

or any other government to silence the voice of the church;

5. Commends the Office of Communication for petitioning the Congress to pass a resolution, in the spirit of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, to express the right of the churches of South Africa to speak out against apartheid and to indicate the fervent opposition of the U.S. people to any government that abridges religious freedom.

6. Calls upon the President of the United Church of Christ to communicate this resolution to all involved with all possible speed.

5. RECONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 23 OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Moderator recognized Curtis S. Ackley (PSE) who moved to reconsider the vote taken near the end of the Monday night session to amend Paragraph 23 of the Constitution. There was discussion. As a part of the discussion, the Moderator recognized Martha Baumer, Chairperson of the Business Committee, who indicated that the Business Committee would like to see the delegates work through the amendments which have been developed over a two-year period and longer with great care by the Executive Council and the Office for Church Life and Leadership, and come to a decision at this General Synod. A motion to terminate debate was adopted and upon being put to a vote, the motion to reconsider the vote on paragraph 23 was adopted. The Moderator indicated that reconsideration would occur later in the morning session.

6. RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE: THE CRISIS AND A RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

Mr. Kludy continued the report of Section III, moved the adoption of the Resolution on Economic Justice: The Crisis and A Response of the Church and called on Fred Pease (MA) Chairperson of the small group that considered this resolution, to speak to the motion. There was discussion.

The Moderator recognized Susan Elliott (IL) who moved to amend the motion by inserting the phrase "leaders of organizations of poor and working people" after "church leaders" in the sixth line of the first resolved paragraph. A motion to terminate debate on the amendment and the main motion was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the motion to amend the motion was adopted. It was

83 GS 52 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts as amended the Resolution on Economic Justice: The Crisis and A Response of the Church.

RESOLUTION ON ECONOMIC JUSTICE: THE CRISIS AND A RESPONSE OF THE CHURCH

I. Introduction:

A. Christian faith declares that God is Creator of all the world, that God's grace and judgment are active in all life, the God has entered human life decisively in Jesus Christ, that God calls the church to respond to God's love in all aspects of life, that God's providence guides human beings through the trials and opportunities of history, that God destines human life for fulfillment in the Kingdom of God which is an ever-present and ever-promised reality.

B. Whenever the Church acknowledges this faith, it seeks to understand the demands of God for the economic relations among human beings. It remembers the constant concern of the Bible for human economic needs, for justice,

for sharing of the material goods of life, and that the God of Biblical faith makes a "strategic concentration" of love on the poor, the needy, the helpless, the oppressed. In the Lord's Supper it brings food into the central sacrament of the faith. It knows that there is no love of God that is not love of neighbor. To avoid the theological and ethical issues of economics is to diminish and distort the Gospel.

II. What is the context of our economic concerns?

A. We are in a critical moment in the United States and world economy. The crisis is not easily responded to by traditional economic paradigms.

B. In 1971, the Bretton Woods International Money Standard of 1944 was dissolved and the United States dollar floated. In 1973, moreover, the organization of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) quadrupled the price of oil and inaugurated a new age of crisis. Subsequently, in the U.S., gold fluctuated between \$500 and \$800 per ounce; inflation went into double digits; interest rates rose over 20%; business failures and unemployment rose to a post-depression high. Developing countries contracted debts that strain their capacity to repay and inhibit development.

C. The world economy is now interdependent to the point that nations no longer can manage their economies in isolation. Transnational corporations which increasingly control the world's resources, production, and marketing operate in a world-wide rather than national context without international accountability.

D. There exists an increasing chasm between the affluence of some and the desperate need of many, both within the United States and the whole human family. The World Bank estimates that there are 800 million people living in absolute poverty without adequate shelter, food, clothing, and health care, with apparently no prospect for improvement.

E. Persistent economic discrimination based on color, ethnic background or sex, and changing patterns of economic participation bring new problems and opportunities in creating just economic systems.

F. The world is spending \$600 billion for military expenditures each year which suppresses economic development for basic human needs. The economies of the United States and the Soviet Union, which together account for half of this expenditure, are both producing abundant weapons while failing to meet other economic goals.

G. On the one hand, technology provides the means to address many problems. On the other hand, technology changes the means of production, the nature of work, and human relationships, and is making many jobs obsolete.

H. There is an increasing awareness of ecological problems and limited natural resources which undermines traditional economic assumptions about the possibilities of unlimited growth.

I. There are those who read these complex signs of the economy and see long-range improvement—"light at the end of the tunnel." There are other influential voices that read these same signs and see us on the brink of a major world economic collapse.

