

A REVIEW OF DR. E. D. W. ON THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD

By Rev. W. W. Evans

"The law governing the Council must be changed or the Council must be put in harmony with the law," says Dr. Jones. Now in changing a law the legislature examines first the original intention of the framers of the law and secondly, if the law failed to meet the requirements sought. In examining the law the correct interpretation must be perceived and construed. The leaving out of a single word or a comma in the construction is apt to give quite a turn to the intent of those who originally framed the law so that those who may not have the original before them have to accept the defective interpretation.

Now I take it that Dr. Jones is writing for the benefit of the General Conference in May, and it behooves him and those who would do the making and changing of laws to be very careful.

Dr. Jones says: "The Council is a meeting of boards." If I read correctly the Council is not a meeting of boards, but is more than a meeting of boards. Besides all the Bishops it is composed of the General officers and representatives of the Boards, these representatives being the President, secretary and treasurer of all the boards. He says: "only functions executive through the powers invested in the several Connectional Boards." Now the Council does more than that. The Council exercises executive power over (not through) and possesses all the rights vested in the several Connectional Boards excepting that of the Bishops to which it is subordinate. It shall have authority to make and enforce such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the successful operation of the several Boards. Thus the Council is the controlling power in the management of the Boards and is itself only controlled by a superior body, the Board of Bishops.

Dr. Jones wants the membership of the Council changed and recommends that all members of the Boards must compose the Council, since Boards do not and cannot function through their non-elected and non-proxied officers to give the Council any legal status. Now what has become of Dr. Jones' politics? Representation is the essence of politics, and the non-elected members are the constituency from which the representatives, namely, the President, Secretary and Treasurer are to take their reports to the Council and to whom they are responsible as a Board for their acts in the Council. Then again, what of the membership of the Bishops and the General officers? Is their influence in the Council of no account so as to make valid the work of the Council and give it a legal status.

Dr. Jones declares the executive power of the Council will be paper power not exercised power, because all the members of the boards are not members of the Council, and further that executive power without executors is written but not applied. Dr. Jones I will say unconsciously limits the power of the Council only to the membership of the representatives of the Boards and excludes the influence exercised by the General Officers and all the Bishops.

He says the Council could not vote an increase of salaries, but the Financial Board can at the Council meeting. It is not so. At the Council meeting it would not be the Financial Board voting for an increase of salaries. They will recommend to the Council comprised of all the representatives of the different boards, General officers and Bishops who will decide pro or con on the subject. It will only be a recommendation from the Financial Board which has no power as Dr. Jones says; for its recommendation can either be amended or thrown out by the majority of the members of the Council. He says the Council can not function without the Boards, but the Boards may function and do without the Council. Now I do not like to criticize Dr. Jones' interpretation of the law, but it ought to be understood that there could be

a council without the Boards, and in respect of the Boards doing without the Council it is not in conformity with politics for any set of bodies or Boards, societies or governments not to have a ruling power to govern them. Then what about this part of the law? "The Council shall have authority to make and enforce rules and regulations for the successful operation of the several Boards; the Council shall see that each officer and member of the several Boards perform the duties required by law; if any officer willfully neglects his duty and suffer the work of the Board to fail on that account the Board may recommend his removal to the Board of Bishops. Then how can the boards do without the Council. According to the reading there is only one board that can do without the Council and that is the Board of Bishops. And that is the Board alone which permits the Council to function. Dr. Jones says the spirit of the law is that each General officer or secretary report to his Board first, and then in open session as you please to the Board of Bishops, etc. According to custom such organizations generally depute their representatives who in this case, are the President, Secretary and treasurer, to report their findings to the Council composed not of the Board of Bishops alone, as Dr. Jones says, but to the full Council. If the church machinery and the government is centralized owing to the custom of carrying every departmental measure up to the Board of Bishops for adjustment it is not the fault of the law which is quite efficient, but the fault of the custom or procedure.

The Board of Bishops must be the only functioning board that will be heeded because that is the only disciplinary Board; the other Boards can only recommend, even the Council can only recommend to the board of Bishops.

