

"The Aberdeen Incident" July, 1970

Despite claims within the Exclusive Brethren that the following image is a 'fake' and has been 'manufactured by Peebs.Net', we reproduce it here as a scanned image direct from the newspaper article upon which it appeared in the Daily Express, London, UK a few days following The Aberdeen Incident. Not only is it genuine, it tells more of the Truth than most words we could reproduce...



"We are not ashamed"--says Big Jim

London Daily Express

Reunited ... Big Jim and Mrs. Ker

Big Jim Taylor put his arm round dark haired Mrs. Madeline Ker at his Brooklyn, New York, home tonight, kissed her lightly on the cheek and said: "I don't care what people say. She is a very, very pure person."

Then the balding, silver haired leader of the Close Brethren said: "We have never at any time done anything improper."

Resting on his lap was a large leather-bound bible, and in his right hand he held a tumbler half full of Scotch.

As we talked in the upstairs sitting room of his large detached house 32-year-old Mrs. Ker, mother of four, from Harrow, Middlesex, smiled up at him.

When I arrived at his home, Big Jim was sitting in an armchair wearing only underpants.

He said: "I suppose I had better put my pants on. But, quite honestly, I find it more comfortable just sitting in my underpants."

Big Jim seemed quite at ease, and quite oblivious of the sensation surrounding him and Mrs. Ker and her husband during their recent visit to Negg, Aberdeenshire.

Then it was claimed that Mrs. Ker had been found in bed with him when other members of the sect walked in.

It led to a furious row among members of the sect, and today Big Jim was busy sending off up to 8,000 letters "explaining" the events in Scotland.

Mrs. K and her husband Alan, a research chemist are staying with Big Jim and his wife Irene (60).

Today Mr. Ker was not at the house, and Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Ker explained that [he] had gone to Washington on business and would be back later.

Mr. Taylor, who claims that his hold on the leadership of the Brethren is still unchallenged, said: "Absolutely nothing happened in that bedroom that Mrs. Ker and I are ashamed about.

"It is true she was laying under the sheet on the same bed as myself. But I was on one side of the bed, and she was on the other."

Whose clothes were on the floor?

Said he: "Some of the clothes were mine. I don't know who the other clothes belonged to." "I didn't ask her to lie under the sheet. Mrs. K chose to lie under it of her own free will. "Certainly nothing improper happened, and it is wrong to say that she was naked."

From Philip Finn, New York, Monday

Background



These pages detail specific events involving James Taylor, Junior (JT Jnr), undisputed leader of the Exclusive Brethren from 1959 to 1970. This period marked a significant change in the community of Exclusive Brethren. It was a decade of ever-increasing regulation and control. Almost every aspect of EB life became subject to rules and the level of minutiae that the directives covered is astonishing to those who were not part of the system.

It was during this time that the words of the EB Leader became recognized as being of equal and in some cases, of greater import than biblical scripture. It was held that the EB held the only Truth in a fallen world and that the mantle of authority had passed to the EB as a church (The Church) and to JT Jnr as the 'Elect Vessel' to whom all must be in submission.



Not to speak in support of the 'Man of God' was the ultimate dissent. To speak of Jesus Christ was even viewed as a sign of deflecting deserved support! Even though EB meetings became daily events and Attendance Officers were empowered to monitor member attendance at all meetings, the content of these daily prayer and bible study assemblies started subtly to shift focus away from orthodox Christian teachings, to a form of Leader adulation where fear of falling below an accepted level of demonstrable verbal support of 'Our Beloved' became a test of fellowship. A naturally quick-witted man, JT Jnr provided sparkling repartee with occasional devastating impact.

A fear-based structure persisted throughout the 1960's and into 1970. The sight of JT Jnr with a large tumbler of amber-colored liquid under his seat was a sight seen by all during his later ministry. Alcohol played a distinctive role in the latter part of the JT Jnr era. Not only was alcohol consumption encouraged, it became apparent that the Leader had a drinking problem. He has been described by a close relative as *"a shy man"* and that *"alcohol helped him through the meetings"*. EB were urged to partake themselves and ordered to ensure that whisky was available when offering hospitality - especially when any member of the EB elite was visiting. Obviously this was an important facility for an alcoholic who would need alcohol on a regular basis while traveling. The travel itself was never a problem - the 'Man of God' always traveled first class where champagne corks would pop before the plane even reached the runway. It was not long before JT Jnr began to drink quite openly during meetings:



"I remember going to the Nostrand Avenue meetings in Brooklyn and watching JT Jr. enter the sanctuary with his pants all wet. Gross!"

"JTJr was drinking heavily during and between the meetings. He demanded to be given whisky on pain of withdrawing from the brethren if they did not comply. Even at the foot of his chair while supposedly serving in the meetings was a glass of neat scotch."

The extent of the drink problem that JT Jnr suffered from was carefully masked. A hospital stay in 1965 was reported as being for an unspecified medical problem, but in fact the hospital stay involved a blood transfusion in an attempt to halt the liver damage that had already occurred from his heavy drinking. For about three years JT Jnr seemed to control his alcoholism, but as of 1968, he began drinking heavily once more.

Meetings increasingly became times of entertainment as verbal wit and repartee became considered as signs of 'freedom' and for those who excelled in drawing laughter it became indicative of being a member of the 'Approved'. To be classified as Approved indicated that an EB member was considered as fully supporting the ministry of 'Our Beloved Brother' / 'Our Paul' - referring of course to the universal EB leadership of JT Jnr. Applause, laughter, cheering and foot-stomping became normal events during mainline EB meetings



and although the weekly and monthly printed ministry could not convey background noise, to be present at a JT Jnr-led meeting in the late 60's often necessitated deciphering the slurred voice of a man obviously 'under the influence'. This is never more apparent than in the original sound recording of the July 25th, 1970 Saturday afternoon 'Bible Reading' in Aberdeen.

Arrival of James Taylor Jr. in Aberdeen, Scotland



James Taylor Jnr had traveled to the United Kingdom in July 1970 to conduct much anticipated gatherings in Reigate, Surrey (South England), Preston, Lancashire (North England) and Aberdeen, Scotland. The Aberdeen gathering was to be an EB 3-Day Meeting. During the 1970's and beyond, an EB '3 Day Meeting' would commence on a Friday and continue through to final addresses on the Sunday afternoon. Historically these were times of important ministry - a 3 Day Meeting being the largest standard gathering of Exclusive Brethren and was always led by a member of the highest EB echelon - at that time, in mid-1970, there was no-one higher (*no pun*

intended) than JT Jnr.

The EB Rules of Separation covered EB hospitality to the extent that when JT Jnr or another prominent EB traveled, they would always stay in a private EB home - it being recognized as a great privilege to be the host family. When JT Jnr arrived in Aberdeen, he stayed in the private residence of James Alec Gardner (JAG), a well-respected member of the Aberdeen EB assembly. JT Jnr arrived at the Gardner residence on the morning of July 23rd, 1970.

Several others were staying in the same house, this being the temporary 'court' of the EB Universal Leader. Others present included Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gardiner of Perth, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gray of Edinburgh, Mr. (Ted) and Mrs. E. Steedman of Falkirk and Miss Anne Gibb of Falkirk. JT Jnr insisted that "*my friends*" Alan and Madeline Ker be accommodated at the Gardner house as well - even though previous arrangements had been made for Mr and Mrs. Ker to stay at another residence in nearby Laurencekirk.