III. Why must the church engage in this basic study of economics and theology?

A. The United Church of Christ believes that all live

under the sovereignty of God. That sovereignty extends to all dimensions of life, including the vision, theory and practice of economics.

B. Our church engages openly in debate and teaching on social and public policy as a natural outgrowth of our commitment to Jesus Christ as sovereign in the world. We recognize that economic issues are closely related to issues of justice, peace, and international security. Thus economics must be addressed directly, as a basis for social teaching.

C. The church historically has been engaged in the formation of economic goals and policies, with teachings about work, property, consumption and the use of money. Our nation and world are moving through a period of dramatic change, affecting and being affected by different, often conflicting, economic assumptions and theories. Now is an appropriate time for the United Church of Christ to clarify its understanding of the relationship between theology and modern economics.

D. The General Synod of the United Church of Christ has spoken often and eloquently during its twenty-six years about the plight of society's victims, about the suffering of the poor, and against racism. Such statements were based on valid theological premises that achieving justice is a task for Christians in every economic order, and that no economic system is immune from injustice. The relation of such beliefs to our highly complex and interdependent world is in need of serious continuing analysis, so that the United Church of Christ will speak in the future with a clear and faithful voice on economic concerns. Economists, theologians, and others in the church are prepared to contribute as dialogue partners in this fundamental task. A time to gather these partners has come.

THEREFORE The Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ requests the Office for Church in Society and the United Church Board for World Ministries, through their joint Economics and Theology Covenant Group, to convene a broadly representative group of economists, theologians, church leaders, leaders of organizations of poor and working people and others to study these matters, and to present to the Fifteenth General Synod a Proposed Pronouncement, including:

1. An Analysis of the global economic crisis and the impact and function of economic relationships on the whole of life;
2. The findings resulting from their study of economic theory, history, Christian Scripture and theology; and
3. An articulation of a public theology of economics.

And that this Proposed Pronouncement be accompanied by a Proposal for Action which shall include:

1. A proposal for strengthening the teaching ministry of the church on economics and theology; and
2. An appropriate response by the United Church of Christ.

7. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE IMPERATIVE

The Moderator indicated that time had expired for considering the Report of Section III.

The Moderator recognized Nancy Hansford (OH) who moved to reconsider the vote taken on the Resolution on

Peace and Economic Justice Imperative in order to offer a substitute motion. There was discussion. A motion to terminate debate on the motion to reconsider was adopted. Upon being put to a vote, the Moderator was unable to determine the vote and called for a division of the house. The delegates were counted and on a vote of 279-yes and 324-no, the Moderator declared the motion was lost.

8. REPORT OF SECTION I

Assistant Moderator Carl F. Schroer assumed the chair and called on Mr. Burton Albert (CT) Chairperson, for the report of Section I.

9. RESOLUTION ON IMPACT OF U.S. FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY ON CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. Albert referred to the report of the Section indicating that the 20 items assigned to the Section had been consolidated into 12 items, to the material in Advance Materials II, and moved the adoption of the Resolution on Impact of U.S. Foreign and Military Policy on Central America, and called on Nancy L. Schongalla (PNE) Chairperson to the small group that had considered this resolution, to speak to the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was

83 GS 53 VOTED: The Fourteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution on Impact of U.S. Foreign and Military Policy on Central America.

RESOLUTION ON IMPACT OF U.S. FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICY ON CENTRAL AMERICA

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the Governments whose military and foreign policy is involved in destabilizing governments in Central America;

WHEREAS President Reagan announced recertification of military aid to El Salvador in spite of evidence that the refugee flow continues into Honduras, killings and kidnappings of citizens by government forces occur, and no trials have been held for the men accused of killing the Maryknoll sisters and American labor unionists;

WHEREAS Amnesty International and America Watch have documented 2,600 killings of Indians by government forces since May, 1982, through the Guatemalan government's pacification program which have resulted in 100,000 Indians displaced internally, and yet President Reagan has approved the shipment of \$6.2 million in military parts to the Guatemalan government;

WHEREAS *Newsweek*, *N.Y. Times* and the U.S. Congressional Intelligence Committee revealed the role of the CIA in training Ex-Somoza Nicaraguans to conduct raids into Nicaragua;

WHEREAS the U.S. has tripled the amount of military aid, \$31 million to Honduras in 1982, is building new air bases and on February 1 and 2, 1983 conducted joint military exercises on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border;

WHEREAS the constant attacks and the threat of even wider hostilities have forced the Nicaraguan government and people to divert scarce material, human, and financial resources from the vital tasks of reconstruction and development to the build-up of the country's defense capabilities;

WHEREAS Costa Rica, in difficult financial situation, has accepted \$2 million for training of its Civil Guard, has in-