

# Southerners Oppose Merger of Presbyterian Church

## Sparkman Holding Chiang to 'Promise'

**By ROWLAND EVANS JR.**  
Of The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Sparkman (D-Ala.) said Thursday there is no way to spell out "100 per cent insurance" that Chiang Kai-shek will not seek to involve this country in war by provoking a Communist attack, but that he regards a note signed Dec. 10 as a "promise" from Chiang.

He referred to a note signed by Secretary of State Dulles and Chinese Nationalist Premier George K. C. Yeh, pledging the United States and Chiang's forces not to launch in the Formosa area without "joint agreement" any military actions not strictly self-defensive.

### BEST GUARANTEE POSSIBLE

The note was signed eight days after the new U.S.-Formosa Mutual Defense Treaty. Sparkman said he regards it as the best guarantee possible that the pact would not involve this nation in a war over Formosa, the island 100 miles off China which constitutes most of Chiang's Republic of China.

Sparkman commented in an interview in advance of a closed-door session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee called to hear a briefing on the world situation by Dulles.

It was Dulles' first date with a Democratic-controlled congressional group, but Sparkman, a member, said the secretary would get "a friendlier reception than he's been getting in the past from a Republican-controlled committee."

### 'COMMON DANGER'

The U.S.-Formosa treaty commits this country to "act to meet the common danger" in the event of any armed attack on Formosa or the nearby Pescadore Islands and to recognize such an attack as dangerous to U.S. peace and safety.

The actual language of the note signed by Dulles and Yeh was not made public at the time of its signing, but it has been furnished to the Senate for use in connection with its consideration of the treaty.

## Americans To Remain In Hungary

WASHINGTON (AP)—Noel Field has notified the State Department he and his wife have decided to forsake the United States and remain in Communist Hungary, which imprisoned them for five years.

Field's decision, not unexpected by the State Department, was relayed in a handwritten letter received Tuesday at Budapest by U.S. Minister Christian M. Ravnald. The letter was disclosed Wednesday night by Department Press Officer Henry Suydam.

But officials fully expect Noel's brother Hermann to come home again. Hermann, 44, was freed by Communist Poland late in October. He too had served five years in a Red prison. He was issued a U.S. passport and is recuperating in Switzerland. A Cleveland architect, he ran afoul of the Communists in Warsaw while searching for his brother.

Noel, 50, is a controversial figure on both sides of the Iron Curtain. He has been accused by the Reds of being a spy and in Washington hearings as being a consort of Communists.

Reds in Eastern Europe accused Noel of being an American agent, but these charges were washed out when he and his wife Herta were freed last Nov. 17.

Suydam said Field's letter confirmed the Christmastime reports that he had been granted political asylum in Hungary at his request.

## Meat Inspection Sought in State

SALEM (AP)—Compulsory state meat inspection is sought in a bill to be introduced by Sens. W. Lowell Steen, Milton-Freewater, and Mark Hatfield, Salem.

Steen said Oregon had 133 slaughtering plants which aren't under federal inspection.

The bill calls for a \$400,000 appropriation.

Steen said that some plants "are turning out products from meat which should be condemned, rather than directed into trade channels for human consumption."

## Lawmakers to Seek Higher Betting Tax

SALEM (AP)—Increased state taxes on pari-mutuel betting will be proposed by Rep. Richard F. Groener, Milwaukie, he announced Thursday.

The average tax in Oregon is 4.9 per cent, he said, and he would raise this to 6 per cent.

Oregon's tax is 3 per cent of the first \$66,000 of the daily pari-mutuel handle, 4 per cent up to \$133,000, 5 per cent up to \$200,000, and 6 per cent over \$200,000.

Groener said the average tax is 5.1 per cent in Washington, 5.6 in California, and 8.5 in Florida.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The chances of a merger of the three United States branches of the Presbyterian Church appeared somewhat dim Thursday as the result of opposition from Southern presbyteries.

The union would unite the three groups now in the process of voting on the proposal, the United Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the Presbyterian Church in the United States Southern. They have a combined membership of about 3½ million.

### Gauges Installed

CORVALLIS (AP)—Four precipitation storage gauges have been installed on Mary's Peak by Russell L. Lincoln and John A. Day, Oregon State College meteorologists.

The scientists said the gauges were large enough to measure an entire year's snow and rainfall. They will be used to estimate water available for the Corvallis reservoir and summer irrigation, and to predict spring floods. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers supplies the devices.

Unanimous approval of the three is necessary.

Thirteen Southern presbyteries have voted on the issue and 12 have opposed it. A three-quarters majority of the 84 presbyteries in the Southern branch is necessary for the group's approval.

Only ten more negative votes are thus needed among the Southern presbyteries to kill the plan and one of their leaders said Saturday, "We'll get those in the next two weeks."

### 12 OF 13 OPPOSED

The statement was made by Dr. Henry B. Dendy, secretary of the Association for the Preservation and Continuation of the Southern Presbyterian Church. Dr. Dendy, who is also editor of the Southern Presbyterian Journal, in Weaverville, N. C., predicted there would be twice as many antunion votes as were needed.

Most presbyteries of the 720,000-member Southern church, with headquarters at Atlanta, will vote Jan. 18, 19 and 25 and a few will ballot in February.

The only Southern group to vote for the merger is the Texas Mexican presbytery, whose congregations, consisting mainly of Mexican people, are scattered through Texas.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, Dr. Walton Rankin, publicity manager of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., said 40 out of 256 presbyteries of his branch had voted for union. He said he has received no reports of any presbyteries in his branch that voted against the proposal.

The branch has about 2½ million members.

The third group, the United Presbyterian Church, is scheduled to begin voting Friday in Pittsburgh, where it has its headquarters. This group, whose roots go back to Scotland in the 18th century, has 51 presbyteries with about 220,000 members, mostly in Pennsylvania and the Middle West. The results of its vote will not be known until April.

SEPARATED IN 1860

The United Presbyterian Church was not originally related to the other two branches.

The Southern branch and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. separated in 1860 as a result of the Civil War. Dr. Rankin said the basic cause for the

division was over the slavery issue.

If the union proposal should be approved by all three branches, a meeting would be held in 1956 to form a united church.

### MEXICAN VOTE FAVORABLE

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