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THE VANGUARD

... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume 8, Number 1

January - February, 1961

That the Church May Lead

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

At least in the circles in which this writer ordinarily moves there is a very keen and perhaps hopeful interest in the development of the new administration under President Kennedy; and not the least of this interest is concentrated in the appointments to the cabinet and other high offices in the Federal Government.

G. Mennen Williams, a long-time fearless advocate and defender of the cause of civil rights, was appointed Undersecretary of State in charge of African Affairs.

Andrew T. Hatcher, a Negro, who was Assistant Labor Commissioner of California, is now Assistant Press Secretary.

Robert C. Weaver, a Negro, well qualified because of training and experience, has received what is until now the highest appointment awarded a Negro by the President. He will be in charge of Federal housing. The need for Federal housing is not limited to one side of Mason and Dixon's line. And Federal housing aid is extended to both sides of that line. Mr. Weaver's supervision, too, will extend to both sides. It takes a lot of insight and courage to appoint a Negro to such an office. (Mr. Weaver was President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People until he took over his new office.)

The **Pittsburgh Courier** (Feb. 4) reported that Carl T. Rowan, a Negro, was appointed by the President as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Rowan has been a member of the **Minneapolis Tribune** staff as a reporter since 1948. According to certain radio news reports, President Kennedy will probably appoint a number of Negroes as ambassadors.

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"Our Dual Ministry"

The VANGUARD is glad to feature a picture of the two pastors of The Lutheran Church of our Savior, Brooklyn, the Rev. Ralph C. Egolf and the Rev. Samuel L. Hoard, together with recent accessions to the congregation.

The Rev. Hoard informs us that on January 8 "four Caucasians and one Negro were received by transfer, and six Negroes and three Caucasians were received by confirmation." (Evidently one person was absent when the picture was taken.)

Since the kind of ministry recently established at the Church of our Savior is very important in our day, the following excerpts from a bulletin insert of that congregation are being reprinted.

"About Our Dual Ministry. Both pastors feel that our interracial ministry is an important institution in the life of our church now, because our congregation has become quite unique. It is the only congregation in the history of The Lutheran Church-Missouri

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A LOOK AROUND

By Martin H. Scharlemann
I. South Africa

In this tragic land a very quiet but significant change is taking place in the attitude of the churches. Recently a conference of 87 white and Negro churchmen rejected "all unjust discrimination on racial grounds." In this context it took issue with the South African government ban on Negroes worshipping in white churches, insisting that there are no Scriptural grounds for prohibiting racially mixed marriages, even though certain other factors may make such marriages undesirable. The conference also called for action to help the non-white people living "below the bread-line." Other resolutions protested the banning of non-white people from certain occupations and demanded that the Bantus be given the opportunity to live in conformity with human dignity.

The conference was held under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, chairman of the Central Committee of



the WCC and president of the Lutheran World Federation, declared the moment of the adoption of these resolutions to have been "one of the greatest" of his life. A week before the conference, it might be added, exiled Anglican Bishop Reeves of Johannesburg asserted in New York City that the United States can best help Africa "by putting its own house in order." He pointed to some of the newspaper stories of violence in the United States and warned that any American who proposes to make suggestions to Africa may well be met with the reply, "Physician, heal thyself."

II. From Lincoln

As another calendar year gets under way, it may be profitable to quote a pertinent selection from none other than Abraham Lincoln:

"If **A** can prove, however conclusively, that he may of right enslave **B**, why may not **B** snatch the same argument and prove equally that he may enslave **A**? You say **A** is white and **B** is black. It is color, then; the lighter having the right to enslave the darker? Take care. By this rule you are to be slave to the first man you meet with a fairer skin than your own. You do not mean color exactly? You mean the whites are intellectually the superiors of the black, and therefore have the right to enslave them? Take care again. By this rule you are to be slave to the first man you meet with an intellect superior to your own. But, you say, it is a question of interest, and if you make it your interest, you have the right to enslave another. Very well. And if he can make it his interest he has the right to enslave you."

Abraham Lincoln, of course, was talking about slavery. But the principle here expressed is just as applicable to the evil of segregation.

III. Twelve Nationalities

Out in San Francisco no less than a dozen different nationalities are represented in the junior high school of St. Paulus Lutheran Church. Here within the walls of one Lutheran school are to be found children from Chinese, Negro, Greek, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Scandinavian, Slavic, and Spanish extractions.

Oddly enough, the **Lutheran Witness** district supplement from that region refers to this as the result of mission-mindedness. Actually, it isn't that at all. It

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STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Charles Lutz, editor of **Christian Youth Publications**, wrote **The VANGUARD** recently: "Thank you for the fine work you are doing through **The VANGUARD** and the Lutheran Human Relations Association . . . Some time I would like to see a discussion in your publication of the pros and cons of membership by whites in the NAACP. Is it to be encouraged, or not?"

Christians, Awake! — the Proceedings of the 1960 Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations which should be off the press by the time this issue of **The VANGUARD** is in the mail — will bring its readers factual and authentic information on the NAACP and similar organizations.