"We arrived at James Gardner's house on Thursday evening. Mr. Taylor was in bed resting and joined us about 7 p.m. He very soon paid a great deal of attention to the sisters, spoke in a crude way of their having had relations with men and constantly asked different ones when the results would be "... when is the delivery?" He made reference to bras, and to take them off and seemed obsessed with the sister's breasts. He made one sister after another sit on his knee, with one especially he kissed her for minutes at a time, putting his mouth over hers and sucking her in a most peculiar way, all the time fondling and caressing her body, making her husband look out the window while doing so.

His tactics with other sisters he wanted, was to say that they didn't like his ministry, were not with him, and so on, until they came to him. This went on till the Kerrs came about 9 p.m. They should not have been there but Jim insisted

they stay, so that James Gardner and his wife had to sleep in most difficult circumstances. When he had gone off to bed we found the first sister he had handled was very upset. We found in the morning she was nearly hysterical through the night."

- Ted Steedman (a guest in the house)

The 'man of God' remembers differently, or perhaps, he simply didn't remember:

Thank you for yours of July 23rd; I do not remember you, but am thankful you enjoyed the meetings at Aberdeen.

The last time I was there I met the press which was very interesting. This time I met criminals.

I arrived on Thursday by charter flight with Mr. And Mrs. Alan Ker. I was brought to A.G.s house and was made very comfortable. That night there was some singing and I went to bed.

- James Taylor Jr.

The following notes are based upon a letter addressed to JT Jnr's home assembly of New York, USA, written by James A. Gardner (JAG) the host of James Taylor Jnr, dated July 30th, 1970. This letter was standard EB procedure in matters of potential discipline - the home assembly of any accused individual had the task of meting out EB discipline.

(Note: In order to travel between the bedrooms allocated to JT Jnr and Mr & Mrs Ker, one had to:

"... come through the kitchen, dining room and living room..."

This circuitous route accounts for the detailed diary that accompanied Mr Gardners' letter to New York. (There were therefore a number of witnesses to the movements between the two areas.)

Thursday, July 23, 1970 (evening) Alan Ker led his wife Madeline to JT Jnr's bedroom, returning to his bedroom alone. Madeline was wearing a dressing gown and was barefooted.

Friday, July 24th, 1970 (6:00 am) Mrs. J. Gardner witnessed Mrs. Madeline Ker leaving JT Jnr's bedroom.

Friday, July 24th, 1970 (day) Madeline Ker spent some time during meeting intervals in JT Jnr's bedroom. The EB Leader was almost an hour late for the Friday afternoon session:

"I knocked on Mr. Taylor's bedroom door but got no response. After another 20 minutes [Madeline Ker] came out, saying that she had to wait until she was 'released'. After about a further half hour Mr. Taylor came out. [Madeline Ker] said that she had to be with Mr. Taylor to attend to his feet and head..."

- James A. Gardner (Host)

Friday, July 24th, 1970 (night) Alan Ker again led his wife Madeline through to JT Jnrs' bedroom at about 11:00 pm. Again Alan Ker returned to his room alone, leaving his wife Madeline with the EB Leader.

Saturday, July 25th, 1970 (day) Mr Gardner attempts to barricade the route to JT Jnrs' bedroom to prevent the liaison that was blatantly occurring under his roof.

"At the break on Saturday I went through to Mr. Taylor's room with a preparation for his lips which he had asked for, after which we barricaded the door between the Kers' quarters and the living room to prevent Mrs. Ker from having access to Mr. Taylor's room, because we were disturbed and unhappy as to the length of time they were spending together. We provided every comfort and care for Mr. Taylor so that he was well looked after by us in the house. Mr. and Mrs. Ker tried to break down the door so that she could reach Mr. Taylor's bedroom. In the process a large glass panel in the door entrance was cracked.

When our other visitors left for the meetings Mrs. Ker managed to slip through to Mr. Taylor's bedroom, staying there alone with him for some time, so that we were again late for the afternoon meetings. When she came out of the room she said that she had been told to tell me that I was a "son of a bitch and a bastard".

- James A. Gardner (Host)

The same period is described by Ted Steedman:

The next morning each brother and sister spontaneously said they could not break bread in the conditions in the house. It is hard to put on paper the atmosphere of madness. There was nothing spiritual that came into any conversation, all of which was dominated by Mr. Taylor. (I mean that he gave the tone.)

However, the Saturday morning session was the most sane of all the meetings. Mr. Taylor seemed more normal and the brothers round him all responded. He spoke then about the Spirit hovering over waste and empty, and likened it to his being sympathetically near when the devil was at you in weakness, and said a number of things that made us think he was judging something. At home he was brighter. I sat next to him talking (I had done this from the Thursday and had never left his side as I tried to understand what was happening.) For about 30 minutes his conversation was interesting about happenings over the years amongst brethren.

He didn't seem to drink a lot at once, but sipped whisky continually, and then his demeanour changed, as though something came over his mind. He became nasty, almost animal like and his conversation unclean. Others have spoken of the two Jim Taylors at evidence at different times.

I don't pretend to interpret all this. I only state facts as I know them. We were heartened with the morning still however, and when Mr. Taylor retired James Gardner ensured he had everything to make him comfortable, and told Mrs. Kerr who wanted to go through to him, "to leave him at rest, " as he thought she had a bad effect on our brother. She became very impudent and when James Gardner reminded her that he was the head of the house and responsible for things in it, she said very definitely, "I don't accept you as head of this house."

- Ted Steedman

And then James Taylor Jnr proceeded to conduct the following Exclusive Brethren 'bible reading' Meeting.

The Aberdeen Tapes - 'A time of blasphemy'

The following transcript is of the original recording of the afternoon session in Aberdeen, Saturday July 25th, 1970 which you may already be hearing. *Use the controls in the right column to Play / Pause / Stop.*

The sadly-missed Roger Stott prepared this transcript for Peebs.Net and stated:

I'm attaching the Aberdeen transcript - which I personally transcribed from the original spool in August 1970. The spool was sent to my father as he was a trustee of the publishing depot. The original spool was stolen from me by the Frost Brethren in Hampton. They asked if they could borrow it and gave an absolute guarantee that they would return it. Then as soon as they got it they told me they were keeping it as I had no right to it!

The original spool was sent to my father (as a trustee of the depot) and I was given the task of transcribing it. I took great care to get every word of the transcription right; where there was any confusion I consulted with four different people who were present. I also made some attempt to describe the vulgar uproar that accompanied (and sometimes took over) the occasion."

- Roger Stott, May 19, 2004

The recording starts with first verse of Hymn 232:

Hymn:

And sing Thy praise.

*To Thee, O King of kings and Lord of lords,
Our song would be. Thy glories strike the chords.*

(Talking during singing, followed by laughter)

Prayer:

Jesus, we thank Thee (unclear) Thy glory. Our song would be to Thee. We seek Thy help and blessing at this time. Bless our brother and be with him, and be with us. Grant that his spirit may be at liberty among us. So we just commit ourselves to Thee afresh and give thanks in Thy precious name. Amen.

(Loud laughter)

JT Jnr: What the 'ell are we doing here? You so and so, what are you saying?

TMB: This will get us somewhere, this will get us somewhere, I don't know where.

JT Jnr: George, what do you think of this here? George Brown, what do you think of this here?

GMS: I'm sorry I didn't hear your question.

JT Jnr: I wasn't talking to you, boob. George!

GWB: Yes, Mr. Taylor.

JT Jnr: What was the answer?

GWB: I don't quite know, Mr. Taylor, what to make of it.

JT Jnr: Anybody know that. Is your wife here?

GWB: Yes, she is.

