

Churches Need To Respond Positively To Civil Rights Challenge

By GERALD S. SNYDER
United Press International

New York (UPI)—Christian churches in America will fail completely in their usefulness if they do not respond positively to the challenge of Negro civil rights, one of the nation's most prominent Protestant churchmen believes.

"If we do not produce massive Christian support for a moral issue that is as clear as this one, the churches will have been revealed to be an

incumbrance on society rather than a source of inspiration and vision," said Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, chief executive officer of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Dr. Blake, who is stated clerk of the 3,249,000-member denomination, was arrested and shuttled off in a police wagon earlier this month as one of a group of white and Negro clergymen who attempted to integrate an all-white amusement park near Baltimore, Md.

"But it will have to be proved," Dr. Blake contended, "that I broke any law."

Two Racial Crisis

There is not one racial crisis in the United States, but two, Dr. Blake believes. "The one everyone is talking about—that the Negro community is through with 'tokenism'—and the crisis within the churches themselves," he said.

That is "whether the Christian churches can persuade the great margin of their constituents that the cause (for racial equality) must be carried out."

For about 20 years, he said, the churches have "said all the right things" about desegregation, but now all Christian churches must "identify themselves" with the plight of the Negro. The emphasis must be on "action against talk," he said.

It remains to be seen, he said, if the rank and file of church membership will fully support the movement for full equality. "The leadership of the oppressed groups almost completely lost confidence in the seriousness of the white leadership," he said.

"Now, the most important thing the churches can do is try to persuade their constituents to negotiate with Negro leaders in order to bring about those changes that will desegregate American life."

When all negotiation fails, he said, "it would appear that the only way to move forward" would be for the clergymen—white and Negro—to stand together in demonstrations.

The real crisis is still to come, he said. "It is more of a national than a sectional problem and in the long run it will be solved in such major cities as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., and San Francisco."

White citizens, he said, have escaped "physically" to the suburbs of these and other cities. "But it is too soon for the Christian churches to find out whether all their constituents are going to escape morally and psychologically."

Part of Religious Culture

The church, by definition, is part of the religious culture of the community—in the suburbs, the city or anywhere else, he said. And ordinary American attitudes affect the suburban churches. But the important question is, he said, "is the church affecting theirs?"

Many people living in segregated, all-white suburban areas would like to think of themselves as being in some kind of "Kingdom of God," he said. But people cannot "isolate" themselves from questions of moral concern by moving to the suburbs, he

said. In the suburbs, they will find no such "kingdom." Just "suburbia," he said.

Dr. Blake is a vice president and acting chairman of the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race which recently blue-printed an "emergency" program to combat racial prejudice.

Adopt Broad Statement

The 32-member commission adopted a broad statement in support of pending civil rights legislation, made plans for a mass religious assembly in Washington and asked denominational boards and agencies to withhold funds from church construction projects which do not follow fair employment practices.

The commission further has asked Congress to oppose a filibuster when projected civil rights legislation reaches the Senate floor and to pass civil rights measures "which will guarantee equal opportunity under the law to all Americans."

Has Dragged Its Feet

Whether any real progress is made, Dr. Blake said, will depend on "the employment of Negroes and their upgrading, the availability of housing at all economic levels, including the elimination of Negro ghettos, the raising of educational opportunities" and, as he said was tried in Baltimore, the elimination of all "affronts to human dignity."

Some people say the church has been dragging its feet on racial matters and others that it has been moving too fast, Dr. Blake said.

"I'm willing to risk a great deal in order to have the church appear to the world to be more consistent," he said.

"A church can be very popular by just doing nothing—it popularity is what you're after." But in the long run, he declared, a church can have no influence if it merely reflects the culture or the ideas of "ordinary people."

One of the many jobs to be done, he said, is the desegregation of the church itself and its institutions, such as hospitals and homes for the aged. Many of these institutions of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches are still segregated," he noted.

"Our whole effort will be a failure unless all white Americans begin to feel that this cause is their cause," he emphasized. "We can't leave it ever to the students or the clergymen."

Dr. Blake said he has received both favorable and unfavorable comment for his participation in the Baltimore demonstration. He admitted that he has been "roundly criticized" by some for his outspoken views and added, "I'm not happy to be an accused law-breaker."

