

# Final Decision Due On Church Merger

## Two Major Groups Will Decide Next Week

By GEORGE W. CORNELL  
NEW YORK (AP)—Two major Protestant denominations today are on the way toward carving a new frontier of church unity.

Their projected merger, up for a final decision next week, would be the first fusion in America of two such historically separate Christian bodies.

Involved are: The Congregational Christian Churches, with a membership of 1,342,045 and a background stemming from the Anglican Church of England and the early American Pilgrims.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church, with a membership of 775,000, and the outgrowth of distinctive German and Swiss theological and national heritage.

Under the proposal, the two would become the United Church of Christ.

Among Congregational Christian churches, there have been minority rumblings of protest during the years the plan has been developing, and threats by some individual churches to quit the denomination.

Final action is due at a meeting of the church's General Council, its central body, in Omaha, Neb., June 20-27. Approval of the plan would mean a rare feat in bringing separate denominations together.

Over the past half century, there have been numerous church consolidations in this country. They have amounted to reunions or closings of ties between historically related bodies.

But as for the new union, Dr. Truman B. Douglass, a Congregational Christian executive, says: "The union to which we are committed will be for American Protestantism the crossing of a divide which it has not previously surmounted and will open a vast new prospect before all denominations."

"We are achieving a union for the first time in this country across the family lines that have conventionally marked off the main groupings of Protestantism."

Organizations vary. Not only do the two denominations differ in origin and cultural lineage, but their organizational structures vary, at least in theory and tradition. The proposed union promises survival to both.

The Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner of Philadelphia, president of the

Evangelical and Reformed Church said the plan aims at "conserving the values of both" denominations.

The plan provides that the new church's constitution will "define and regulate" the church's national body, its general synod, but only "describe the free and voluntary relationships" of individual churches to denominational agencies.

Some Congregational Christians have strongly opposed the plan, claiming it would jeopardize past congregational freedom. The dispute was in New York courts for five years before opponents finally lost their case.

A big majority of Congregational Christian churches—3,114 of them—voted in favor of the union in a 1949 poll, while 1,165 voted against it.

This year, although there was no individual church count, all but one (Utah) of the denomination's 34 representative regional conferences voted approval of the union or took a neutral stand.

As for possible withdrawals, only 11 churches have taken definite action, saying they will walk out if the merger goes through.

## Vets Reminded Of State Aid

Oregon war veterans returning to summer school this week and next were reminded today of their possible entitlement to state educational aid benefits.

Raymond E. Pettey, educational officer for the state department of veterans affairs, said eligible veterans should apply for their state benefits when they register in school.

Pettey also warned World War II veterans that December 31 is the last day they may start schooling under the state program. There is no deadline for Korean veterans.

Application for state aid may be made at the school, through county veterans' service officers, or from the state veterans' department, the administering agency, at state finance building, Salem, or state office building, Portland.

Veterans must have been Oregon residents for one year immediately prior to their service during World War II or the Korean conflict. Korean veterans must have served in the Korean theater.

PINEAU HEADS FOR U. S. PARIS (AP)—French Foreign Minister Pineau will leave Thursday night by plane for the United States for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Dulles.

## 'Coffee Time' Tickets Presented



Governor Elmo Smith got the only free tickets to "Coffee Time," variety show for the Oregon State Employees Assn., Tuesday when a delegation of state workers called on him. The show is scheduled Friday and Saturday nights at North Salem high auditorium at 8 p.m. Left to right are Gov. Smith, Director Frank Hutchinson; business manager Hale Welch and general chairman George Van Dusen.

## Attorney Hits 23 Day Delay In Reinstatement of Employee

Commission Action May Come Next Week, Hill Told

Action by the State Industrial Accident commission concerning the reinstatement of Clyde Hill, recently discharged for what was termed as insubordination, has been deferred until next week, the commission reported Tuesday.

The postponement of action until next week brought a prompt retort from Hill's attorney Ralph Wycoff, who said Tuesday he intended to bring suit against the commission unless it "took action" soon on the civil service commission's recommendation that Hill be rehired.

Wycoff pointed out that it has been 23 days since the civil service commission, in a hearing May 23, reinstated Hill to the civil service rules. The commission must now either give Hill his job back or rule that he has lost it for good. Wycoff claims they are stalling.

Hill, a resident of Noti, was discharged April 26 from his job as a safety inspector with the accident commission. He then appealed to the state civil service commission from the discharge order.

He had been employed as an inspector for six years. He now holds a temporary private job. One member of the accident commission said he wanted to read the full transcript of testimony at the hearing before reaching a decision.

## PGE Seeking Bill Hearing

PORTLAND (AP)—Senate hearings on an amendment to a bill which would ban construction of Pelton Dam were demanded Tuesday by Portland General Electric Co.

The amendment to Senate Bill 863 would have the same effect as a bill introduced by Oregon's Democratic Sens. Neuberger and Morse, said Thomas W. Deitzel, chairman of the PGE board.

Deitzel said his firm had been promised hearings on the Morse-Neuberger bill. In view of this, he said, the Neuberger amendment to the other bill, also should be the subject of hearings.

He said PGE had spent more than ten million dollars on the Central Oregon hydroelectric project which it was licensed to build by the Federal Power Commission. In addition, he said, PGE has made firm commitments totalling 13 million dollars.

