55
May 20, 1955 (a)	Letter (respond)	Hoefle to Jolly: “1. Who gave the slander to you about Sister XY and me? 2. Did you repeat it to Brother Eschrich, or any one else? Your Scriptural obligation in this matter is clear enough; and I again call upon you to meet it in accordance with your own confession of “full harmony” with Brother Russell's article [in Z Nov. 15, 1908, 348-52 – Matt. 18]”; “Your attempt of March 24 to plead Matt. 18 [concerning the questions at Winter Park Ecclesia] is simply so much nonsense. In your position, you should welcome the opportunity to make a public defense of your character or your ministry, at any reasonable time or in any place, if – YOU HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE!” “Of course, in your refusal to respond to me when I come to you, as I did in my letter of April 1, you self-evidently show your contempt for Matthew 18”	EBSA, No. 1
May 19, 1955	Letter	Hoefle to Gavin: “Recently in Winter Park I saw your letter of March 30, in which you say “it was agreed that anything that might be said about certain things and persons was to be confidential” while you were in Mount Dora Feb. 27 to March 16. This is indeed a surprise – quite a surprise – as no one at the Mount Dora residence remembers the word “confidence” being even mentioned. You insist again that “Bro. Jolly's name was not mentioned when Bro. Eschrich told you about Bro. Hoefle.” So far as I can see, that is the one and only item of contention – Did you bring Brother Jolly's name into the Eschrich conversations or didn't you? If you did not – as you contend – then how could your confidence possibly be betrayed when, as you claim, you never gave that confidence to me? Will you please make yourself clear on this?	EBSA, No. 1

		As you well know, I was aware of the slanderous gossip being circulated about me long before you came to me about it in Detroit last fall. You added some details, of course, chief of which was that Brother Jolly had passed it to Brother Eschrich, the latter in turn passing it on to you. Had you pledged me to secrecy in this, just what good could it do me to know it? And what is your understanding of your Scriptural and civic obligation in such matters?"	
May 20, 1955 (b)	Letter	<p>Br. and Sr. Stanford (of Winter Park Ecclesia) to Hoefle: „In view of the correspondence which has been furnished to this Ecclesia, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copy of Brother Jolly's letter of March 24, to you, marked "For the information of the Winter Park Ecclesia", - Brother Gavin's letter of March 30, addressed to the Ecclesia at Winter Park, Florida, and - Copy of your letter to Brother Jolly dated April 1, together with the May P. T., <p>we recognize that our Scriptural obligation in this matter is to give you the facts as we know them, during Brother Jolly's visit to Winter Park, March 15 and 16. During the Question Meeting, referred to by Brother Jolly in his letter to you, Sr. Hoefle asked Brother Jolly if Brother Eschrich had told him what happened at the Jacksonville Convention. Brother Jolly replied "No", further stating that Brother Eschrich had not told him anything. Sr. Hoefle then explained that she was referring to what had happened in Jacksonville between Brother Eschrich and Brother Hoefle, and asked Brother Jolly if ANYONE had discussed it with him, to which he again replied "No", that he had not been informed. The morning of March 17, as we were having breakfast in the Bus Station in Orlando with Brother Jolly, during the course of our conversation he mentioned the "bad spirit" which was shown at Jacksonville Convention, stating that "someone had shaken their finger in Brother Eschrich's face" and that Brother Eschrich told him that the spirit shown there was so bad that he, Bro. Eschrich, thought it best to open the meeting right away and put an end to it. You will observe that this is in direct contradiction to Brother Jolly's letter of March 24 to you, wherein he stated: "The charges made against Brother Gavin and against me before the Winter Park Ecclesia and visitors (Sister Gavin and Sister Wilson, of Lakeland, Fla.), were news to me, as I then heard them for the first time." Also, it is in direct contradiction to his statements before the Winter Park Ecclesia during the Question Meeting. He did say, in the presence of several of us, after Sr. Hoefle had left, that he thought she showed a very bad spirit, but he offered no reproof to her personally, neither during the meeting nor afterwards, except that, in closing the meeting he did make the statement that some of the questions "were officious." Brother Jolly further stated in his letter to you: "I am not clear as to just what the charge was against</p>	EBSA, No. 1

		<p>Brother Gavin.”</p> <p>The Winter Park Ecclesia clearly understood that Sr. Hoefle by her question to Brother Gavin, plainly revealed what the complaint was, namely, that Brother Gavin had not given the same story to the Winter Park Ecclesia that he had previously given to Brother Hoefle in Detroit, and again at the Jacksonville Convention.</p> <p>Brother Gavin denied before the Ecclesia, that he had said Brother Eschrich told him that Brother Jolly gave him this report.</p> <p>In our private discussion with Brother Jolly the morning of his departure, we frankly told him that a number of things had been said to us by certain brethren, over two years ago, whereby we were led to believe that he, Brother Jolly, had privately discussed with them, or warned, against Brother Hoefle, although the brethren did not intend to betray any confidences and did not specifically mention names.</p> <p>Brother Jolly denied that he had ever given any confidential information or warning concerning Brother Hoefle, to any of the brethren.</p> <p>He stated to us that you were out of harmony with Brother Russell and Bro. Johnson on a doctrinal point, over which he had considerable correspondence with you, but that you still retained your view in opposition to Brother Russell and Brother Johnson.</p> <p>Sr. Stanford said that if we knew for a certainty that Brother Hoefle, or any other brother, was not in harmony with the doctrinal teachings of Bro. Russell and Brother Johnson, we would not allow him to give a talk in our home, to which Brother Jolly emphatically stated: “It is not a fundamental doctrine, Sister.”</p> <p>We feel no malice toward any of the brethren, and have had no “personal differences” with any of them. This letter is not written because of prejudice nor partisanship, but plainly as a fulfillment of our duty, not only to you, but others as well. Therefore, you may use it in the interest of Truth and Justice, as you find need for it.”</p>	
June 6, 1955	Letter	<p>Hoefle to Br. and Sr. Stanford:</p> <p>“Brother Jolly's refusal to answer my letter of April 1 because of mine of May 22, 1954 is the clumsiest of sophistry. You yourselves were at Jacksonville on February 26 when he publicly asked me to support him in prayer. That was nine months after May 22, 1954; and his letter of March 24, 1955 was ten months later.”</p>	EBSA, No. 1
June 25, 1955	Letter	<p>Jolly to Hoefle:</p> <p>“I have longsufferingly endured your abuses and underhanded campaign of opposition and misrepresentation”</p> <p>„In view of your continued oppositional course, I now find it necessary as the Lord's appointed leader for the good Levites and the good Youthful Worthies [not (yet) for all the people of God], and as executive trustee of the Laymen's Home Missionary Movement, in faithfulness to the Lord and the brethren, to suspend you as a Pilgrim of and for the Laymen's Home Missionary Movement.”</p> <p>...</p> <p>[to be continued]</p>	PT '56, 20 EBSA, No. 3