

Four-Way Protestant Church Merger Plan Receives Warm Reception

Others Would Be Invited To Join New Body

San Francisco—UPI—A bold proposal to unite four of the nation's largest Protestant bodies was warmly received by church leaders today.

The four-way merger, which would create an 18 million member "reformed and catholic church" was proposed here Sunday by the Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

It would bring together the United Presbyterian Church, the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, and the United Church of Christ. The latter is itself the product of a recent merger of the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed churches.

To Invite Others

Other Protestant denominations would be invited to join the new body once a detailed plan of union has been worked out.

Dr. Blake's surprise proposal created great excitement among the 3,000 church leaders from all parts of the nation who are assembled here for the triennial general assembly of the National Council of Churches. The national council is composed of 33 major Protestant and Orthodox denominations, including the four involved in the proposed merger.

The Most Rev. Arthur H. Lichtenberger, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church, said "this is a most important proposal and I am sure Episcopalians will study it very seriously."

Pike Endorses Proposal

The Right Rev. James A. Pike, Episcopal bishop of California, called it "the most sound and inspiring proposal for church unity in history" and said he will work vigorously for its acceptance.

Methodist Bishop John Wesley Lord, of Washington, D.C., said the plan is "worthy of deep and serious thought." He said that Methodists are



MERGER PROPOSED—Dr. Eugene C. Blake, center, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian church of the United States, and the Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of California, approach the pulpit of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco from which Dr. Blake proposed the merger of four of the Protestant denominations in the United States. Dr. Blake is in San Francisco with the leaders of many denominations for the Triennial meeting of the National Council of Churches. (UPI Telephoto)

interested in any move that will heal denominational divisions.

The Revs. James E. Wagner and Fred Hoskins, co-presidents of the United Church of Christ, said in a joint statement that the proposal "by its very boldness warrants the grateful consideration of us all."

Speaking As Individuals

Their church is committed to begin unity talks soon with the Disciples of Christ denomination and said it was "regrettable" that the Disciples were not included in the initial merger plans.

Each of the denominational leaders emphasized that he was speaking as an individual and that an official stand on the merger could be taken only by the appropriate governing body of the denomination.

Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco—Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, of the United Presbyterian Church, commenting on his own proposal to unite four of the nation's largest Protestant bodies: "We can no longer afford the luxury of our divisions."

Washington—Rep. John A. Blatnik, (D-Minn.), chairman of a House investigating committee charging corruption, graft and incompetence in the nation's highway construction program: "It seems that almost every time we punch through the crust, we find the pudding of either corruption or mismanagement."

London—Dr. Alistair MacKinnon, British medical expert, suggesting a radical alternative for smoking: "For the man over 40 who shouldn't smoke for health reasons I think flirting is a suitable alternative."

Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.—An Air Force official on the explosion of a huge Titan missile: "Just imagine the force of explosion when that beast with 90 tons of fuel in its legs go."

The Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. F. W.—My teenage daughter was out all night with a boy.

Myrna W.—He happened to be a very fine boy and everything's O.K.

Mrs. F. W.—I know that basically Myrna is a good girl with high morals and that makes it all the harder for me to understand why she didn't return from her Senior Prom till the next morning.

She's 17 and we certainly wanted her to take part in all the fun that goes with being a high school senior. Her guest was Allen, a boy she'd been out with only once before. She met him through

one of my friends, so we were not worried. And they were going to stick with two other couples.

Instead, she and Allen broke away from the rest after the dance. They had supper in a night club, a drink somewhere else, and sat around in Allen's car waiting for dawn so they could have breakfast together!

According to Myrna, this is a "must" for seniors. I'm trying to explain to her that she was playing with fire.

Myrna W.—While I enjoyed every minute of the prom and the rest of Senior Night, I wound up feeling a great anger toward my mother. She considered herself very enlightened and advanced, and yet she didn't know a thing about boys, really.

Oh, she had explained sex to me. She made it sound so poetic and so sacred that you could almost hear violins playing whenever she got on the subject. And whenever I was out on one of my few dates alone with a boy, I'd go easy on the necking and make orations about love being lofty, not animal. I echoed my mother.

But Allen opened my eyes. He's a pre-med student and he made things very clear. He told me most girls know how to handle a situation of being next to a man for 12 hours. He asked how come I didn't know what to do.

Well now I know. But why can't mothers prepare girls better?

The Council: No matter how much "know-how" a girl has, no matter how safe she feels in a prolonged tete-a-tete, there's her reputation to consider. Before consenting to other all-night activities with a gentleman friend, Myrna might think of "how it looks."

And then instead of being filled with anger toward her mother for the "gaps" in her instruction, Myrna might be grateful for the emphasis on the positive and radiant aspects of sexual behavior, for the honest information acquired at home. This is unusual. Many parents are either tongue-tied or clumsy on the topic.

But Myrna raises an interesting question, that of preparing young people for dates. We try to prepare them for marriage and parenthood, but we leave them hanging on a ledge during the dating and courtship years when it comes to matters physical.

"Exercise restraint" is the official advice we give young people. Hold back until marriage. But out of the other side of our mouth we're telling them to tease! Myrna and her friends are encouraged to dress and behave seductively. Allen and the boys slick up, tuck a fair-sized bill in their wallets, get hold of a car. Allen calls for Myrna. Add Lover's Lane, moonlight and honeysuckle, soft music, and hours upon hours. Yet "Exercise restraint" is all the grownups offer to complete the picture!

Why do we try so hard, by our movies, plays, TV shows, fashions, books and magazines, to teach young people to inflame each other, and then teach them zero about where to go from there? Mrs. W. and Myrna point to an imbalance in the way we prepare teenagers for boy-girl relationships. (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

Kennedy's Baby Must Gain Weight

Washington—UPI—Ten-day-old John F. Kennedy Jr. will be able to go to Palm Beach, Fla., with his mother next Friday if he gets back up to his birth weight—six pounds and three ounces.

That's the word from his pediatrician, Dr. Edward B. Broocks. The doctor said Sunday that the president-elect's son last weighed in at five pounds, 10 and one-quarter ounces, a normal decline from his weight at birth.

Mrs. Kennedy hopes to take the baby to Florida Friday, but Broocks has not promised her that she will be able to do so. He would like for the baby to gain an ounce a day.

Dr. John W. Walsh, Mrs. Kennedy's obstetrician, reported that she is making a good recovery and would be able to continue her recuperation at the Kennedy home in Palm Beach.

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All Weathervane suits, tailored by Handmacher-Vogel, Inc., world's largest maker of suits, will carry string tags, recommending that the suit be Sanitone Dry Cleaned "to keep the original shape, texture and freshness of the suit."

Mr. Handmacher, company president, said that he decided to use the tags "only after exhaustive tests proved to my complete satisfaction that the Sanitone Process did these things."

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