JT Jnr: And she's mad.

GWB: No, she isn't, Mr. Taylor.

JT Jnr: She is so. All going to have a good time here. Oh, yes. We're going to ...you nut! ... we're going to have a good time here. And you, you dear, dear, dear, dear, dear boob, what do you want to say?

JAG: See the stars and stripes you know?

JT Jnr: Rubbish! What are you looking at, you boob? See that fellow there? He's too serious.

JAS: I was thinking of the value of ...

JT Jnr: You were thinking of what?

JAS: The value of Paul and his intelligence in the mystery.

(Loud laughter and stamping.)

JT Jnr: Now we must get on with this meeting here and the next address: Now we have Mr. George Terries. The next address. You never had it so good. You big boob, you. And then, the next is what? Because we're still producing (*not clear*). We had the hell of a time in our house just a few minutes ago -- 'ell of a life. That so-and-so. But its No. 2 now. We got No 1. That's No. 1, that's George Terries. Anybody know him? Anybody know George Terries? We're going to have the 'ell of a time here. I want to tell you my purpose that he's a very good factory. I'm still looking for that. George is No. 1 ... No. 2 is coming but it comes slow. She's in terrific pain. You bastard! You bastard! We need a doctor here. Go to sleep Stanley, go to sleep. We have plenty of hymns, to hell with you. We're having a very good time. You bum, you. You big bum. Scott! Bum! Scott! Bum! Scott! Bum! Scott! Bum! Scott! Bum! Now you have it. You never have it. You never had it so good. You never had it like this, you nut, you.

(40 seconds pause with bursts of laughter) (Shouting)

JT Jnr: You stinking bum! You stink! Why didn't you bring some toilet paper with you. Very fine meetings.

MBT: Yes, first class.

(Pause with indistinct remarks and laughter then shouts of laughter with cheering, whistling and stamping.)

MBT: What I would like to know Mr. Taylor -- is this to be the pattern for all meetings?

JT Jnr: Look at that son of a bitch there.

(Pause culminating again in laughter, stamping and whistling.)

JT Jnr: You never had it like this before. You bastard you.

(Loud laughter, stamping and whistling.)

JT Jnr: David, where the hell you been? Thank God for you. I thank God for you every time. You been stinking somewhere. What you been doing at?

DJD: In Hell.

JT Jnr: You haven't had any privilege to do that. You feeling better? Thank God for that. You feeling better, David? Thank God for that. You feeling better,

David? Thank God for that. Are you feeling better, David? Thank God for that. The whole thing, too. What about your intestines? Was that the trouble? To hell with them! 'ell with them. 'ell with them. You hear that George? George! You st ... George! Did you hear? Yes. You st ... 'ell with the other one! 'ell with the other one! Stay awake, you boob! What do you think, we're going to get on with all these songs from Detroit? To hell with them, 'ell with them, I said. 'ell with them! You big bum you. You never had it so good. And don't you think, don't you think you're going to go away with this stuff. You here, what's your name? Son of a bitch.

JG: John Gaskin.

JT Jnr: Get up. You look like nothing. Sit down! You never had it like this before. Eric! Awake? You awake there? Well get up and perform Eric, get up. Get up Eric. Get up! Eric get up. Sit down. You never had it like this before. You stupid people here, what do you think I am? I'm a professor. Here you. I'm not finished with you yet. You nut! Get up. I'm not finished with you yet. Well I'll tell you this. Don't you mention any cars any more, remember? So what the hell are you? Skunk. You never had it like this before. That son of a bitch. I very careful using the word son of a bitch because I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know you have to be careful about it. Is everything alright with your bowels? You never had it so good. Stand up Mr. Gardiner. I would like to introduce you to Nicodemus. And will you answer the question that I ask you Nicodemus? You couldn't. Who are you? Who are you?

JAF: James Flett.

JT Jnr: Get to hell out of here! 'ell, I said. 'ell out of here. You big bum there, you Bennett, what are you doing there sitting round ... You never had it like this before. Now we have some other things before, before us. You know, what I want to bring before you. What I want to bring. There are things that I would like to bring before you. Repeat. There are certain things I'd like to bring before you. You son of a ...

(Pause 60 seconds with shouts of laughter.)

JT Jnr: You never had it so good. Will you have something to say to the church.

JG: I think we've entered in the time of the sign language.

JT Jnr: Repeat.

JG: I think we've entered in the time of the sign language.

JT Jnr: Repeat.

JG: I think we've entered in the time of the sign language.

JT Jnr: Repeat.

JG: I think we've entered in the time of the sign language.

JT Jnr: Repeat.

JG: Amen.

JT Jnr: Repeat

JG: I think we've entered in the time of the sign language.

JT Jnr: You're going to sleep. Yes you were. All right George. Upidee upidee George. Upidee upidee George. What are you saying for the church here?

AT: Who's the big stiff now, eh?

(Loud laughter and whistling.)

GT: I think somebody needs a good clean out.

AT: I've been today and I've used the paper as well.

GT: Can I make another observation? You stink!

AT: Say something original.

GT: I'd like to. But it depends on somebody else. *(Pause 60 seconds with laughter.)*

JT Jnr: Watch me. You do the same.

(Loud laughter with whistling and stamping.)

JT Jnr: You never had it so good. And I don't think will ever have it do good either. You big bum here, give me your hand so I can have some.

SMcC: Can I ask a question? Are these the signs of the Zodiac?

JT Jnr: Yes!

(Loud laughter with whistling.)

JT Jnr: Now what was the point that was before us here? What we talking about here? What was the point we were ... What was the point we were talking about?

JAG: Sid escaped from Eddie and came and told James the Hebrew.

JT Jnr: We're getting on with that. We're getting on with this truth here. And the truth is this. This is the truth. And this is the truth. And this is the truth. That's what it is. It's the truth. We're having a very fine time. And it's the truth. Why did you sit down? I told you to stand up. Don't you do that again. We're going to get down to the truth here. And the truth is the truth and the truth. And don't you sit ... Don't you sit down you st ...

SH: Truth and the truth and the truth -- that's triple crown, isn't it?

JT Jnr: Yes. And you, don't you sit down.

SMcC: Could you initiate us into the mystery?

(Loud laughter)

JT Jnr: You never had it like this before. You never did.

SH: It's like Piccadilly this. Like Piccadilly. I feel like Eros sucking plums, you know.

JT Jnr *(very slurred):* We're getting on very well in the truth here.

(Pause with indistinct remarks followed by loud laughter.)

SH: That's Alec Terries, higher and higher yet.

JT Jnr: Get up you bastard. *(Loud laughter.)* We'll now proceed with this meeting here which is very spiritual and the point is to get people spiritual. That is the main line to get people spiritual here. We forgot to deal with those ... *(pause).*

SH: Spiritual line to get people to stand on their feet isn't it? Two feet?

JT Jnr: You never had it like this before.

(Loud laughter then 75 seconds pause then very loud laughter.)

JT Jnr: You never had it -- it so good. You never had it so ...*(Laughter.)*

SMcC: We might translate that better by saying "You hever had it so good."

Very loud laughter with whistling and clapping.)

JT Jnr: Now don't you do that again. You were told to stand up.

SH: He can't do two things at once.

JT Jnr: If you have an explanation for what in the world you're doing anybody knows no but you *(sic)*. You have an opportunity to justify ...*(laughter.)* The chapter begins this way. I repeat, the chapter begins this way...

SH: She was turned into a pillar of salt.

