

New Ag Secretary Needs Tough Skin, Benson Says

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Take it from Ezra T. Benson—a Secretary of Agriculture should have a "thick skin."

"That's what my friends tell me," Benson said at a news conference Tuesday. He had been asked what qualifications America's boss farmer should have.

Benson will leave office with the Eisenhower Administration Jan. 20 after eight years as a cabinet officer. Most of that time he has been criticized by Congress, and beleaguered by farm groups. Many prominent politicians have tried to get him fired.

"I have not been consulted as to my successor," Benson said. "And I presume I will not be. That is not one of my worries."

"Whoever it is, he'll have my sympathy. If he has sound ideas, I'll support him."

Benson appeared glum and lacked his customary bouncy attitude as he conducted one of his last news conferences as secretary.

He said, as he has repeatedly, that he has no interest in another political job. He said he would return "to the work I love," as one of the general authorities of the

Church Group Sees Subordination To The UN

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The country's largest Christian organization says the United States may soon have to subordinate its will to that of the United Nations.

Citizens must be prepared to take it, said a resolution by the triennial general assembly of the National Council of Churches.

Delegates from 33 Protestant and Orthodox denominations urged U. S. support for strengthening the world body as a "power for peace among the nations."

The resolution, approved Tuesday night, hailed the growth of the United Nations from an original 51 member nations to approximately 100 members now, and said this meant a rise in its prestige, and the "extension of democratic processes in the world."

The resolution added "But this very increase of democracy means that the United States may be facing a new experience; it may on some issues find itself outvoted."

"We believe citizens should prepare themselves for such eventualities. It would not then be an undue shock to public opinion, since people would have a more mature view, better able to interpret democracy at work on a world scale, with the benefit as well as the risk that the extension of democracy always entails."

As interest mounted over a proposed merger of four American Protestant churches with about 20 million members, church representatives were urged to back up their prayers for unity with some direct action.

Dr. Truman Douglass of New York, a Congregational Christian official, expressed dissatisfaction with the preliminary draft of the official closing message which the assembly sends out to 40 million church members.

Dr. Douglass, a member of the message committee, said it should put greater stress on church unity.

"Prayers are repeatedly being offered that the Holy Spirit will guide us toward greater unity but these prayers become fraudulent and corrupted if we are not willing to be led," Dr. Douglass said.

A proposal by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Presbyterian leader, for merger of the Methodist, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches and the United Church of Christ within the United States overshadowed the assembly's official business.

The Rev. James I. McCord, president of the Princeton Theological Seminary, told the assembly the Blake plan was a step in the right direction at a time when some severe critics are convinced "we have seen the end of the Protestant era" after enduring four centuries.

Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, president of Union Theological Sem-

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PORTLAND (AP) — Workman Construction Co. of Canby was the low bidder at \$160,430 for construction of a 617-foot-long concrete bridge over the Umpqua River on the Tyee Road, the Bureau of Public Roads announced today.

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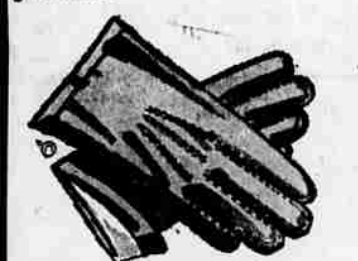
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