

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 1

involved; and

WHEREAS, this may affect the selection and number of delegates from a given Conference;

THEREFORE, The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ honors the covenantal relationship of the denomination and the General Synod delegates and asks the Executive Council to take immediate steps to find a way to pay an equitable and fair portion of the travel expenses of voting delegates to the Fourteenth General Synod and in the future.

4. REPORT OF SECTION C — RESOLUTION ON BROKEN ARROW

The Moderator recognized Rev. John Fortt (NY), Chairperson of the Section for the report. Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on Broken Arrow and called on Mary Jo Romberger (PSE) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Romberger indicated that the resolution deals with the issue of nuclear disarmament and urged the adoption of the resolution as it is consistent with former General Synod actions and the adoption of the Peace Priority.

The Moderator recognized Harold Ward (FLA) who moved to amend the motion by the deletion of the second resolve section of the resolution. Upon being put to a vote the motion to amend the resolution was lost.

The Moderator recognized Floyd Ramp (OHIO) who moved to amend the motion by adding a third resolves section to the resolution to read: "Be It Further Resolved that the President of the United Church of Christ express to the national leaders our desire that, as a matter of public policy any use of military force by the United States may be challenged in a court of law." There was discussion and upon being put to a vote the motion to amend the resolution was lost.

It was

81-GS-63 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Broken Arrow.

RESOLUTION ON BROKEN ARROW

WHEREAS, Nationalism historically has been a universal passion of people, and patriotism an emotion which can be aroused to war; and

WHEREAS, nuclear armaments have been perfected in great number and with such explosive power that nuclear war would mean the end of life as we know it; and

WHEREAS, the money spent for nuclear weapons deprives our world of financial resources for basic human needs; and

WHEREAS, the biblical mandate of the prophets and the gospel of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith and action, declared in the Good News, "Blessed are the Peacemakers . . ."

The Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms a commitment to nuclear disarmament through negotiation with all existing and developing nuclear powers, and communicates this

commitment to the President of the United States of America, and the Secretaries of State and Defense, through the Office of the President of United Church of Christ; and

The President of the United Church of Christ will express to national leaders our forthright desire for nuclear disarmament even if this process must begin with a unilateral initiative on the part of the United States.

5. RESOLUTION ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on Objections to Proposed Changes in the United States Federal Budget as revised and called on Janet Palmer (ILL) to speak to the resolution. Ms. Palmer indicated the difference between the resolution in its present form from the original, the reasons for the changes, and that the intent of the resolution has been maintained. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Robert Whiffen (CONN) who moved to amend the motion by adding the phrase "and each of its members be advised" following the word "Christ" in the third resolved paragraph and delete the word "instructed" in the same paragraph. This recommended change was accepted and included in the resolution. It was

81-GS-64 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Objections to proposed Changes in the United States Federal Budget.

RESOLUTION ON OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the biblical mandate calls us to bring good news to the poor, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to practice kindness and mercy, and to make governmental decisions based upon justice and an affirmation of life; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Avery Post, in his opening address to the Thirteenth General Synod, challenged us to address the appalling and undesirable direction the United States is taking in changing the priorities of its federal budget in spending more for armaments and less on human services for the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth General Synod delegates have responded to the challenges of the United Church of Christ tradition as a leading force in social and racial justice in the United States and in the world; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget for 1982 proposes budget cuts of about \$48 billion dollars affecting the support of a wide variety of programs that aid the poor and near-poor; and

WHEREAS, the re-ordering of the budget for 1982 will result in increases of approximately \$26 billion dollars in expenditures for armaments and defense materials; and

WHEREAS, although reduction in the rate of inflation

is a desirable goal, there is no proof that inflation is caused primarily by government spending on social programs, but also by many other factors including high energy costs, lower productivity, obsolete equipment and plants, and military spending.

The delegates to the Thirteenth General Synod express to the President and Congress of the United States our strong objection to proposed decreases which go beyond attempts to reduce fraud and abuse in the Medicaid, Food Stamp, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, and other programs that have provided assistance to the poor and near-poor; and express to them our strong objection to proposed increases in expenditures for armaments and defense material; and defense material; and

The delegates to the Thirteenth General Synod project a vision of American society in which the economy serves the needs of the poor as well as the affluent, in which the federal government along with the private sector is committed to serve the general welfare and to uphold the right to adequate nutrition, educational opportunity, justice in the legal system, and the earning of a living; and

The President of the United Church of Christ and each of its members be advised to communicate this resolution by personal letter to the President of the United States and to each member of Congress.

Local churches, Associations, Conferences and National bodies of the United Church of Christ, take seriously the necessity to respond to situations of need resulting from these proposed changes in the Federal Budget, including direct assistance and political action at all levels.

6. RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND THE RESOLVING OF CONFLICT

Mr. Fortt moved the adoption of the Resolution on Peace and the Resolving of Conflict and called on Betty Cooke (WIS) to speak to the resolution. She referred to Advance Materials II, page 111, and indicated that no changes were recommended in the original resolution and urged the adoption of the resolution.

There was discussion, and it was

81-GS-65 VOTED: The Thirteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Peace and the Resolving of Conflict.

RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND THE RESOLVING OF CONFLICT

Summary

This resolution defines the points of greatest concern in matters of peace and resolution of conflict and calls on all Christians, particularly those in the United Church of Christ, to study these problems and to engage in their solution in such ways as will enlighten our communities and give weight to the views of the Church in the councils of humankind and of nations.

Background

Throughout history there have been wars. Within the Christian community, conscience has dictated views

ranging from absolute pacifism to peace-through-strength and even to support of aggressive wars seen as righteous or necessary to national survival. The time is at hand when the Christian's prophetic voice must be louder and clearer and our leadership stronger in new ways of peace.

New nations have emerged in revolution and turmoil, old conflicts between political systems and ideologies persist, much of the world is in poverty and disorder. The old norms of morality and national and international law are everywhere being challenged. In many areas, the gap between rich and poor grows, the agricultural economy is not supporting burgeoning population, natural resources are being depleted, and economic and political systems are in disarray. We must address these problems for in them grow the roots of an era of violence and incessant conflict.

At the same time, the unacceptability of nuclear warfare, the instability of nuclear warfare, the instability of a nuclear balance of terror, and with technical advances and proliferation of nuclear weapons, the unreliability of a nuclear deterrent, all compel us to work toward agreements to prevent arms escalation and, then, toward orderly and balanced arms reduction.

There is a compelling urgency to build informed consensus within the church on the nature and substance of problems which may erupt into war and the means to prevent this. Therefore, it is proposed that congregations of the United Church of Christ, with other churches, come to grips with these issues, committing ourselves to studying the problems in all their complexity and seeking realistic solutions, promoting discussion and constructive action among our members and a style of living in our communities which will serve as a light to the nation. We should support efforts toward peace through the political institutions of our country and international organizations, pressing for international agreements for progressive arms limitation which, as means for peaceful resolution of conflicts are found, can lead to a general reduction in arms with all of its concomitant social and economic benefits.

In short, facing violence throughout the world, Christians must fervently seek better ways to resolve conflicts than by force of arms and its probable escalation to nuclear annihilation.

Biblical and Theological Rationale

Throughout the Old and New Testaments the lack of peace among the people of God is the occasion for divine anger and sorrow.

The violence done to human hearts and communities at war within and between themselves appears to be Jahweh's primary concern. Prophets and priests who do not minister out of the same concern are called to account:

"They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace, when there is no peace!'" (Jeremiah 6:14)

As the Son of God, Jesus embodies this divine empathy and concern. From the moment of His birth to