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WASHINGTON, D. C.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

12 March 1932

REFER TO FILE

EN23/H5(14)(1)

Inclosures. 2.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of 25 February, 1932, containing questions on the continuity of the weekly cycle is at hand.

As to Question (1) - I can only state that in connection with the proposed simplification of the calendar, we have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt about the continuity of the weekly cycle since long before the Christian era.

As to Question (2) - There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week.

As to Question (3) - The answer is implied in the answer given to question (1).

Through the courtesy of the Superintendent, Captain Hellweg, I am inclosing an article on Calendar Reform, published by Admiral Upham, that might be of interest to you.

I am also returning your very interesting debate with Mr. Eastman. It was very considerate of you, for which, I thank you.

Sincerely yours,

James Robertson

James Robertson,
Director American Ephemeris.

Mr. F.D. Nichol,
The Advent Review & Sabbath Herald,
Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Francis D. Nichol, Reasons for Our Faith (Washington, D.C.:
Review & Herald Publishing Assn., 1947), pp. 301-302; 305-306.



Royal Observatory, Greenwich,

London, S.E.10.

4th.March, 1932.

F.D.Nichol Esq.,
The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald,
Takoma Park,
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

As far as I know, in the various changes of the Calendar there has been no change in the seven day rota of the week, which has come down from very early times. There have been attempts in the French revolution and in Russia to alter this cycle.

In the "Nautical Almanac" for 1931, p.740, in the last paragraph, a very learned chronologist, Dr.Potheringham, states - "When we come upon clear evidence, the period of seven days was reckoned independently of the month and in fact of all astronomical periods. From the Jewish Church it passed into the Christian Church".

You will see from this statement that no astronomical evidence connected with seven day period can be given.

Yours faithfully,

F.W. Dyson

Astronomer Royal.

JANUARY

Su.	Mo.	Tu.	We.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FEBRUARY

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MARCH

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

APRIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

MAY

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	—	—
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JUNE

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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JULY

Su.	Mo.	Tu.	We.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	—	—	—	—
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AUGUST

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26	27	28	29	30	31	—
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SEPTEMBER

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	—	—	—	—	—	—

OCTOBER

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

NOVEMBER

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28	29	30	—	—	—	—
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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

Su.	Mo.	Tu.	We.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.
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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	—	—	—	—
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JULY

Su.	Mo.	Tu.	We.	Th.	Fr.	Sa.
—	—	—	1	2	3	4
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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

—	—	—	1	2	3	4
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26	27	28	29	30	—	—
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DECEMBER

—	—	—	—	—	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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