

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

house was requested. With 426 favoring, 100 opposing, and 7 abstaining, it was

69-GS-99 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the Proposal for Action: "Amnesty for War Objectors."

The full text of the Proposal is included in the Appendix.

8. Action on a Proposed Resolution: "Gun Control"

Moderator Daniels recognized Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks, Executive Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, who described the process of study and response by which the resolution was developed. Like the Pronouncements and the Proposal for Action, it had been widely distributed and studied, the responses tabulated and analyzed, and had been the the subject of an open hearing conducted by the Report Committee on Sunday, June 29.

Mr. Parkerson moved that the resolution as proposed be adopted, and there was a second.

Minor amendments were offered by Mr. William W. Welch, Jr., of Massachusetts, the Rev. Edward H. Hastings of Washington-North Idaho, and Mr. Earl Cranston of Montana. These were adopted, and as thus amended, it was

69-GS-100 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the resolution on "Gun Control."

The full text of the resolution is included in the Appendix.

9. Reconsideration and Amendment of a Previous Action on the "Crisis in the Nation"

The Moderator recognized Mrs. George E. Kahlenberg who, on behalf of the Executive Council, moved that the action taken on Monday afternoon in VOTE 69-GS-76 be reconsidered in order to propose an amendment. There was unanimous consent to reconsider.

Mrs. Kahlenberg then moved to amend the action as follows:

"in paragraph b. by adding at the end of its first sentence the following words, 'with a minimum guarantee of \$500,000.'

and in paragraph c. by adding at the end the following words, 'with a minimum guarantee of \$600,000.'"

The motion to amend was seconded.

During debate, Mr. Stanley F. Dole of Michigan proposed a substitute for the Executive Council's amendment. It would have guaranteed to the Commission for Racial Justice \$1,000,000 annually in 1970 and 1971, with a recommendation to the Board for Homeland Ministries and the American Missionary Association that any deficiency in receipts by the Commission below \$1,000,000 per annum be made up from funds functioning as endowment held by the American Missionary Association. With a second and being put to a vote, the substitute amendment was lost.

The Rev. Howard E. Spragg, Executive Vice President of the Board for Homeland Ministries, indicated that in view of the demands on the Executive Council and the mood of this General Synod, the Board for Homeland Ministries had taken cognizance of the effect which the proposals for the Commission on Racial Justice would have on the Board and on the American Missionary Association

AMNESTY FOR WAR OBJECTORS

A Proposal for Action adopted by the Seventh General Synod

July 1, 1969

"A proposal is a recommendation for action in a specific situation in application of a pronouncement previously agreed upon by the General Synod."
(67 GS 175)

In the interests of reconciliation and the binding up of wounds, for the sake of our freedoms and to show our high respect for conscience, in the best tradition of a strong and secure democracy, and in the name of Christian love—
We urge the President to grant the earliest possible general amnesty and pardon for those who for actions witnessing to their beliefs have been incarcerated, deprived of the rights of citizenship, or driven into exile during the course of the nation's great agony in the Vietnam war.

We urge these bold actions because this nation needs, and is strong enough to embrace both those who have engaged in the Vietnam conflict and those who have opposed it.

(69 GS 99)

GUN CONTROL

A Resolution adopted by the Seventh General Synod

July 1, 1969

WHEREAS our Christian faith, as well as humane and civic loyalties, constrains us to cherish and to preserve life, to protect the innocent and helpless against assault, to remove needless temptation from potential assassins, and to delegate use of lethal weapons only to legitimate authority for protective or sporting purposes;

Unrestricted personal firearms, which may have played a necessary role in securing the early American frontier, have no such legitimate place in an urbanized nation with public police protection;

The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Second Amendment ("the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed") is to be understood only in relation to "the preservation or efficiency of a well-regulated militia" and not to unregulated private access to firearms;

The United States, one of the few major nations to permit an almost wholly unregulated proliferation of firearms, sustains each year thousands of civilian gun casualties, assaults and armed robberies, with highest rates in those states with the least gun control; and

GUN CONTROL—HOUSING APPROPRIATIONS

Gallup polls have shown that the vast majority of American citizens now favor increased federal gun controls, with stricter legislation commended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Commission, and the General Board of the National Council of Churches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ call upon the United States Congress to pass legislation providing further gun controls along the following lines:

1. The licensing, after appropriate qualifying examination on a periodic basis, of all gun users in order to prevent possession of guns by convicted felons, drug addicts, mental incompetents, and minors; with a ban on the sale of ammunition except to licensed gun users.

2. Limitation of hand guns to persons whose occupation requires them to possess a hand gun for self-protection.

(69 GS 100)

HOUSING APPROPRIATIONS

A resolution of the Council for Christian Social Action

adopted by the Seventh General Synod

July 2, 1969

WHEREAS the United States Congress in 1968 enacted legislation which approved a greatly increased and enlarged program of housing for the next few years, and

WHEREAS the previous and present housing for people of low and middle income has not kept pace with the increasing population and the deterioration of present structures, and

WHEREAS the crisis in our nation, especially in our cities, continues unabated until the nation can provide jobs, schools, and housing to meet the needs of the disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS the appropriations for housing enacted by the previous session of Congress were far from adequate to enable the legislation enacted or to meet the nation's needs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ petition the President of the United States, Richard M. Nixon, and the members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to take such steps as may be needed to provide funds and financial resources to implement the programs for housing which have been authorized and which are so essential to meet the nation's urgent needs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conferences and other Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ be urged to take action in support of this resolution.

(69 GS 140)