

C. On the Eighteenth Amendment.

The Congress of the United States of America having submitted a resolution affording to the states an opportunity to vote upon the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment this Assembly reaffirms its unaltered opposition to the repeal of the Amendment. We believe it has produced more beneficial results than any method of liquor control ever tried. No substitute, as yet suggested, gives promise of being equally beneficial and so-called state control promises only a return to the saloon with its intolerable evils. We believe that enforcement of the law, not repeal, is the solution.

In the crisis that immediately faces us we call upon the leadership of the Presbyterian Church and its constituency, to ally themselves with all organizations the object of which is the retention of the Eighteenth Amendment.

We pledge our church to provide an intensive educational campaign that our youth may have adequate instruction within the church and to promote a campaign of secular education in the public schools to the end that all the youth of our land shall have adequate information as to the reasons for the prohibition of the traffic in this habit-forming narcotic.

We believe that the elimination of the liquor traffic is primarily a spiritual problem. The solution of this problem must find its dynamic in the Gospel. We, therefore, call upon all of our pastors to preach the Gospel with renewed faith and force and upon all of our people to seek a closer fellowship with God to the end that they may more effectively promote His Kingdom.

D. On Moving Pictures, including action on *Overture 43*, from the Synod of New York.

We declare it to be our conviction that many of the moving pictures and the public advertising of them constitute a national scandal and that many of the moronic magazines and books displayed at news stands constitute a menace to the minds and morals of our youth. These twins, the putrid picture and the polluted page, have no right to exist in decent society.

We hereby petition the Congress of the United States and the Federal Trade Commission to see to the enactment of legislation: (1) for the protection of the public through a free market, a law making illegal the compulsory block-booking and the compulsory blind-booking whereby many undesirable films are forced upon the local exhibitor by the producers and distributors of moving pictures, (2) For the protection of children and in line with such legal regulation as is provided for other public utilities, a law providing for

the supervision and control of the production of pictures at their sources; (3) For the protection of America's good name abroad, a law empowering the State Department to pre-view pictures before exportation and to withhold from international traffic those films that misrepresent American life, that misrepresent other nations or peoples, or that are of low moral standard; and also to send copies of its action in this matter to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

E. On Peace.

Mindful of the word of the Prince of Peace, "Blessed are the peacemakers" we pledge ourselves anew to the promotion of the peace of the world. The nations have made a business of producing warmakers; the Church must produce the peacemakers. We rejoice in the fact that our government has joined with sixty-two other nations in signing the Paris Pact as follows:

"The high contracting parties agree that the settlement, or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature, or whatever origin they may be, which may rise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means."

In the light of this pact we declare it to be our faith that our army and navy ought never to be used except for the purpose of resisting invasion and that the United States ought to set an example to the world by adopting a program of progressive disarmament.

We believe that private manufacture of munitions of war ought to be prohibited in order that the temptation to the manufacturers of both munitions and war may be removed from private parties and that there ought to be no exportation of the munitions of war contrary to the spirit of the Paris Pact.

We urge federal legislation to the effect that no one shall be denied citizenship because of conscientious objections to war, that no conscientious objector shall be compelled to take military training in any school, and that no military training shall be given in high schools.

We pledge ourselves to teach the coming generation of the cost and curse of war, to saturate them with a passion for peace, to cultivate in them the conviction that the world will be more blessed by friendships than by battleships and to stimulate within them the conviction that, as a progressive civilization left behind private warfare so a forward looking civilization can leave behind international war habits of medieval times.

We commend President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his recent vigorous efforts to promote international peace.

II

References to the Committee from the Committee on Moral, Social and Industrial Relations of the Board of National Missions, T. Guthrie Speers, Chairman, John McDowell, Secretary.

A. The following resolution of the committee on Moral, Social and Industrial Relations of the Board of National Missions was amended and approved by the committee;

The concern of the Christian Church for moral, social and industrial standards is based on the fact that Christianity in its origin, and by the terms of its charter in the New Testament, and throughout its history is committed to the ideal that human life is of immeasurable worth, and that human personality outweighs all other values. It is now evident that the continuance of the present moral, social and industrial depression is challenging and undermining the standards which are based on Christian ideals.

That the present situation imperils much that we as a people hold dear cannot be doubted. At a conference composed of delegates from the Federal and State Labor Departments and from social and religious organizations, called by the National Consumers' League on December 12, 1932, important reports were made on the breakdown of moral, social and industrial standards as they affect wage earners and consumers. It is now evident that the more the industrial depression has been prolonged, the greater has been the tendency to cut wages, to increase hours of labor and to undermine the protection afforded the worker by labor laws. While so many men and women are out of work it is possible to employ them under the most barbarous conditions as to wages, hours and working conditions. Furthermore, under the Supreme Court decision concerning minimum wage protection, the existing State Minimum Wage Boards have nothing to depend upon but public opinion, and when public opinion fails them, they are helpless and hopeless. Under these conditions working people have a right to look, and are looking, to the Christian churches to help create a public opinion which will maintain the standards of enforcement of all present labor laws and insist on whatever new laws may be necessary to protect the wellbeing and welfare of the people.

