

Church Conference Shows Impatience With Barriers

San Francisco—UPI—The growing will of American Protestants to batter down the denominational walls which divide them was strongly expressed in the 1960 General Assembly of the National Council of Churches.

The assembly has been in session at San Francisco's Civic Auditorium since last Sunday. The meeting concludes today.

It brought together more than 3,000 church leaders from all parts of the nation. They represented 34 major denominations with 40 million members.

Spirit of Impatience

To a degree that surprised even the most ardent advocates of Christian unity, the assembly was dominated by a spirit of impatience with denominational barriers, a feeling that the time has come for bold and dramatic action to

heal the divisions in the Christian family.

J. Irwin Miller, newly elected president of the National Council, told a news conference that "the most remarkable development at this assembly was the widespread acceptance by the delegates of the urgent necessity of churches coming together in a more than a cooperative sense."

Miller said the emphasis on driving forward toward full, organic unity was "unexpected" by council leaders, and simply welled up "strongly and continuously" from the assembly itself.

It was reflected in a 2,300-word "message to the churches" which was adopted unanimously by the assembly Thursday.

The message scored the "glacial slowness" with which Christian bodies have been

moving toward reunion.

Calling on Christians to confess the "sinfulness" of their present disunity, the message warned that "a divided church cannot proclaim convincingly a gospel of reconciling love."

Should Speed Drive

It said a speeded-up drive for "full, visible unity" should be undertaken now at the "grass roots" level of local congregations.

"We discern a clear call to churches in local communities to closer association and a far larger measure of cooperation and Christian unity," the assembly declared. "Every congregation needs to recognize itself first of all as a part of Christ's universal church and only thereafter as a representative of a particular historic tradition."

PERSONNEL MAN DIES

New York—UPI—Herbert H. Schwamb, 63, former vice president and personnel director of the J. C. Penney Co., died Thursday.

BANKER'S WIDOW DIES

New York—UPI—Mrs. Alice M. Warburg, 86, widow of international banker-philanthropist Max Warburg, died Wednesday.



GREAT ART FORGOTTEN—Rarely photographed Stan Laurel, member of the famous comedy team of Laurel and Hardy, is shown as he visited with English star Frankie Vaughn, right, in Laurel's home at Hollywood, Calif. Laurel, who was born in England, commenting on comedy today, said, "The great art of slapstick comedy has been forgotten. Most comics are ashamed to do it. When they do, they throw it away." (UPI Telephoto)

wood, Calif. Laurel, who was born in England, commenting on comedy today, said, "The great art of slapstick comedy has been forgotten. Most comics are ashamed to do it. When they do, they throw it away." (UPI Telephoto)

The Family Council

Editors 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.

Mabel H.—His ordinary conversation is a string of cuss words.

Thomas H.—What does she want to hear, Mother Goose?

Mabel H.—My husband is a lawyer, but his vocabulary seems to be dwindling to a string of choice one- and two-syllable words that are taboo in polite society. He says he only talks that way when he's angry and if that's the case, Paul Muni wasn't the last angry man. It's Tom.

When I go for a drive with him, I come back a wreck. He has a word for every driver who passes him, and obscene "commands" on where to go and what to do for anyone who blows a horn at him or gets in his way. I'm sensitive to profanity. To me it's blasphemous and sacrilegious. It's bad enough to hear him call strangers things, but once in a while

he'll direct a filthy epithet my way, too. They say names can't break your bones, but they can break your heart all right. I'm afraid he's at a point of no return. By now it's such a habit I don't think he can stop. I can't take a chance visiting our friends with him for fear he'll humiliate them, and me, with his dirty words.

Thomas H.—Mabel is very immature. She likes to think the world is all sweetness and light. She reminds me of those wood nymphs in the legends who go around tooting baby tunes to cheer everybody up. But she doesn't cheer me up. It worries me to see a grown woman so willing to let people walk all over her. Talk about driving, if it were up to her she'd give everyone the right of way. She'd like me to pull over to one side and wait until no one else wanted to use the

road. She calls it politeness. I say it's no guts.

When I was courting Mabel she was a kindergarten teacher and I guess I flowered up my talk for her. But it's about time she admitted that there are some perfectly good Anglo-Saxon words in circulation, with plenty of red-blooded meat on them.

I never swear when I'm at a gathering, except maybe to say hell or damnit. To her those are terrible words!

The Council: It looks as though Tom can stop worrying that Mabel lets people walk all over her. She's holding up the trespassers at last, starting with Tom himself. He should be grateful for being tripped up in time. Speech patterns become automatic and hard to change. And finding relief or gaining attention by cursing can become an insidious habit. Many a man, prominent in public life, has made a boor and an ass of himself through slips of this nature.

So restraint, as urged by Mabel, is very much in order for Tom. The man who indulges in profanity to a tiresome extent reveals several things about himself. He may be a weakling who's fighting with strong language instead of brave ideas or muscles. He may be the victim of an impoverished vocabulary. Or he may simply be shouting out the words he was never allowed to say as a child, releasing his hostility against parents and teachers in general. But he winds up a bore.

For her part, Mabel might try to enjoy and employ a few lively words in conversation with Tom and other adults. Much of the reviving that's done by revivalists is accomplished by words with a bit of fire. There's no point in her standoffish disdain of Tom as a vulgarian. Refined, cultivated people try out a bluishword now and then to add color and expressiveness to their talk.

But we agree with Mabel that Tom's spate of billingsgate is in danger of flooding his talk and, unless checked, his personality. The best place to start building the floodgates is at home, in the presence of a lady who, although his wife, speaks for the civilizing forces outside.

We don't think Tom's tongue will be hurt by his biting it more often! (Copyright 1960, General Features Corp.)

Red Skelton To Undergo Surgery

Hollywood—UPI—Red Skelton, 47, will undergo surgery Monday for correction of a rupture in his diaphragm, the thin partition between the chest and abdomen.

Skelton entered Cedars of Lebanon Hospital last Saturday for a complete check-up because he was feeling fatigued. A hospital spokesman said presence of the hernia was discovered during the examination.

Skelton's hospitalization will not interfere with his regular Tuesday night TV show, according to the Columbia Broadcasting System. Shows have been taped in advance.

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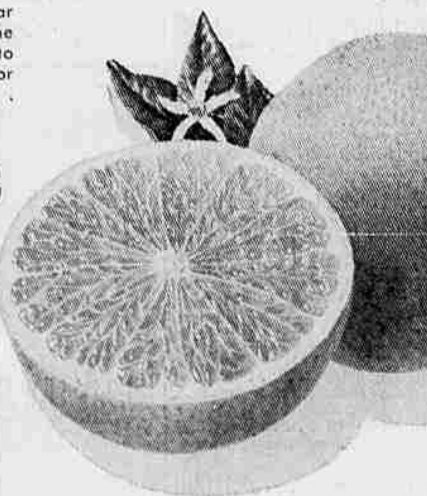


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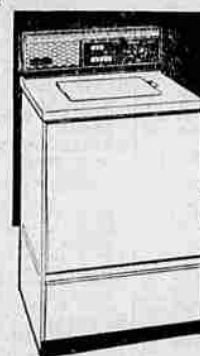
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