But we have now, and in advance of the publication of **Christians, Awake!**, a statement which we hope will be helpful to concerned friends of racial justice and equity. The statement was adopted by the Board of Directors of LHRAA at its meeting in Cleveland on December 3.

Statement on Support of Organizations

Working for Racial Justice

"The government of the United States, in its struggle to free our nation from the disgrace of racial discrimination which for decades has degraded millions of our citizens and brought shame upon our name, needs the active cooperation and support of all right-thinking citizens.

"Throughout the length and breadth of our nation and on both sides of Mason and Dixon's line there are groups of patriotic citizens of humanitarian purpose who are working in harmony with the government and in the best interest of all citizens. These groups in many instances are rendering yeoman service at a great personal cost and under continued danger to their economic welfare and in some cases to their physical safety.

"The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, December 2-3, having given thoughtful consideration to our nation's needs and the heroic service the above mentioned groups are rendering the cause of civil rights, freedom, and democracy, encourages our fellow citizens to similar concern to cooperate with such groups. And since many of them find their members suffering at the hand of local and state

governments as though they were criminals — in many instances being thrown into jail, with costly litigation confronting them in their endeavor to gain their freedom and to be vindicated in the courts of law because of what they are doing for all of us — we would encourage all citizens of like concern

- (a) to acknowledge their indebtedness to these people;
- (b) to acquaint themselves more fully with the activities of these groups, and
- (c) if such groups are functioning in a geographic area where they can join hands with them, to do so;
- (d) to remember the financial strain under which they are laboring and because of which they are greatly handicapped in making their program effective and their voice heard; and, having remembered their financial needs, to come to their financial assistance.

"To our fellow Christians throughout the land, especially those who desire to help the Church take its God-intended place of leadership in working for justice and equality for all under God, we would express our own special Christian concern and ask them to let their light shine as Christ has directed, by involving themselves more and more in the great struggle now going on, by identifying themselves in every possible way with what is just and right, to the praise of the Name of the Head of the Church and that all peoples may know that the Christians of this land are totally committed to justice and equity, are interested in all people for whom Christ died, and are concerned about their total well-being for both time and eternity.

"In addition to the well-known national organizations thoroughly American in principle, such as the National Urban League, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Southern Regional Council, a number of smaller groups which have been brought to our attention and which according to our best knowledge are worthy of our assistance and support are:

The American Freedom of Residence Fund
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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APPOINTMENTS

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Dr. Arturo Morales-Carrion, born in Cuba of Puerto Rican parents, according to an Associated Press dispatch, will have the job "of trying to improve U.S. relations with Latin America. He has had much the same job as Undersecretary of State for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico." He will be a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

The President's voting record as a Senator and his public utterances before his election in November are in keeping with the racially liberal spirit evidenced by his appointments. All this should help our nation regain its good name among other nations and, under God, help to establish the good will so desperately needed for our very survival among the non-white nations of the world.

While we have reason for rejoicing over the liberal spirit now already showing itself in the White House, one is compelled to say, "That's the way it should have been all along, under former Republican or Democratic administrations. — And, humanly speaking, if such insight and liberal spirit had been in evidence in the past decades, it is probable that our national prestige and security would be much, much better than it is today; and who knows but what the cold war would have thawed out long before it moved into a stage of Arctic fridity.

We Christians must be ready to take sides in this matter, and always on the side of justice and equity, always a part of the consideration where human beings are involved. Try as we may, we of the church do not live in a vacuum, but in a world of people where the attitudes and actions of each person have their influence on that world of people.

But our readers will not be disappointed in hoping that this article would be applied directly to the church and its administration.

There is less excuse for the church for not having removed the ugly color bar that holds many competent non-whites from positions of leadership and authority in the church.

At a five-day meeting of all the top brass of one large church body, when some nine hundred men sat and deliberated over the church's internal problems and financial needs, not one Negro was to be found among them! "But how can a church have Negroes among its leaders at such a gathering if it doesn't have Negro leaders?"

Well, yes, that's the point; the old vicious circle once more in evidence.

But now that the Kingdom of the left hand, the secular government, is setting an example of understanding, insight, racial liberality, and courage, perhaps it is not out of place nor irreverent to admonish the church in the words of her Christ, "Go and do likewise."

Do what? Give nothing but the best possible academic and theological training to Negro students. Consider churches of Negro constituency, of non-Negro constituency, as well as integrated churches as **churches**, without race-labelling them. Let the church castigate the sin of racial exclusiveness as it does the sin of adultery; make no distinction based solely on racial considerations in the placing of ministerial candidates into congregations; and let its ministers and other leaders become articulate and outspoken in the interest of racial justice and non-discriminating Christian fellowship. Do all this, not because it is expedient merely, but do it when it may appear to be inexpedient, always simply because it is the will of God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, to witness to Christ in every conceivable situation.