JT Jnr: The chapter begins this way. That's how the chapter begins: "To hell with you." El -- Genesis I. *(Laughter.)*

SMcC: I may have to be excused ... *(Loud laughter and whistling for 40 seconds.)*

JT Jnr: We're going on with the scripture here. *(Pause 45 seconds with bursts of laughter.)*

AS: At least we've got company, Sidney.

SH: Tweedledum and Tweedledee. *(Uproar for 20 seconds.)*

JT Jnr: Now we're going on with the scripture here. It's very spiritual this scripture. We have to get some scriptures in between some damned fools.

Question: Beg pardon?

JT Jnr: Do you hear that -- you big bum plumber from Dusseldorf? We have to get some scriptures in between some damned fools here.*(Laughter 20 seconds and then uproar, whistling, etc.)*

AS: A threefold cord is not easily broken. *(Laughter for 30 seconds.)*

JT Jnr: You never had it like this before. *(Loud laughter continuing with stamping and renewed shouts for 60 seconds.)* We'll proceed with this meeting which is very spiritual. *(Pause.)* We're proceeding with this meeting which is very spiritual. You never had it so good. *(Pause.)* You never had it so good. *(Pause.)*

AS: May we ask a question in the temple? *(Laughter.)* Could you tell us what that means please? *(Laughter.)* When I was a boy we had a name for that. We used to say, "Same to you with knobs on."

(Loud laughter, stamping and whistling 25 seconds.)

JT Jnr: Is there another question from the parliament? You son of a bitches.

DR: I wondered if No. 2 was still born or what?

JT Jnr: Interpret! *(Pause)* Interpret! *(Laughter.)* What's the interpret of this thing? What is it here? What's the question on the board?

DR: I was wondering if No. 2 was still born.

(Confusion, two people talking at once.)

JT Jnr: Hey, wake up there old coffin, you got two coffins on the side of your face there. Look up there, he has two coffins one on each side of his nose. You, don't do that again! Now what is the question before ... *(Laughter.)* What is the question before the board here? You son of a bitch what you got to say? I couldn't prove that you're the son of a bitch I couldn't do that. You can't say son of a bitch if you don't know. But you're a bastard. Now what do you want to say?

AS: I'd rather listen to you.

JT Jnr: To hell with you. We want to listen to people give me a fight. That's what I want somebody to give me a fight. You don't want to fight me? *(Pause.)* The only fighter left is this skunk over here.

SH: You can fight and run away. "He that fights and runs away lives to fight another day." *(Laughter, cheering and clapping.)*

JT Jnr *(very slurred)*: You never had it like this before. You never had it like this before. Me, I'm looking around for these sons of a bitches, where are they? *(Loud laughter.)* You never had it like this before. Now for instance if you want to take ... for instance, for instance, for instance, for instance, for instance ... for instance ... if it's still coming...for instance. *(Pause.)*

SMcC: I'm beginning to wonder where I am.

JT Jnr: I wonder where the 'ell you, are you *(sic)*.

SMcC: Whether I'm down there ...

JT Jnr: Down there, that's where you are. *(Laughter.)* Now it's a very fint subject this here. It's wonderful you know, it's really wonderful what I'm bringing before you. What I'm bringing before you is really wonderful. There's one of these bastards here trying to interrupt me. What I'm bringing before you is wonderful. But these bastards they interrupt me. But you're going to get something out of this meeting, because I'm a very spiritual man.

SMcC: It's very long in coming. *(Loud laughter.)*

JT Jnr: It's a long time in coming because of a son of a bastard like you. You never had it so good. *(Laughter. Pause, then several wolf whistles; then uproar; cheering, clapping, and loud rhythmical stamping 90 seconds.)*

JT Jnr: The introduction of these meetings was very spiritual you know. And we must get on ... spiritual. *(Laughter, 30 seconds.)* You never had it so good. You son of a bitch. I wondered what that word meant you know and then I found out what it was. *(Loud laughter and stamping)* *(slurred)*. We ... we ... we need a doctor here. Amen. Huh! We need a doctor here. We never had it so good George. And, George, you son of a bitches. But you can't really say that one if you don't know. So I wouldn't say it. *(Laughter and pause.)* You never had it like this before and I don't think you'll have it again. I'll tell you a few of my friends here. A few of my friends, I'll tell you who they are. That's that Mr. ... I'll tell you who my friends are ... Ben Armitt, he's my friend. I don't know any other son of a bitch is my friend or no, I wouldn't think he is though. I think you are you big boob over here. I think he's my friend. Your name is Scott, yeah, you're my friend, you discovered me, in ... *(Laughter.)* ... you discovered me in Inverness. What you want to say, you boob, Get up and say it.

Remark: My name is Scott. *(Laughter.)*

JT Jnr: You never had it so good. *(Pause, then uproar and whistling with loud hysterical laughter from the platform 25 seconds.)* Well the object of these meetings as usual, is to get some people spiritual, that's the object of these meetings. That's the real object of any meeting, to get something spiritual into the brethren. Now how are we going to do that with all these bastards here? I'm looking for you, I'm looking for you, you're going to get it. But George, George, you're going to give the next address. That may be not too happy for you. You may not like that but he's going to give the next address. And then we're going to get the next so and so and that's going to be that bastard sitting here. I think his name is Craig. That's the next bastard going to speak. Goodness, if you would keep looking down there, I'd help you. *(Laughter.)* Now we got No. 2 man and the next man is not going to be you, you bastard you. *(Laughter.)* Nicodemus, son of a bitch. I don't think there's anything truer than that, that Nicodemus was a son of a bitch.

AT: He's from the same source.

JT Jnr: I know my men. Why don't you keep quiet, you bastard?*(Loud laughter and then bursts of cheering, stamping and whistling 30 seconds.)* Now we got two. And George, don't you forget your production. George, don't forget your production. George, don't you forget your production. I think you forgot that, and you are No. 1 man. No. 2 man is this Craig here, fast asleep in every meeting. Fast asleep in every ... *(Laughter.)*

GT: Can I ask you who is going to clear up the mess?

JT Jnr: I have to ask you to repeat.

GT: Can I ask you who is going to clear up the mess?

JT Jnr: We'll take care of that. *(Pause.)* You never had it ... so good. Now we have No. 2 man and he's that Craig. He's the son of a bitch from somewhere. I must excuse myself because I don't know whether he is a son of a bitch. I think he's more like a bastard. Because I can't prove my ... I can't prove some of the things I'm saying here. You can't prove who a son of a bitch is. But you could prove who a son of a bastard is. That's what you could prove.

JAG: You can't go by the unction, you must have facts?

JT Jnr: We'll have time for you. David, we think much for you. I wondered where you were and I found out where you were and you were sick and I think I felt for you. And I think the brethren did too, felt that you were sick and we are going to keep on doing that. You're a sick man *(next part indistinct)*. And you Alec, you think you did a good job didn't you? Yes, I'm telling you this? I'm going to take a lot of your territory away from you. Well we're getting on with these meetings and we must have something spiritual here you know. There's all the old bums going to sleep he couldn't, you know he couldn't do it right, he goes fast asleep doing it *(singing, very slurred.)*Everybody's doing it, doing it, doing it ...

SMcC: You've given me so much today that I'm troubled with flatulence.

JT Jnr: To hell with you. These distinctions are rather difficult to understand but its Hebrew. Ell with Stanley McCallum, ell with him. Ell with Craig, ell with ... Jim *(Pause.)* Renton, he's rentin' everything. And you, maybe we'll see about you. But what we want, what we want is George ... Terries, that's what we want ... and why we want him is, his fine production. That's why we want you George.