Cancellation of the firm's license, which Neuberger is seeking, would be a repudiation of a federal commitment, the PGE executive said. Deitzel said this would be unconstitutional or at least a violation of the Federal Power Act.

## Hanging Baskets Oregon City Plan

OREGON CITY (AP)—Flower baskets are being hung from street light poles in a trial of them as a decoration here.

The project is sponsored by the Oregon City Chamber of Commerce with the town's garden club furnishing the plants.

## RUSS PLAN BIG TV TOWER

LONDON (AP)—Moscow Radio said Wednesday Soviet authorities plan to build a television transmission aerial taller than New York's Empire State building. The tower is scheduled to be completed in Moscow next year.

## Wheat League Promotion Due For Japanese

PORTLAND (AP)—The Oregon Wheat Growers League announced Tuesday it has signed contracts with Japanese groups for a \$360,000 promotion and education program.

The program calls for home economists and mobile kitchens to travel throughout Japan to educate housewives in the preparation of wheat foods. Bakers and extension workers also are to be trained in the use of wheat as food.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture allocated the funds for the program from Japanese currency received by the department for wheat sold in Japan.

The program will be directed in Tokyo by Joe Spiruta, Wheat League analyst from Pendleton.

## Wallace Loses Pearson Suit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Low Wallace's quarter million dollar libel suit against columnist Drew Pearson, was dismissed Monday by U. S. District Judge Dickinson Letts.

Wallace, a Portland politician, filed the suit after Pearson said in his column that Wallace had urged President Eisenhower to "exert pressure" on then Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay to award mining patents to the owners of the Al Sarena Mines Inc.

The patents are for property in Oregon's Rogue River National Forest. Democrats contend that the firm sought the patents for the timber, not the minerals.

Wallace said that Pearson's statement was meant to convey the impression that he was guilty of conduct "unbecoming a person who has held public office in the past."

Judge Letts ruled that the complaint failed to state a legal claim.

## New Bridge Planned

PORTLAND (AP)—Bids will be accepted until June 26 for construction of a 75-foot concrete and wood bridge across Staley Creek, 2 1/2 miles south of Oakridge in Lake County.

The Bureau of Public Roads will handle the contract.

## Civil Defense Alert Planned July 20 to 26

### Attack Will Pass by Marion County in Mock Practice

When a hypothetical enemy attacks the 46 states in a nationwide Civil Defense alert July 20 to July 26 Marion county will have no rushing ambulances, mobilization of troops or jets buzzing overhead.

The enemy attack will be directed against Portland and the general pattern in Oregon will be to provide simulated care and housing for evacuees from Portland and to also provide support for that city after the hypothetical attack.

County and city participation in the nationwide "Operation Alert" will be only on July 20 and the test period for Marion county civil defense unit will be from whenever the first test alert is sounded until 7 o'clock in the evening. Hub of the county network will be the courthouse.

In the operation there is to be hypothetical air and submarine attacks made simultaneously against 76 areas in the United States. In the Pacific Northwest there will be theoretical air attacks made by hostile bombers carrying atomic and hydrogen bombs and high explosive and incendiary bombs. Enemy submarines may also launch guided missiles against areas within their range.

The operation will be conducted as a war game with civil defense agencies of the 46 states and the federal civil defense agency, armed forces and other federal groups all participating.

The reports said the talks will "weigh the possibility of concluding a neutralist pact embracing India, Burma, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Syria."

They added that such a pact would be the "seed of a third global neutralism force which would freeze the present balance of power between both the Western and Communist blocs in a way that eliminates war possibilities."

## Plywood Plant at Coos Bay Starts

COOS BAY (AP)—The Coos Head Timber Co. plywood plant will go into production at Bay City on Isthmus Slough next Monday.

The plant will employ about 75 men at first. This number is expected to be doubled when the mill reaches full production of four million square feet a month.

## Nehru Will Visit Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Damascus newspapers said Wednesday India's Prime Minister Nehru and Syrian officials will discuss possibilities of a five-nation neutralist pact when Nehru visits Syria next week.

The reports said the talks will "weigh the possibility of concluding a neutralist pact embracing India, Burma, Egypt, Yugoslavia and Syria."

They added that such a pact would be the "seed of a third global neutralism force which would freeze the present balance of power between both the Western and Communist blocs in a way that eliminates war possibilities."

## 800 Complete YM Swimming

Thursday Night Award Session Planned by Instructors

One of the most successful last year swim campaigns in the history of the Salem Y.M.C.A. has been concluded and youngsters who passed the final test will receive their certificates during a ceremonial to be held at 7:30 Thursday night.

More than 350 boys and girls, out of a total of 800 who registered for the campaign were successful in passing the final tests. However, approximately 250 did not face the examinations.

One of the more difficult tests was that of diving into the deep end of the pool and swimming 60 feet. Sixty seven passed this test. Thirty seven others were successful in a deep water plunge and a 30-foot swim. Ninety seven passed the 20-foot test.

One hundred and sixty four were given prone floating awards—a test that called for remaining afloat face down for five seconds.

Both Dale Dykman, physical director and General Secretary Gus

## Everts Officers in Pollution Council

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—The Pacific Northwest Pollution Control Council Tuesday elected E. F. Eldridge, Washington State Pollution Commission chairman, as chairman of the regional group.

Named to serve with Eldridge were C. F. Everts, Oregon sanitary engineer, vice chairman; and H. C. Clare, senior sanitary engineer for the U.S. Public Health Service, Portland, secretary.

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