

advance materials, section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

It was

73-GS-48 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on the Freedom of the Press and the Right of the People to Know:

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." (First Amendment)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninth General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Supports actions to preserve freedom of speech and of the press, to protect the people's right to information on matters of public concern and to guarantee access to the means of communication for organizations and individuals;

2. Supports the right of newsmen/women to keep their sources of information confidential, so that the public's right to know may be effectively served;

3. Supports the Fairness Doctrine in Broadcasting as a means whereby individuals and organizations may defend themselves against attacks on their reputations or misrepresentations of their views, the electorate may hear a variety of views on controversial issues and access of minority groups to radio and television may be assured;

4. Calls upon Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to protect the integrity of the Fairness Doctrine and to interpret it broadly;

5. Calls upon Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to prohibit excessive concentration of ownership of mass media in a single community.

6. Calls upon government officials who have taken the oath to preserve and protect the Constitution to demonstrate positively their support of the First Amendment provision guaranteeing freedom of speech and of the press;

7. Calls upon churches, ministers and members of the United Church of Christ: (1) to inform themselves about the operation of the news media in their communities, and to support the media against encroachment on their freedoms; (2) to work for free access to the media by persons of all points of view, so that all sides of public issues may be heard, even when such views are contrary to those commonly held; (3) to promote high journalistic ethics in their communities, and (4) to extend the prophetic voice of the church into the community through the mass media;

8. Calls upon theological seminaries and colleges related to the United Church of Christ to teach the theological imperatives for freedom of religion, speech and the press, and the significance and function of news gathering and dissemination.

9. Calls upon the national Instrumentalities, especially the Office of Communication, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and Council for Christian Social Action, to take appropriate actions, such as issuing public statements, offering legislative testimony and taking legal steps in behalf of these policies, and assisting in the implementation of items 6 and 7, and urges the Conferences and churches to support such actions.

7. Black Ministries Issue

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 55, *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion.

The Rev. Reuben A. Sheares, II (ILL) was recognized and he moved an amendment to the motion to add a new second paragraph to alternative I. The motion was seconded and adopted by the General Synod. It was

73-GS-49 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on Black Ministries:

The Ninth General Synod declares the need for priority to a variety of black ministries supported by the whole church; this priority should take form in new personnel, research, planning, and funding to the end that the United Church of Christ may be faithful to an enlarging black constituency.

The General Synod commits itself to black ministries as a priority of the highest order in the United Church of Christ. The General Synod directs the Office for Church Life and Leadership to incorporate this priority into its program, activities and budget.

The General Synod further calls upon the Commission for Racial Justice and the Board for Homeland Ministries to continue to develop, facilitate and implement this priority in consultation with other Instrumentalities, Conferences, Associations and local churches.

8. The Federal Budget Issue

The Moderator recognized Chairman Smith of the Executive Council who referred the delegates to page 61 of *Advance Materials*, Section III. Mr. Smith moved the adoption of the recommendation and there was a second. A motion was made to amend the motion to adopt alternative I. The motion was seconded and there was discussion. It was

73-GS-50 VOTED: The General Synod adopts the statement on the Federal Budget:

In the biblical faith that God calls all people to a life of shalom, of peace and wholeness and unity, and believing with Christ that the stewardship of God's gifts to us must reflect that calling, the Ninth General Synod believes that the role of the federal budget in American life and priorities is critical. As individual American Christians and as a corporate church body we confess that we participate in the legislating of national priorities which represent a tragic disparity with the biblical vision of the peaceable kingdom.

The Ninth General Synod reaffirms and deepens the commitment of the Eighth General Synod to re-evaluate and better balance national priorities. Believing that economic conditions reflect national moral values for good or ill, the Synod is convinced that the shaping, allocating, and spending of the federal budget are crucial Christian concerns, and that the presently overwhelming emphasis on defense spending at the expense of human needs is deleterious to the people of the United States and the world. The budget should reflect an increasing commitment to improving the quality of life at home and abroad, to international instrumentalities for keeping peace and seeking justice, and to de-escalating the arms race.

The General Synod calls upon congregations, Associations, Conferences, and Instrumentalities to engage in study and action with regard to national priorities. This involves an

understanding of the biblical vision of shalom, analysis of federal budget processes and priorities, making judgments about individual and corporate responsibility, and enabling people to achieve national priorities which reflect the shalom vision.

The General Synod calls upon the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and the Conferences to develop educational materials and media campaigns, where possible in cooperation with other groups working to establish peaceful priorities, to enable the public to understand and affect the relationship between the budget and their needs, with particular attention to the disadvantaged, the young, the poor, the elderly, and minorities.