Inasmuch as the intensive economic pressure of these times is felt particularly by the unemployed, the partially employed, and those whose wages have been materially reduced, the Church would warn all such against that counsel of despair that would issue in the extremes of either a meek acquiescence

in the *status quo* or an unchristian resort to violence and insurrection. It would rather point the way to a real and yet peaceful solution by an intelligent employment of the political and industrial methods afforded by a democratic republic. Let such parties, programs and persons be supported at the polls that will represent most adequately the mind of Christ as applied to government and industry, and let all those who labor with hand and brain unite in labor and professional organizations to maintain their respective callings at a high standard of public service, and to conserve their own security in the economic structure.

In this time of unprecedented unemployment with 16,000,000 out of work in the United States, the General Assembly commends the efforts of local, state and federal authorities to relieve fundamental needs. Every possible effort should be made by the churches to preserve the independence and self-respect of the individuals and families receiving relief. While governmental groups have responded to assist states and municipalities with financial relief, it is the conviction of the General Assembly that at the earliest possible moment, workers should be returned to their former employment; and it is our conviction that such assistance is not charity but only elementary social justice.

It is incumbent, therefore, upon the Church, so long as it is faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ, to measure the moral, social and industrial order by the standards of its Lord. As the Body of Christ, the Christian Church must be the most swiftly-moving of all organizations to challenge whatever cripples or dishonors life, to insist that no economic emergency justifies human oppression; that if the right to live interferes with profits, profits must necessarily give way to that right. Christians have a mandate from the Christian conscience to question an economic order where the only answer to our industrial problems is charity drives, breadlines and apple venders. As Christians we need to affirm that if the present order will not and cannot adapt itself to the social conscience, based on Christian ideals, then it must give way to some more just and righteous social order that will answer our problems. In this critical hour the Church should reaffirm the moral, social and industrial ideals and objectives which it has already announced and approved and continue to strive for their practical realization, namely:

1. The right and duty to work, since human society cannot endure unless each of its members has the opportunity and feels the obligation to serve the common good to the extent of his ability.

2. Practical application of acknowledged Christian principles to the acquisition and use of wealth; subordination of profit to the creative and cooperative spirit; observance of such social plans and control as are involved in the economic process which operates for the common good.

3. The right of all to an opportunity for self-maintenance; wider and fairer distribution of wealth; a living wage as an irreducible minimum, together with a just participation by the worker in the profits of the industry in which he or she is engaged.

4. The ordering of the hours of labor to secure at once sufficient leisure for the physical, mental and moral well-being of the workers.

5. The assumption by industry of the burdens entailed by industrial accidents, disease, unemployment and death, and for the training of injured workers for continued production and self-respect.

6. Such regulations of the conditions of occupation of women as shall secure an adequate living wage, and at the same time safeguard their physical and moral health and that of the community and of future generations.

7. Abolition of child labor; adequate provision for the education, spiritual nurture, and healthful recreation of every child.

8. Economic and social justice for the farm-family; the fostering and preservation of the distinctive values of rural life.

9. The inviolability of agreements, freely entered into, both in letter and in spirit, since good faith is the foundation of social and industrial stability and progress.

We recommend:

1. That the General Assembly requests pastors and churches to cooperate with all other agencies in the community in maintaining moral, social and industrial standards which exalt those spiritual values which are implicit in the Christian religion and in accordance with the announced ideals of our Church.

2. That the General Assembly urges the ministers of the Church to recognize and fulfill the obligations of the Church resting upon them as ministers of Jesus Christ with respect to the application of His Gospel, and that to this end it urge them:

(a) To inform themselves carefully regarding the conditions of human life in their own neighborhoods, particularly as these are affected by the conditions of industry and agriculture.

(b) To acquaint their congregations with these facts.

(c) To instruct their congregations in the teachings of the Gospel regarding responsibility for moral, social and industrial standards.

(d) To cooperate in every effort for the attainment of the moral, social and industrial standards for which our Church has declared itself.

3. That the General Assembly hereby urges all the members of our churches to give serious thought to the moral, social and industrial problems, and to avail themselves of their opportunities for social service; to bring the sense of justice and righteousness and the sanctity of human personality which is fundamental in Christianity to bear upon matters of everyday life in business, in politics, in industry, in society, or wherever their influence may be extended, and to create a Christian public sentiment demanding the removal of wrong to individuals wherever found.

4. That the General Assembly hereby requests all who have charge of seminaries and colleges to make ample provision for instruction regarding the Christian ideal of society and, further, that it request the governing bodies of faculties and theological seminaries to provide that students in their care be taught the social principles of the Gospel, and trained in methods of applying these principles to the needs of the localities in which they may be called to minister.

5. That this report be given the widest possible circulation through the Publicity Department of the General Assembly.

III

Overtures, Memorials and Miscellaneous Papers Referred to the Committee by the General Assembly.

A. *Overture 66 and Communication 11.*—On the Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment—from the Presbytery of Topeka. That this Overture be received with sympathy and that we approve its intent, its purpose being adequately covered in a previous resolution.

B. *Communication 7*—On Church Motion Pictures—Sent by the Rev. James Tooker Ford. That this matter is under the process of development in the Federal Council of Churches.

C. *Overture 60*—On "Prince of Peace" Contests—From the Presbytery of Cincinnati. That this Overture be commended to the Church, as a valuable project for the young people.

D. *Communication 6*—From the Department of Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of Churches. That this communication be received with sympathy and referred to the committee on Moral, Social and Industrial Relations of the Board of National Missions for further consideration.