Production. And if you don't know it I'll tell you this that he's got a very fine production. You people don't know these things but I know them.

And then there's that Jim ... Fleming. He's got a pretty good production, but I think I made one of them mad you know, that's what I think I did. But they all came to me with confessions so I think JF, son of a bitch, is all right. But I wouldn't be able to call him that you know, because I don't know, all I can call him is a bastard. Now if you people have got anything to add to this would you please say it.

AG: Would you give a word?

JT Jnr: No. I would give my word about ... Mittwoch ... Mitt ... Mitt ... Mittwoch, Mittwoch. Nitsche, you understand that? I'll give my word Mittwoch.

JAG: Would you interpret please, Heinz?

HN: It's Wednesday. Mittwoch is Wednesday.

JT Jnr: Now we're doing all right here. Now JF, you satisfied? Your daughters are wonderful, I tell you and your wife is superlative. Oh, when she came to me I thought that was it. And you were scared. He was scared when she came to me. But she had to do it. It's too bad you know, there's only one job like this. All these people wanting my job, but there's only one job. And I got Mrs. JF and she came, and she was something. And she still is something. Those old ... you know these Georges, they don't get a clue with ... but we'll get on with the operation, and it's very fine. I tell you that GT's production is fine. And then JF's is fine, when I got it. What do you think this is? Your bed? This fellow's sleeping on me all the time. George, you understand? George, you understand? No. Oh yes (*very quietly*) that GT he knows how to produce them.

AT: They're all like their uncle.

JT Jnr: You're a liar! You're a liar!

AG: We all agree.

JT Jnr: George, we're waiting for them. I tell you that George is something.

GT: The half has not been told you.

AT: Say something original.

GT: I go by scripture.

JT Jnr: You son of a ... You devil. I'm telling you, that George is something. George, George ... Boag. You want some help? I never had it so good. I really never had it so good. I can control Glasgow ... Edinburgh ... Preston ... and, what the hell is the name of this place here?

JAG: Perth

JT Jnr: Perth. You never had it so good. But that JF, he ... I'm not too sure about him. Cause I got ... her. I got her all right. So it's not too safe for him. Where are you, where are you, where are you, you honey, where are you? Mrs. JF, where are you?

Remark: Right up the back.

JT Jnr: Who asked you to say anything?

Remark: I was giving you some help.

JT Jnr: Go to hell. (*Laughter.*) Where is she? Where are you? (*very quiet.*) Oh honey, it's too far. (*Loud laughter.*) We're getting on with this meeting here and its going to be spiritual before we get through. That poor old fellow from Detroit, I know he's pretty sick, you know. Sick. He's Detroit sick, he's sick as a dog. Down by the sea wall, saying, "Oh, help me Oh God". Down by the sea wall. Yes, that's something you didn't know. Where are you Jonah? By the sea wall.

SMcC: What he's crying is "Hosanna, Son of David".

JT Jnr: No, no, he's not. He's down by the sea wall. I learned this song from one of the most priestly men I ever heard of, and he didn't know nothing any case. His name was Johnson, I heard from him, "Jonah? I'm sick as a dog ... Down by the sea wall." Jonah means ... I think it means, you know, I think it means Hebrew. Here I am Jonah, shouts the captain, where art thou, Jonah? Here I am, down by the sea wall, sick as a dog. Give me a seed cake or else I die. Repeat. Captain says, Where are you Jonah? Wake up Jonah. Where are you? Here I am, sick as a dog. Give I kee-cake, give I kee-cake, give I kee-cake or else I die. Repeat. Give I seed cake or else I die. Jonah means Hebrew. Jonah knows Hebrew, he says, Cast me in. You never heard such ministry as this before. Jonah says, Jonah says, Cast me in, that's what Jonah says. Jonah was, I think between females. That's the latest ministry and I think it's true, same as Peter.

SMcC: I was just going to ask if I could be excused. (*Loud laughter.*)

JT Jnr: It's too good, it's too good for you to be excused. Too good. Because Jonah's, what he had to eat was terrific. But what you got to eat is good. You stay here -- don't you go out of here.

SMcC: Are you prepared for the results? (*Loud laughter and stamping.*)

JT Jnr: You never expected this here. You did not.

R.A.C.K.: Didn't Jonah have a 20-gallon tank?

JT Jnr: Where the 'ell are you? Who are you talking up there? That's the coffin man, yes it is.

W.M.C.C.: But it wasn't me, it was him.

JT Jnr: Yes it was, it was you. It was you. Oke. We want Oke, that's all we want. Oke! Fine meeting this, you never had it like this. You, I'll get through with you -- you won't be what I'm thinking about you. Derek. We need a hoist. Who told you you could sit down? We want a hoist. That's no good. We want a hoist. We want to get up to heaven. We want to get up to heaven.

SH: Get them to sing. "Swing low sweet chariot, Swing low sweet chariot." Go on Derek

SMcC: When can Jonah come up? Get up? In a moment I'm going to say, 'To 'ell with you'. (*Loud laughter and stamping. Pause. Then cheering and whistling for 90 seconds.*)

JT Jnr: You never had it so good here. Now we'll try and get spiritual in this meeting. What chapter did we read? Any case the whole thing adds up to this, the whole thing adds up to this: do you have any power to attract people to Christ? Do you? That's what it adds up to. Do you have any power to add up ... Look at me. Don't look at that boob. Where did you go?

SMcC: Ask no questions and you will be told no lies. It's a very delicate matter.

JT Jnr: It seems very smelly around here; it seems very smelly here. Where have you been? It seems very smelly here. Did you take care of that bastard? Did you? Did you care for that son of a bitch? You can't call him that you know really, because you don't know. Doctor did you take care of him?

WT: And myself as well. (*Loud laughter.*)

JT Jnr: Now we got to get on with this meeting here.

SH: Every verse ends with (*singing*). Doing what comes naturally.

JT Jnr: Maybe you. Not yet, maybe. George. you ready for production? Stand up. Are you ready for production?

GT: Yes.

JT Jnr: How many are in view?

GT: At the last count there were three, but one's gone.

JT Jnr: Who's next to him? Who's coming up next here? We have to have you in view. No. 3. Where's that so and so? Where is he? Where's No. 3 here? Who's No. 3 here? Where's that son of a bitch? Surely it's not me. Is that true? You're a real son of a bitch. I don't know who's propo ... I don't know who is the third man? Who was he? Who is?

Several voices: YOU!

JT Jnr: Is that true? All right we'll proceed with this meeting. I found out that you're a crook. Yes, I found out that he's a crook. In between these meetings I found out that this son of a bitch is a crook. He's the first son of a bitch I've met since I came to Aberdeen. Well, we'd better proceed with these meetings. No. 1 is George, you ready for production? All the stools ready George? You need stools if you're going to produce.

GT: Are we permitted an anaesthetic?

JT Jnr: Speak up.

GT: Are we permitted an anaesthetic?

JT Jnr: Proceed. You proceed then. Proceed with your production.

The recording ends.

Following the 'bible reading', Mr Gardiner invited Stanley McCallum and Mr and Mrs James Lovie to join them for dinner. The meetings were suprisingly short and all returned early to the Gardner residence.

"Mr. Taylor went straight to his room and Mrs. Ker followed him through a short time afterwards. S. McCallum and the Lovies arrived. We sat round talking and had a meal. JT Jnr and Mrs. Ker did not put in an appearance..."