It is enlightened statesmanship for the President to break with the past in the appointments he makes in the interest of our nation and peace among the nations of the world; but the light of the Spirit must penetrate the heart darkened by the sin of racial exclusiveness or by official apathy toward such exclusiveness, so that, whether the church organization flourishes or is destroyed by the flames of a wicked, God-hating, man-rejecting world, the name of God is

CAP Membership

Your attention is called to the listing of a new membership category on the subscription blank printed below. The letters CAP stand for **CONTINUED AID PROGRAM** — something new — designed to help those who wish to support LHRAA's program more generously and to make possible a regular, dependable income for the Association's work.

A CAP unit membership consists of the equivalent of one hundred twenty dollars per year remitted, if desired, on a monthly basis. To the CAP member the LHRAA office sends each month a small bulletin called **CAP RELEASE**, bringing some recent news comment on the interests of the Association.

There are those who do not find it possible to take out such a membership by themselves; these may assume responsibility for a CAP unit membership, finding friends who will participate with them to assure the income of ten dollars (or more) per month. The person who initiates the plan assumes responsibility for sending in the joint monthly remittance, and will receive all the copies of the **CAP RELEASE** to distribute among the participants in the CAP unit membership.

Those who wish to suggest names of others who might be interested in becoming a CAP member may notify the LHRAA office and contact will be made with them.

-- K. E. L.

glorified. — To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus. — That's worthy of the Christian's prayer — and his life's blood.

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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DUAL MINISTRY

(Continued from Page One)

Synod that has called a full-time associate pastor of the Negro race to help meet the challenge of ministering to people of all races living in the immediate community of the church.

"If the fact is to be maintained throughout the future life of this congregation that God's house is a haven for ALL of God's people and that they will be forever welcome here, regardless of which is the predominant race inhabiting this community, then during this period of the history of our congregation our dual ministry is important. When, if, and after the City's Planning and Redevelopment Committee has initiated action for redeveloping the area near our church, God alone knows what the racial complexion in the community of our church will then be.

"Meanwhile, one of the symbols of our dual ministry is that the white members who were the founders of our congregation will be assured that they will always be welcomed at their mother church, regardless of how far from the immediate community they may ever go to live. Also, it symbolizes that new white persons moving into the community, or desiring to join us, are welcome without a doubt to become a part of our fellowship. There are some white people who have joined our congregation either primarily because of our all-inclusive ministry to our community, or who were planning to join our congregation and were happy to see our . . . approach.

"Another purpose of our dual interracial ministry is to help demonstrate to the minority racial groups now living near our church that the idle evil gossip that they hear is not true. The reason minority groups are

being invited to worship with and to join our congregation is **not** because 'the church is dying now and is desperate for their money.' Christianity is **not** a 'white man's religion.' All white Christians are **not** 'racially prejudiced.'

"It should be stressed that this period of our dual interracial ministry is not a TRANSITIONAL one in the history of our congregation — a period from a so-called white to a so-called Negro congregation. Rather this is a period of INTER-NATIONALIZATION — a period when our congregation is going from what it was by circumstances and custom to what God meant for it to be all along: A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLES (Isa. 56:7).

"Both pastors feel that our dual ministry is so important for our unique situation that, if one should be led by God's Holy Spirit to accept a call to another field of labor in God's Kingdom here on earth, or should be called home to heaven by our Lord Himself in the near future, everything possible should be done with all haste to replace him with a man of like qualifications."

Should any of our readers desire a complete copy of the bulletin insert, they may secure it by writing directly to The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 21 Covert Street, Brooklyn 7, N.Y., or to The VANGUARD office.

LOOK AROUND

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is just the church, doing what it was called to be: an instrument of healing against the divisions among men. Such a phenomenon needs no extra label. In fact, the term "missions" confuses the issue and obscures the point of God's redemptive intent.

Hidden News Item

Occasionally, amid the thousands of words of newsprint, extremely important items are buried and often go unnoticed by the casual reader.

Perhaps the case of Carl Braden has not come to your attention. He is a man who has been pressing for the cause of integration in the South for a long time. The House Un-American Activities Committee went to investigate him. He refused to testify and was arrested and convicted of contempt.

Braden's reasoning: How is it that this Committee can come into Southern states to look for subversives, and fail to investigate governors who have made vows to uphold the Constitution of the United States but have gone on record publicly declaring their intentions to frustrate and oppose the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States?

His case was appealed to the Supreme Court, and the high tribunal agreed to review it, seeing merit in studying the defendant's claim that this Committee was using its authority for the harassment of people espousing the cause of integration. There are many who will be eagerly watching for the opinion of the high court on the activities of this House Committee that has come under much fire.

-- K. E. L.

(Editor's Note: When one thinks of the many injustices perpetrated in the name of justice, the words of St. Paul come to mind: "Who is offended and I burn not?")

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS

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The Montgomery Improvement Association
The Alabama Christian Movement on Human Rights
The Tuskegee Civic Association."

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

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Editorial Office: Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Professor Martin H. Scharlemann