

World-Wide Church Meet to Lay Base for Cooperative Programs

BORGE W. CORNELL
The Associated Press

WORK — Churches to be approaching a major study of contemporary affairs in St. Louis.

Preparations are going on for the assembly. Special duties are being assigned to members of the World Council of Churches still in five cities, but already a great advance activity has been made.

Assembly will be one of the most important Christian gatherings in 1954, said P. Van Dusen, president of the Union Theological Seminary, head of a U. S. assembly committee.

U. S. interdenominational gathering, in Evanston, Ill., the first ever held in the city.

will be the first general assembly of the International Christian Council — founded six years ago — now including 161 Protestant and Orthodox churches with 170 million followers.

of views, stemming from different ecclesiastical, political and economic backgrounds, are being represented — giving to the assembly the explosive potential of a religious "United Nations" meeting.

Leaders are shuttling back and forth across the Atlantic, attending conferences and setting the agenda.

LITERATURE

governing program" faces a visit here from head of the council executive secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, who is expected to arrive here and already are turning out thousands of documents for the assembly.

of "study literature" to thousands of local churches throughout the United States and elsewhere, to acquaint them with the issues.

Even simplified child material on the subject, stories and for use in Sunday schools, church social associations, church and theological schools and theological institutes, are being prepared.

and lectures on assembly topics. In St. Louis, for example, where a broad program of pre-assembly study discussions has been mapped, Dr. O. Waldrer Wagner, executive director of the Metropolitan Church Federation, said:

NEW APPRECIATION

"Out of the common study, I anticipate a new appreciation for the cooperative program of the world's churches."

Twelve Bible schools and seminaries in the Chicago area have scheduled "ecumenical institutes" on six campuses just prior to the assembly.

The word "ecumenical" itself — once confined to theological vocabularies — is fast becoming widely familiar to church-goers as a term denoting interdenominational cooperation.

The assembly poses some acid

tests for such cooperation. Questions, which can mean either a more divided or more close-knit pattern of Christianity, are up for decision. Some of them:

ASSEMBLY'S THEME

Are the various faiths, including denominations in 48 countries, seeking the same objectives in society?

Do they see their duties in sufficiently similar light to support each other? Are their religious values compatible?

Can they agree to work together effectively for specific, significant goals?

Theme for the assembly is: "Christ—the hope of the world." But even this general heading couches possible clashes of interpretation, depending on whether Christian "hope" is focused chief-

ly on the hereafter, or in making Christ's will more effective on earth.

Sub-themes include such deep-rooted problems as church unity, racial tensions and Christian conduct in vocations and society.

The assembly also raises such ticklish questions as the admission of delegates from iron-curtain satellites.

"MODERNISTS"

"It is possible," said Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the council's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, "that a quite limited number of people will become publicly critical of any move to admit to the United States Christians from behind the Iron Curtain."

"In that eventuality, enlightened public opinion must make itself heard and felt. It is imperative that these delegates be admitted."

Criticism already has come from the Rev. Carl McIntire, of Collingswood, N. J., president of the International Council of Christian Churches, a body of relatively small, newer denominations.

McIntire, who contends the larger churches are "modernists" promoting Marxism and trying to "undermine our free economic order," has written President Eisenhower, urging that the Iron Curtain delegates be banned.

"If our government admits these Communists and Communist propagandists to the United States, you, as our president, and the Republican Party, the party in power, will be responsible," he said.

SPECIAL CHALLENGE

In Chicago, the Cook County Council of the American Legion also has urged that certain religious leaders it terms "antagonistic to capitalism" be barred.

The world council includes all of the larger Christian bodies, except for the Russian Orthodox, Southern Baptists, Missouri-Synod Lutherans and Roman Catholics. The latter three may send observers.

Uranium Claims Filed in Oregon

ONTARIO — Five claims on government land believed to contain uranium deposits have been filed in the Malheur County clerk's office.

Louis Hall, former Ontario motor company employe, and his partner, Dormond Wise, filed the claims Thursday morning. They said tests indicate the presence of radio-active material in the Sand Hill area on the Harper Basin road.

Judges Hold Secret Session

SALEM — A 10-day secret hearing, conducted by three circuit judges, ended here this week, with the judges refusing to say what it was all about.

The three judges were asked by Chief Justice Earl C. Latourette to hear the case, which reportedly involves a brilliant law school graduate who was denied

permission to practice law because of a morals charge against him.

The hearing, only one of its kind ever held in this area, opened March 8, and a steady stream of witnesses went into the courtroom.

The three judges are Rex Kimmel, Salem; William G. East, Eugene; and Arlie Walker, McMinnville.

They said they would make their report to the Supreme Court.

Judge Walker said the proceedings were secret because publicity would damage the person involved.

Prince Postpones Visit to Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD — Actress Gene Tierney said Saturday Prince Aly Khan has postponed his visit to movietown until sometime in April.

"He will not be over now until after the film festival in Cannes," Miss Tierney said.

She refused comment on reports the prince delayed his trip because he and his ex-wife, Rita Hayworth, couldn't agree on a property settlement for their daughter, Yasmine, which was to be signed by him in Las Vegas, Nev.

Earth's Climatic Changes Described in New Book

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, Extension Division Oregon Higher Education System

Fresh off the Harvard University press at Cambridge, Mass., comes a new book, Climatic Change. It consists of 22 interesting chapters, written by as many scientists, each a noted authority in his ("her," in one case) field.

Many evidences show us that our old earth during the past two billion years has undergone many climatic changes. At times, the Arctic regions for long periods were so warm that life such as we know in the temperate zones existed there. Later — and with many repetitions — huge ice sheets (glaciers) covered large sections of the earth's surface which we now know as land areas. Glaciers are still known in some parts of the world, but we are not at present in an ice age. The end of the most recent major glacial period is placed at about 8500 B.C., by one of the authors.

CLUES TO CHANGES

How do we know these past changes of climate? One chapter of this interesting book discusses the soil changes due to climate. Fairly recent changes are deter-

mined from the inspection of the annual growth of the rings in trees. The study of fossils, those buried remnants of life extending back into millions of years ago, are splendid indicators of ancient climates. Land plants — and they have been on earth for more than a billion years — are the very best sources of information of changing conditions.

Since it is abundantly established that terrestrial climate has gone through many ice ages and periods of unusual warmth, we naturally ask, "What has been the cause of all this?" The general consensus of the authors is that it was due to changes in the radiation received from the sun along with fluctuations in land elevations.

Now what can cause an increase about once every quarter billion years in solar heat received? Some blame it on changes in the shape of the earth's orbit and the inclinations of the earth's poles to the plane of its orbit. Spots on the sun are known to have effect, even at the present time. There are clouds of dust and gas in interstellar space. One writer estimates that the sun and its planets have several times passed through such clouds with resulting changes in the solar heat reaching the earth. Huge amounts of dust thrown up by major volcanic eruptions also have a marked effect.

GETTING WARMER

It is known that minor temperature changes take place during the 11-year cycle of sunspot activity. The Dakotas and Montana in January average seven to eight degrees colder during maxima than during minima. Records indicate that there have been general rising average temperatures the past two centuries.

We are now about two-thirds along from a maximum to minimum glaciation. There is a recession of glaciation all over the world.

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