- James A. Gardner (Host)

Ted Steedman states:

The conduct of her husband and self after that could never be supported. There has been much said about plots, etc. (J.L.'s presence and Stanley McCallum's) but this was innocent entirely. It came from Bob Gardiner's suggestion that Stanley's presence, (Jim spoke well of him the day before) might help to ease Mr. Taylor away from his obsession with the sisters. The fact that Mrs. Kerr had

been prevented from being with him at the break seemed to crack something in Mr. Taylor, hence the last session on Saturday when he fooled around when brothers prayed at the start and close of the reading. The reactions to this can be heard on the tapes, as the tapes were recorded. He constantly used abusive and vile language and created a kind of mass hysteria which was almost beyond description.

When Mr Taylor returned to James Gardner's house he went to his bedroom and was followed by Mrs. Kerr. Stanley McCallum and Mr. Lovie with his wife joined us for a meal as arranged. The atmosphere was a bit tense, as we in the house were aware that Mrs. Kerr was with Mr. Taylor, which fact was not disclosed when first Stanley McCallum arrived. Then J. Lovie asked A. Kerr where his wife was. He said "she is resting." An hour or two passed in conversation and a number of enquiries were made as to when Mr. Taylor would appear and when Mrs. Kerr would appear. Alan Kerr diverted all enquiries about his wife. Stanley McCallum said, "There is something wrong in this house." Bob Gardiner said quietly to James Gardner "I think we should tell him what has been happening".

He was taken aside and told that Mrs. Kerr was spending most of her time in Mr. Taylor's bedroom and with the background of other events, the brethren were concerned about it. Stanley McCallum asked the husband as to it but he refused to intervene. James Gardner then said in the hearing all of us. "I am responsible for what happens in my house and the time has come for me to know what is happening".

- Ted Steedman

James Gardner continues:

"... and I felt I had to find out what was happening in my house. I went through to Mr. Taylor's bedroom and found Mrs. Ker undressed and in bed with Mr. Taylor. He had on his pyjama top which was open down the front..."

"I remonstrated with Mr. Ker and asked him to get his wife out of there and had asked S. McCallum. to come back to the bedroom with me and witness the situation. Stanley McCallum and I both witness to the fact that JT Jnr and Mrs. Ker were in bed undressed together. Stanley McCallum asked JT Jnr if this was right and he said "Yes". Stanley McCallum pointed out that it was "unsuitable, uncomely and not morally right". JT Jnr said to him "The devil is in you and I have to get him out. You've been wrong all your life." Stanley McCallum said, "What would Renee say?" His reply was "I suppose you will tell her."

- James A. Gardner (Host)

The reference to 'Renee' refers to Mrs. Irene (Stevens) Taylor, the 2nd wife of the EB Leader. Toward the end of JT Jnr's 'ministry', Mrs. Irene Taylor refused to accompany him. She was known to be embarrassed by the behavior of her husband and would often profess to feeling unwell in order to remain at home.

"He knocked on Mr. Taylor's door and said he was coming in. (Much has been said by Mrs. Kerr and others that the door was open and nothing was hidden). That was not so. The door was closed but could not be locked - a fact that Mr. Taylor, in my presence, earlier complained of. James Gardner was definitely shocked at finding Mrs. Kerr in bed with Mr. Taylor, her clothes on a chair at the bedside. He challenged Mr. Taylor with the rightness or otherwise of his conduct. JT Jnr claimed he was pure. When the clothes were referred to, he said, "You can't prove they are her clothes."

Stanley McCallum at that juncture said he was leaving the house and went out to a car with Mr. & Mrs. Lovie. James Gardner's wife and another sister pleaded with him to come back, Mrs. Gardiner weeping and saying "Don't leave us Stanley. Please don't leave us like this." Stanley McCallum said to me, "I will come back in because the sisters in this house are nearly hysterical". (I can say this now with all the talk of ambush etc. dear brother, the Lord was never in all the suffering the sisters went through. I don't think they will ever get over it.)

James Gardner then asked Stanley McCallum to come with him as Mr. Taylor wouldn't listen to him and Stanley McCallum put it to Mr. Taylor that it wasn't right to be in bed with another man's wife, adding, "What would Renee say?" to which JT Jnr said, "I suppose you will tell her."

- Ted Steedman

"... Stanley McCallum and the Lovies then went away. Alan Ker was fully consenting to what his wife had done and I decided that to protect my house I had to put the Ker's out. Mr. Taylor insisted that he was going out with them and said "She is my woman."

We prevented him from leaving with the Ker's; this was because we wanted to protect him. Stanley McCallum, Jim Lovie and Bob Gardiner had gone to Glasgow to get James 3rd off the 1:20 a.m. flight. JT Jnr became very difficult, calling me "bastard", "son of a bitch" and to "all go to hell."

I had to send for Dr. Bill Thomson who had been attending to him for the last three or four weeks. JT Jnr became very quiet when Dr. Thomson arrived and he was given an injection and tablets. Dr. Thomson said that medically he was a sick man, but the moral side is a matter for the priests."

- James A. Gardner (Host)

'James 3rd' was the son of the EB Leader, known as James Taylor III.

Dr. Bill Thompson is reported to have diagnosed 'alcoholic dementia' following his examination of JT Jnr.

Both J.A.G. and S. McC. were very shaken by what they had witnessed but I never saw anything but concern to help our brother and S. McC. said, "We must be careful not to charge our brother with fornication, but what he is doing is unseemly and is not Christian conduct."

J.A.G., S. McC. And J. Lovie phoned James 3rd. J.A.G. spoke once or twice to all of us to go and see JT Jnr and Mrs. Kerr in bed but we felt there was adequate witness. None wanted to witness one we respected in such dishonour.

J.A.G. after some time asked Mrs Kerr to come out of the bed and said that the Kerrs were to leave his house. I heard JT Jnr reply, "If she goes, I will go. That's my woman." but J.A.G. told JT Jnr to stay. He, J.A.G. then prevailed on A. Kerr to get his wife out of bed and go.

Tom Bennett arrived at the house about then. His reaction was to go in where they were still in bed and use the javelin, but I told him that the matter was covered as it was committed to New York. It was late by the time the Kerrs went and Tom Bennett and J. Gray held Mr. Taylor back as they felt he was not in a fit state to leave.

Whatever has since been made of this incident, I'm sure it was done to protect JT Jnr I heard Jim Gray tell JT Jnr that loving hands were holding him. J.A.G. went for Dr. Thomson as JT Jnr had said earlier that he was treating him, and

when he came in he gave him an injection and told him to stay in bed which he obeyed.

When James 3rd arrived JT Jnr was very docile, but the medical treatment quietened him and in some way it may have given James 3rd an idea that J.A.G. was exaggerating.

- Ted Steedman

And the 'man of God'?

"Mr A.K. had said to me that his wife wanted to wash my feet, to which I agreed. He also suggested she might assist me after the meetings each day in rubbing my head and massage. He brought her in that night, they had to go through most of the rooms of the house to get to my room – there were many helpers besides the host and hostess who saw them come to my room.

The second night was the same only there came a knock on the door and in came the host with S.McC. and J.Gray.

S.McC. says, "What's that?", points to the sister (nurse) lying on the bed. He says "Corruption". He points to some clothes on the floor and again says, "Corruption"; the host aggress. I said to S.McC., "You are a bastard, a liar". Alan Ker had also come in and he told S.McC. that he was charging his wife with corruption. He said she was a pure woman.

They all left and Alan Ker and his wife went out expecting me to follow to get the charter flight.

On the way out Mrs Ker was called a demon and they were told they could sit on the street all night.