The General Synod further calls upon the United Church of Christ members and institutions to include in their theological education programs a study of economic issues which will clarify and extend the Christian mission to use as many resources as possible in the service of peace and the development of human potential, and to convert those resources which have been used for war.

The General Synod calls upon all Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ to take all measures possible to see that this re-ordering of priorities is accomplished through the use of their investments, legislative action, greater attention to shifting the budget priorities and processes from military to human needs, and careful consideration of the ways in which allocated funds are spent.

Remarks of Ms. Holly Henderson on the Federal Budget

Following the adoption of the statement on the Federal Budget, there was a request for the remarks of Ms. Holly Henderson, spokesperson for the small group on the Federal Budget. Ms. Henderson's remarks are included as information:

This action of the General Synod indicates that there is an emerging understanding of the fact that national priorities are determined by the federal budget, and that the quality of all of our lives is determined by those national priorities. The support for this alternative indicates that we are not satisfied with these priorities, for ourselves and for our neighbors.

Few of us really understand the budget and its trade-offs. Many have been convinced that we don't have the ability to understand it.

Constitutionally, Congress has full funding responsibility for defense and the general welfare. The Administration does not.

The Administration budget indicates we will be spending 30¢ of every dollar for defense and 47¢ for human resources. However, if you maintain that veterans' benefits, the military component of foreign aid, and the interest on the national debt which pays off old wars rightfully should be classified under defense and war-related costs, these figures are a little different: 62¢ for defense, and 16¢ for human resources.

Incidentally, about those old wars—it is generally understood that we are now still paying off the Spanish-American War—the government finally finished paying of the War of 1812 in 1946—131 years after the fighting stopped. In no case have veterans benefits from past wars lasted less than 113 years.

President Moss, speaking before the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, in February 1972, said, "we are suggesting a new balance in our nation's priorities and an end to the blank check for the Dept. of Defense and the military-industrial complex. We are committed to helping UCC members participate in the reshaping of national and international prerogatives."

What does this mean? The Office of Economic Opportunity, about which we are all so concerned, spent \$800 million last year. We're told we can't afford that office any more. But one trident submarine costs nearly twice that, or \$1 billion, 700 million. *One* nuclear aircraft carrier costs us 62½ high schools, or \$1 billion. In the world we are #1 in military power—#8 in doctor-patient ratio, #14 in literacy, #14 in infant mortality, #25 in life-expectancy. Obviously, to improve that balance we need fewer bombers and more schools and hospitals.

Our concern is not simply war versus peace, important as that is to us. It is the effect on our priorities that such spending creates, and on the conditions and quality of life in America. We understand that many people depend on defense contracts and manufacturing for their livelihood. But we maintain that a system of priorities emphasizing full employment and the quality of life can convert such operations in an economically sound way, putting these resources to work on pollution projects, housing construction, better transit systems, and so on.

As Dr. Moss said before the Appropriations Committee: "Federal incentives need to be given to enable industry to move from defense and aerospace research and contracts to civilian need work. The new budget shows no promise in this area."

We feel that to really change national priorities as supported by the budget, there must be strong public participation. At this time the connection between spending and quality of life seems clearer than ever, so it is a good time for such a movement. But the public needs several understandings to enable it to be effective here:

- 1) It needs to see the connection more clearly;
- 2) It needs a better understanding of the budget process from beginning to end, including the effectiveness of the ways in which allocated funds are spent;
- 3) It needs to know that this process can *be* understood;
- 4) It needs to know how to make its own judgments on budget priorities;
- 5) It needs to know how to put those judgments to work.

If we at Synod are talking about achieving a better way of life, I think we must address ourselves to this overwhelmingly important framework.

Alternative #1 provides for the development of educational materials to make these issues understandable; for media work, in cooperation with others with similar concerns, to bring them before the public. It calls for an examination of UCC investments to ensure that they are directed towards supporting our concept of national priorities; it urges the adoption of courses in seminaries and churches which will demonstrate the connections between theological and moral values and the budgeting process. It aims at raising the sensitivity, knowledgability, and effectiveness of all of us, from UCC leadership to the public at large, and at enabling action to achieve these goals.

(For further information read, "Issues, Costs, and Benefits of New Priorities," which may be obtained from Peace Resource Center, UCBHM, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.)

9. Assistant to President for the Task Force on Women

Moderator Colwell recognized President Moss for an item of personal privilege. Dr. Moss indicated that in April, 1973, the Rev. Ms. Barbara C. McCall, special assistant to the