

ment used by the Office of Communication during the Eleventh General Synod was borrowed from three agencies in the Connecticut Conference.

5. RESOLUTION ON REFORM OF THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX SYSTEM

Mr. Nace introduced Elizabeth Skinner, Chairperson of Division G, to speak to this point. After a brief explanation, Ms. Skinner moved and it was

77-GS-97 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod refers the "Resolution on Reform of the Federal Income Tax System" from the Wisconsin Conference to the Executive Council.

Resolution on Reform of the Federal Income Tax System

WHEREAS we conceive it to be the business of the church to be instrumental in promoting joy, faith, hope, love and abundant living for all the people of our nation; and

WHEREAS we recognize that government has an important place in the providence of God in meeting His purposes and our human needs; and

WHEREAS we regard the payment of taxes, levied through the democratic process, as a public duty, and their responsible use as a public trust; and

WHEREAS taxes, while primarily a source of governmental revenue, intentionally or unintentionally also affect the economic and social process; and

WHEREAS we consider that a fair, uncomplicated, progressive and neutral Federal Income Tax System to meet the expenses of government is necessary in the interest of justice and for the well-being of our nation; and

WHEREAS the dollar value of these tax expenditures is over \$100 Billion a year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ:

1. Fully reaffirms the position taken by the Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 1969 as follows: "We must remove any ground for the cynicism which results when the tax system favors the citizen who can afford a lobbyist or high priced tax advisory, and places a disproportionate share of the cost of maintaining peace of eliminating want upon those who are below, at, or immediately above the poverty level.";

2. Urges our Congressional Representatives to vote for legislation which will change or eliminate those tax expenditures which violate the principles of fairness, simplicity, progressivity and neutrality in our Federal Income Tax System;

3. Urges Congress to make a beginning as follows: substitute a tax credit for the present personal exemption, give a tax credit equal to 25% of the standard itemized deduction.

4. Encourages our local churches to engage in discussions and workshops concerned with improving our Federal Income Tax System.

6. AGENDA COMMITTEE REPORT

Moderator Nace introduced Chester Eaton, Chairperson

of the Agenda Committee, for a final report on procedures for referral of unfinished business. Mr. Eaton reported that delegates would have until noon on Wednesday, July 6, to get their amendments to him. It was moved, seconded and it was

77-GS-98 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod refers the following items of unfinished business to the Executive Council.

Division A —

- 1) Resolution in Response to Churches Concerned About Homosexuality in the Church
- 2) Resolution in Response to Two Resolutions that Call for Rescinding an Action of GS10

Division B —

- 1) Resolution on Abuse of Alcoholic Beverages
- 2) Resolution in Opposition to Gambling
- 3) Resolution on United States Relations with Cuba

Division D —

- 1) Resolution on World Peace and the Sale of Arms
- 2) Energy Policy Proposal
- 3) Resolution on the B-1 Bomber

Division E —

- 1) Resolution on American Indian School of Medicine

Division F —

- 1) Resolution on Advisory Commission on Faith

7. REPORT OF THE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

The Moderator introduced Mark Robinson, Chairperson of the Priorities Committee. Mr. Robinson instructed the delegates on how to fill out their priority selection process questionnaires, and referred delegates to the "Preliminary Report—Issue Areas with Related Actions."

Mr. Robinson then explained that after the Priority Selection Process Questionnaires had been processed, the Executive Council, with the read-out from the computer, and using weighting on each action, would assess the feelings of the Eleventh General Synod on each issue area as to which issues should be priorities. A motion was made to accept the Preliminary Report from the Priorities Committee, and it was defeated.

There were then questions from the floor on what should be done about the priority process. Gene Krause, (OHIO), moved to refer the whole matter of priority process selection to the Executive Council instructing them to be sensitive to the concerns shown this evening. The motion was seconded. After discussion, there was an amendment to this motion by Robert Winterhalter, (MASS), that the sensitivity be gauged on the individual priority weighting. After discussion, it was moved, seconded and

77-GS-99 VOTED: The Eleventh General Synod refers the matter of priority process selection to the Executive Council instructing the Council to be sensitive to the concerns this evening, and that the sensitivity be gauged on the individual priority weighting.