Alan Ker waited 1½ hours for me to come out, then they left to go to a hotel. The reason I could not come out was that two brothers would not let me out of the room. This lasted for 1½ to 2 hours when there came a knock and the doctor came in.

The doctor gave me some injections as he had been doing and then said, you are going home because you are sick? I said no I am not sick and asked him if he knew what was going on in this house. He said no, so I said I would not spread evil by telling him.

The host came in with some pills and I asked where Alan Ker was, and he said he did not know. He said James 3 was coming. Soon James 3 came and I asked why he came because I was to meet him at London airport.

-James Taylor Jnr

The events following the Aberdeen Incident were to polarize the Exclusive Brethren in a way that was unique. Never before, in a history beset with splits, factions and turmoil, had such an issue been so clearly defined. Either you looked at the evidence and listened to the tapes or you chose to accept the outrageous lies that started to be propagated.

Since the notorious Aberdeen weekend in July 1970, there has been no cessation of the way the Taylorite-Hales Exclusive Brethren resort to untruth and misrepresentation, although now they use 'professional' spokesmen like Tony McCorkell. 'The Lie' regarding Aberdeen still haunts the leadership of the Exclusive Brethren. It immediately became a test of fellowship as to whether you

accepted that the 'Man of God' was pure or whether you simply recognized James Taylor Jnr was an out-of-control alcoholic who was abusing his position as leader of the Exclusive Brethren. To this day the Exclusive Brethren attempt to cover up this scandal and by so doing, bury their heads deeper into the sand upon which their 'house' is built.

The tapes speak for themselves with the slurred voice of an alcoholic and the repeated and intentional blasphemy is demonstration enough of spoken evil. The sheer audacity of those that chose to cover up the Aberdeen Incident still has repercussions so many years later.

A disbelieving Press were brought in by JT Jnr and his henchmen, desperate to regain control. Today, as we view the headlines and look at the images, it is almost breathtaking to consider the heartbreak and heartache caused by the power-hungry leadership in ripping apart so many lives.



J.A.G., Bob Gardiner, JT Jnr and JT III left us about 5.30 a.m. on Lord's day and I saw nothing but kindness and concern shown JT Jnr at that time. JT Jnr's ticket for America couldn't be found and Bob Gardiner called at Perth on the way to Glasgow to get 150 pounds which he gave to James Taylor III for JT Jnr's fare. J.A.G. drove the car and as he had had practically no sleep on the previous days it all added up to a great deal of self sacrifice which puts the lie to plots, hostility to the servant, and other things that have been suggested.

(The days are passing, dear brother, and I will have to wind this up and write more later.) From then on divine principles were set aside by JT Jnr and those with him. Even if our witness has been false, it should have been looked into on the basis of Deuteronomy. 19:15-19. See J.T Snr's ministry on this.

What my wife and I could scarcely credit was JT Jnr telling lies about it all. He said she was not in the bed, see the letter to Miss Hindle, and he said the same thing on Tuesday after to brothers in Britain who enquired by phone. Indeed she said that to us and told brethren this side at the same time, that not only was she in bed with him but she was naked. Finally JT Jnr admitted she was in bed

but said she was clothed. There was a definite attempt to get rid of witness, this can be proven.

In Falkirk here, various charges were pressed against me despite the fact that I was not at the stage talking, and publicly stated I left the matter to New York. An issue was finally forced by Robert Gibb, stating that James Gardner's house and those who had been in it were leprous and refused to accept the Aberdeen judgement in assembly on the Tuesday night clearing him of this charge so that we had to withdraw from him.

All over Britain, "take a sister as wife." "Abishag." and similar scriptures were used to justify this conduct. You probably know the sequence, JT Jnr named James Gardner's house leprous on the Tuesday, and on Wednesday or Thursday named Aberdeen and area leprous, and told Robert Gibb to set up a table, withdrew from A. B. Parker for being in contact with Aberdeen, who he said were out of fellowship. A few weeks later, New York. The details are again condemnatory. All can be proved. Because Bill Peterson tried to raise it on the Saturday meeting he instigated a police charge through N. Walker, stating Bill P. had disrupted a divine service (a criminal offence in N.Y.).

He brought the press and the television into it. (He did that, the Brethren with us never did.) He sent the police to those of us who were in the house. My wife and I were interrogated for one and a half hours by the police here. How shameful it was to have to speak about these things to worldly men. All was an attempt to criminalize us and set aside testimony. He also lied to A.B.P, Mr. Hoyte and Mr. Midgley. This can be proven.

There are so many things. The brethren with us could read anything that came, the others were forced to destroy unread all we wrote, but truth even as to facts can never be permanently hidden, and I am more sorry than I can say to write all of this. It has been a great grief, but read it all as I write it dear brother in the light of the Song of the Bow.

- Ted Steedman

Of course, the cause of this event and now the desperate leader of a much-reduced Exclusive Brethren continued to scabble for a foot-hold and for power. He had just weeks to live.

Stanley McCallum had phoned James Taylor III and told him something then met him at Glasgow and told him some more. James Taylor III actually left the meetings at Farnham because he was told I was sick, senile and did not know what I was doing. Stanley McCallum filled James Taylor III up with this "corruption" as he had charged.

I left the house (A.G.) after asking was he right, his wife, Stanley McCallum. He said yes, but I found out later he meant that Stanley McCallum was right.

As I came out to go with James Taylor III, there was Stanley McCallum., J.L., James Gardner, and a brother called Stephano or such name, about 4 a.m. These were the criminals; they were supposed to have a breaking of bread, but none was held in that house.

The charge made by that bastard Waterfall that I was in bed with another man's wife is a dastardly lie. If I wanted to sleep with another man's wife would I go to Aberdeen – costing \$1,000? Brooklyn would be cheaper. Some brethren have shown themselves to be boobs.

The dear brethren in Detroit have come to a right decision and withdrew from Stanley McCallum, only to be poisoned by A. B. Parker with the lies he got from Aberdeen. I told him I withdrew from him, 2 Timothy 2, because he was associating with persons under discipline (Aberdeen).

- James Taylor Jnr

The Death of James Taylor Junior

The last few weeks of James Taylor Jnr's life were tumultuous. He was a long-time alcoholic and had already been diagnosed as possibly suffering from *alcoholic dementia* by a doctor on the scene in James Gardner's house in Aberdeen. There had been a huge global repercussion to the events of July 1970 and both the infrastructure and the leadership were in tatters.

Many Meeting Rooms were 'lost' to the Exclusive Brethren during this time. In the manner that the Exclusive Brethren act out their major disagreements, many local assemblies required the excommunicated 'withdrawn-from' members physically to vacate the premises. Exclusive Brethren discipline dictates that you *'withdraw from iniquity'*. At the final decision, this requires a physical extraction from those you simply cannot bear being around any more. You - or They - walk.

In many cases it was those who saw through the deceit that stayed in their seats. Those who tried to force the issue were then required to *'Walk'*. The Meeting Rooms were therefore lost to those who tried to enforce the official line that *James Taylor Jnr had done no wrong*.

Today, a repercussion of this event is that every Exclusive Brethren Meeting Room is owned by a Trust. Each Trust document (and Peebs.Net have hundreds) indicates that in the event of another split, the Meeting Room will become the property of the then current 'Elect Vessel'. Today that man is Australian Bruce Hales and his name appears in each such Trust in every Exclusive Brethren Meeting Room world-wide. As the Australian press noted recently, this move makes Bruce Hales one of the largest real estate owners in the world!