But, he said, "our best, young leadership is really watching the church" to see if it is going to be an intense and strong enough force to deal with the racial and other issues in American life.

He said that to those who have criticized him for the stand he has taken here, his answer has been: "What would you expect a Christian to do?"



ACCEPTED BY COLLEGE—Relaxing in the library of her home in Bethlehem, Pa., Tamar G. Moat, 14, has been accepted by Shimar college, Mt. Carroll, Ill. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grenville T. Moat plans to be a doctor. (UPI)

Country of Origin Stamped on Lumber Has Opposition

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Mail Tribune
Washington Correspondent

Washington—The Senate has adopted one of the major proposals of the domestic lumber industry to aid its competitive battle against Canadian competition—but the prospect of a presidential veto looms large if the bill reaches the White House. Both Sens. Wayne Morse and Maurice B. Neuberger said they supported the proposal to require that all imported lumber be marked with the name of the country of origin. This proposal was adopted as an amendment to a broad bill on the same subject. The amendment was offered for the industry by Sen. Warren G. Magnuson (D-Wash.).

The Kennedy administration is opposed to the legislation just as was the Eisenhower administration. A similar bill, without the lumber rider, was vetoed by President Eisenhower in 1960.

The bill itself is aimed at the practice of importing products in bulk, marked with their country of origin, and then repackaging them in smaller quantities and selling them without identifying their foreign origin. Much of the impetus behind the bill reportedly is from the wood screw industry.

Lumber Rider Rejected

The National Lumber Manufacturers association tried to get the Senate Finance committee to include sawed lumber in the bill's coverage but the committee declined. The committee received opposition reports from a host of government agencies. It rejected the lumber rider but approved the overall bill, 11 to 4.

When Sen. Magnuson offered the lumber rider during Senate debate on the bill, it was adopted without a roll call vote. Since the bill had previously passed the House without including lumber, the Magnuson amendment is subject to approval of a House-Senate conference committee.

Whether the lumber rider survives this conference or not, the bill appears to be headed for a veto from President Kennedy for much the same reason it was not signed into law by Eisenhower. The State Department claims it then, and still claims, it will impede good trade relations.

When Congress enacted a law requiring imports to be stamped with the name of the manufacturing country during the New Deal, it exempted certain products. In the case of lumber, it gave the president discretion over whether to require imported lumber to be stamped. At the time the United States was engaged in trade talks with Canada, and one result was that the U.S. agreed not to require the Canadians to stamp their lumber. So no president has since exercised his discretion to require marking of lumber imports.

The effect of the Magnuson amendment would be to make stamping lumber mandatory. Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.) argued that it would violate the agreement entered into with Canada in 1938.

Neither Oregon senator was enthusiastic about the amendment.

To Seek Relief

Morse said he supported the Magnuson amendment because he hoped it would be helpful to the United States in negotiations with Canada in September on the lumber issue. The talks are supposed to seek some relief for American lumbermen from the impact of rising Canadian imports. Morse suggested that the Magnuson amendment might become a bargaining weapon, that if Canada makes some offer to satisfy some American grievances the U.S. might "modify the effectiveness of the Magnuson amendment."

Mrs. Neuberger said she had promised Magnuson to support it, but she expressed doubt that it would prove

significantly beneficial to the domestic industry.

Magnuson said the opposition to the amendment comes from home builders and retail lumber dealers "because they like to have the lumber mixed, so that the person who comes in to buy will not exactly know where the lumber came from. A good contractor can tell the quality and type of lumber when he knows where it has come from."

An industry spokesman said he thought the amendment would have little benefit for domestic producers so long as Canadian lumber is cheaper because price influences the market much more than where the lumber comes from.

GETS WORK PERMIT—Television actress Abbie Dalton holds her son, Matthew David Smith, 5½ weeks old, as a clerk at the school district office in Los Angeles gives her a city school district work permit for her baby. The baby, her real life son, will play her television son on the Joey Bishop show. The baby will make his television debut as Joey Barnes Jr. Sept. 21. California state law requires that all minor children get a work permit from the local school district before holding a job. (UPI)

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