

13. ANTOINETTE BROWN AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Moderator called on Ms. Marilyn Breitling, Coordinator of the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society, who introduced the recipients of the Antoinette Brown Award: Rev. Beatrice Weaver McConnell, pastor of Trinity Reformed UCC, Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Rev. Gretchen L. DeVries, missionary in Japan. Ms. Breitling told of the celebration on Sunday evening for the gifts of laywomen and called to the stage the women who were honored at that celebration.

14. RESOLUTION, "ON THE PACIFIC BASIN INITIATIVE"

The Moderator called on Ms. Celsa Ayala-Coloma, Chairperson of Committee #18, who moved that the Fifteenth General Synod affirms the action of the Hawaii Conference in lifting these issues before General Synod Fifteen and recommends that the Hawaii Conference, in conjunction with the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Pacific and Asian Ministries (PAAM), develop specific proposals for action to be brought before the Sixteenth General Synod.

Rev. Donald Asman made a friendly amendment to add the words: "establish a study commission to" in the next to the last line, between "(PAAM)" and "develop." The friendly amendment was accepted.

There was a discussion and the resolution was

85-GS-61 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Pacific Basin Initiative."

PACIFIC BASIN INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, The Pacific Basin is fraught with controversies which have grown to crisis proportions largely because of the benign neglect of American agencies, both public and private, operating in the area; and

WHEREAS, The following three issues are moving to a more critical point each day and therefore call for immediate attention from all parties concerned, including the United Church of Christ and its homeland and global instrumentalities:

ISSUE 1: The tuna fishing industry. Tuna has been the primary source of subsistence for the people of the Pacific since the beginning of time. But recently American policy unilaterally defined tuna as a migratory species, thus allowing larger U.S. fishing fleets to fish within the 200-mile economic zones of island nations. Consequently, this practice is depriving these islands of the basic source of livelihood. The Nathan parable in the Old Testament is recreated daily by the U.S. fishing fleets before the helpless people of the Pacific.

ISSUE 2: Nuclear testing and dumping of nuclear wastes. The people of the island nations are victims of the harmful effects of nuclear testing and dumping of nuclear wastes by big powers such as the United States, France and Japan. The plight and suffering of the residents of Bikini are testimonies to this dreadful practice. Even the coconut trees of Eniwetok were declared radioactive for the next 30 years and the floating coconuts awashed in the neighboring shores have been declared health hazards. The potential breaking of nuclear waste containers at deep-sea levels could transform the Pacific Basin into a caldron of dead undersea creatures.

ISSUE 3: The developing business community in the Pacific. There is growing interest in the developing of a Pacific Basin Community to enhance economic development in the Pacific, an organization similar to the European Common Market. Current economic indicators support the forecast that the next century will be the "Century of the Pacific". Already, in 1982, United States trade with the Pacific Basin countries reached a total of \$165 billion compared to \$115 billion with the U.S.-European community.

WHEREAS, the 163rd Aha Pae'aina of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ voted to take the initiative in addressing the above-mentioned issues and to take appropriate actions to involve the whole United Church of Christ;

THEREFORE, the Fifteenth General Synod affirms the action of the Hawaii Conference in lifting these issues before General Synod Fifteen and recommends that the Hawaii Conference, in conjunction with the United Church Board for World Ministries and the Pacific and Asian Ministries (PAAM), establish a study commission to develop specific proposals for action to be brought before the Sixteenth General Synod.

At the conclusion of the vote, the meeting was turned over to the Assistant Moderator, Ms. Janece L. Dent.

15. RESOLUTION "RACIALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AGAINST PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND ASIANS IN AMERICA"

The Moderator called on Rev. Peggy McClanahan, Chairperson of the Committee, who referred to Advance Materials II, page 162-164.

The Committee amended the resolution to insert the words:

"Pacific Islanders and" in front of "Asians" in the title and in paragraphs 2 and 3, and to add, "Fifteenth" before the words "General Synod" in the "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" paragraph.

85-GS-62 VOTED: The Fifteenth General Synod adopts the Resolution "Racially Motivated Violence Against Pacific Islanders and Asians in America."

RACIALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE AGAINST PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND ASIANS IN AMERICA

In recent years there has been a resurgence of racially motivated violence directed against Asians in the United States, with the most publicized incident being the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, a Detroit Chinese American. Chin was celebrating his upcoming wedding in a night club when an unemployed auto worker and his stepson abused him with racial epithets, at the same time apparently thinking that Chin was Japanese accusing him of causing unemployment in the auto industry. Later they chased Chin down and beat him to death with a baseball bat. The judicial deposition of this case, in which the two men received a sentence of three years probation and a \$3,000 fine, caused an uproar among Asian-Americans and many others throughout the country. Consequently, a federal jury convicted one of the men on civil rights counts.

The Vincent Chin case has received national attention. However, it is only one of a growing number of violent anti-Pacific Islanders and Asian incidents. An alarming number of cases of racially motivated muggings, beatings, armed assaults, shootings, verbal abuse, and vandalism have been