But back in August 1970, no such structure existed and the Exclusive Brethren were in deep trouble. With a dramatic indication of his state of mind, James Taylor Jnr wrote to the Stow Hill Bible & Tract Depot in England:

In August 1970 Big Jim, who claimed he had never made a cent out of the Exclusive Brethren, demanded £1 million in royalties from the Stow Hill Depot in England, the company responsible for publishing his manuscripts and tracts. It was the first time that Stow Hill, a charitable institution, had ever received such a request for royalties on ministry.

**- Goodbye Beloved Brethren by Norman Adams
(Page 96)**

With a sign of light showing from under the rubble of 1970, the Trustees of Stowe Depot made the following reply:

[James Taylor Jr.] demanded the money be handed over by September 5th. The Stow Hill trustees sent him a rebuff in rhyme:

*"A million pounds? How blind thou art, deceived ...
What hast thou, thou thyself hast not received?
How wilt thou stand, when in the final count
The Judge demands from thee the full amount?"*

**- Goodbye Beloved Brethren by Norman Adams
(Page 96)**

These words were to become chilling truth on James Taylor Jnr's death bed less than a month later.

Norman Adams mentions one other poignant moment in the short period before the death of James Taylor Jnr:

... "one American source claims that Big Jim was due to appear at a court hearing in New York on October 14th, and that, in fact, he made an attempt to be present. As he was taken downstairs in the lift in his home all he could say was: "Aberdeen ... Aberdeen ... Aberdeen ..." He was then taken back to the living room where he died."

- Goodbye Beloved Brethren by Norman Adams

Hardly surprisingly, there are two 'first-hand' accounts of the final moments of James Taylor Jr. We present both and leave the decision to the reader as to which is more likely.

First, here is the Obituary that appeared in the New York Times on October 17, 1970:

BIG JIM TAYLOR, LEADER OF SECT

'Archangel' of the Brethren Group is dead at 71

Big Jim Taylor, "archangel" of an exclusive and secret religious sect known as The Brethren, died on Wednesday at his home, 470 East 26th Street, Brooklyn. He was 71 years old.

While the family would give out no information, nor even talk to newspaper reporters, it was learned that Mr. Taylor had been in failing health in recent months. Death was attributed to a heart attack.

Mr. Taylor figured in the news in London last July, when he was linked by some of his followers with a 32-year-old mother of four. The incident, in which Mr. Taylor was traced to Scotland, drew headlines and led to a secret "summit" meeting in this city about a month ago, at which 500 persons were present. The purpose, it was said, was to clear the air and to explain the events in Scotland.

Mr. Taylor's death leaves leadership of the religious organization vacant. Until recently it had been believed that Stanley McCullen, a Scotsman residing in Detroit, was the heir apparent. However, it was reported that Mr. McCullen had "disagreed" with Mr. Taylor and so had counted himself out. Mr. McCullen, known in the sect as "Angel," was present at the recent meeting here.

Mr. Taylor, although visibly failing, still made an impressive appearance, packing 200 pounds in a 6-foot frame.

Rules of Sect

One of the beliefs of his sect was that no member should have anything to do with non-Brethren, should not talk to them, do business with them, employ them, or marry them.

That is why Mr. Taylor's reported liaison with a non-Brethren woman was so disturbing to the members.

In their daily life members live plainly without television or radio and decline to answer questions from strangers.

The sect's churches are not listed, the leaders are not named, and their titles are not disclosed.

The sect was started about 1827 in the British Isles, when a minister of the Episcopal Church of North Ireland, John Nelson Darby, formed a religious society that eventually was called The Plymouth Brethren.

This group developed a number of offshoots, all using the term Brethren but varying considerably in their beliefs.

View Based on Epistle

While Mr. Taylor's Brethren are fully as doctrinaire as the other sects, his speeches were regarded as excessively harsh, especially one in which he said members must not associate with anyone who would not keep the Lord's Commandments, "and if this meant divorce, so be it."

He based his view on the Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy, in which Paul wrote, "In a great house there are ... vessels of wood and of earth, and some to honor and some to dishonor; if a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Mr. Taylor was denounced in Parliament in 1964 and by angry British crowds, who charged that his preaching caused, among other events, four suicides, several broken marriages and "untold misery" to many Christians who belong to The Brethren.

When Mr. Taylor left England that year the Daily Mail editorialized:

The harsh tenets of this sect have broken up homes and led to misery and suicide. Now he has gone home. Britain's parting message is: 'Good riddance-- and don't come back.'

It was learned from sources close to the sect that Mr. Taylor is survived by his widow, Irene, two sons and three daughters.

- New York Times, October 17, 1970

There are a number of errors in the above news report:

- The term "archangel" and "angel" is believed to have come from Norman Adam's book - 'Goodbye Beloved Brethren'.
- Stanley 'McCullen' is Stanley McCallum
- The woman was not a "non-Brethren woman" as reported - Madeline Ker was the wife of Alan Ker and they were members of the Exclusive Brethren in UK.
- JND was not an 'Episcopalian', he was in fact an Anglican curate.
- "Secret summit meeting" in August, 1970 probably refer to the many assembly gatherings following the news of the Aberdeen Incident.

The 'official' Exclusive Brethren version of James Taylor Jnr's last moments were described in a letter to a leading UK Brother, A. J. Gardiner:

His final moments will remain most vividly in the hearts of those privileged to see. He appeared strong and expectant as he suddenly looked upward, his face and eyes shining and his lips forming the words -- though inaudibly -- 'I am coming'.

He lingered for a few minutes his breathing at first becoming very strong and rapid and then becoming quiet, the Lord gently taking him to Himself at about 3:15 p.m."

- James Taylor III (son of J.T. Jr.)

But a Taylor family member, present at the death bed, wrote later of a vastly different scene and one that manages to chill to the marrow when remembering the Stow Hill Depot retort to his request for £1 million in royalties only a few days earlier:

"He was not at peace, despite what others may have said, or what has been circulated in letters to inform others of his death.

"My own recollection is that he was disturbed, especially with Renee, and he distinctly told her, "Get out of here woman, you were never with me".

"He was quieter for some moments, then just before he died there came upon him an almost indescribable horror, the expression on his face was one of abject terror. He opened his mouth to speak, however he did not actually say anything, his breathing very laboured, and erratic. It was in this state that he died.

"It was clear to all present that something was revealed to Jim that caused such terror. Only he and the Lord know what it was. There was some discussion among those present later as to what would be released as to the circumstances of his passing, however I did not remain in the room to find out the extent of those discussions. The truth is that I was in some emotional turmoil as I had been deeply affected inwardly by what I had witnessed. To this day I have sought to understand, but have accepted that the Lord has His own counsel, and will reveal what is His pleasure in His own time.

"It has been said that Jim opened his eyes, and with obvious joy said, "I am coming". This was certainly not the truth. It is one among many lies that have been told to the shame of my family, and others who are supportive of the family. There are monetary, social, and control issues as you are only too well aware of that surround the Taylor system, as it is so called. We are brought uncomfortably close to it by familial relations, and yet we are delivered morally from its associations, thanks be to God."

- a member of the Taylor family, present at time of death.



It has been said by some that the very soul of the Exclusive Brethren died during those few short turbulent weeks leading up to the death of James Taylor Junior in late 1970. Certainly, it is true to state that the early Plymouth Brethren would not recognize the Exclusive Brethren of the 21st century.

Many believe that it was at this time that the modern-day cult known as the Exclusive Brethren truly began ...

... their Christian Heritage traded for a Lie.