Dr. Jones asks how is a member going to perform his duties by law if he is denied membership in a body where his Board meets and functions? The Board does not meet in the Council; the representatives of the boards meet. Each member of the Board is expected to do his duty in the Board with the idea of its being reported by his representatives to the Council. He asks again, how can reports be made to the Council? The essence of the law expects reports from every Board to the Council, and if such reports are not formulated for the benefit of the Council, those Boards are not performing their duties according to the direction of the law. If these laws are misconstrued or if they are not carried out to the letter, that is what Dr. Jones must complain against; but not upset laws which in themselves meet the requirements and are intended for the proper working and good management of the Connectional Boards. It appears that Dr. Jones misconstrues the law and it is no wonder if that law is not carried out to the letter. He says we can have no Council without boards and when these boards are not at the Council exercising executive power the Council is simply a gathering of celebrities.

The economy of the Council deals not with the Boards but with the representatives of such Boards, and those Boards are not required to exercise executive power for that is the work of the Council.

In conclusion I presume the makers of the law in framing the composition of the Council according to their experience had some model or plan to go upon in which the intention of the law had its origin.

The word 'Council,' was a term employed in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the early days to designate the meeting of the Bishops and Presiding Elders for the purpose of arranging the ministerial appointments.

It was first applied in 1789 to an assembly instituted for the general union and supervision of the Church and the plan of the Council was changed so as to substitute for the Presiding Elder an elder elected by each district. So we find that representation was the foundation of the Council, and while there was a Council there were no Boards.

New York.

CLASS LEADER'S RALLY MOTHER A. M. E. ZION CHURCH.

The thirty sixth annual Fair and mortgage Fund Rally of Mother A. M. E. Zion Church, came to a close on Sunday night, November 30th at which time the leaders made their reports. The classes were divided into groups according to their numerical strength:

- No. of class, its leader, amount raised, and prizes won are as follows:
- GROUP NO 1.
- No. 3, J. A. Hopkins, \$1,470.60; first prize.
- No. 7, C. A. Jordan, \$1,356.15, second prize.
- No. 5, R. Herbert Porter, \$1,202.68.
- No. 6, J. D. Blackwood, \$853.57.
- No. 8, J. E. Nickson, \$833.98.
- GROUP NO. 2.
- No. 12, C. A. Davis, \$821.19, first prize.
- No. 2, H. H. Thomas, \$708.03, second prize.
- No. 10, G. H. Lambdon, \$627.80.
- No. 4, James Chase, \$589.73.
- No. 11, E. W. Stewart, \$372.96.
- GROUP NO. 3.
- No. 9, C. H. Brent, \$324.45, first prize.
- No. 1, P. A. Richardson, \$307.06, second prize.
- No. 13, Archie Watkins, \$231.63.
- No. 14, Austin Mills, \$224.88.
- No. 15, J. D. Steele, \$69.22.
- Friends, \$215.12. Grand total, \$10,277.05.

Last year the church was remodeled at a cost of \$40,000. The building is yet too small. Plans are now being formulated to erect a modern Sunday School building in the rear of the church with an entrance from 137th street.

During the seven years' pastorate of Dr. Brown the church, parsonage and Brotherhood house, a social center for the young people, have been purchased by the congregation.

ON TO VICTORY

By Rev. G. A. Howard, Pastor of the Laverne Circuit.

Editor of The Star: There is a loud call by the A. M. E. Zion Church. Here is the answer. Yes. We will do what you want us to do, is the real answer. As a man who loves Zion and her cause I must say that we are not only going to answer Zion's call with just what it asked for, but we are preparing to go over the top with \$20,000 more than the required amount. We must do it. We can do it with God to help us. All that is needed is men, members and friends mixed with prayer and faith in God.

We really cannot afford to let Zion's banner trail in the dust. We are with our Bishops and we are going to stand by the great Financial Drive. We are not listening to anything along this particular line, but forward march, and that is towards Zion's needs, and that is yet small for five years. We can not have too much money, for our Zion must lead for we have great leaders, and we must not let them fail. So when the great drive comes off we all shall be made to feel glad. God be praised for the effort. Get ready brethren. Get together members, and let us march over the top with not less than one million dollars more than the General Church called for.

Let us not swing back against any move for Zion. Now is the time to show loyalty to the Church. God will lead if we follow him as Moses did in leading Israel. Just go forward and keep the staff in hand and God will tell us what to do with it. May God bless our Bishops and General officers. Prayer is the power of the great movement, then willingness next.

Faith to believe that we can get the money. Do not pray too long; do not stay on our knees too long; Pray short. Then have a will mixed with faith. Then go ahead with the staff in hand. God will tell us how and what to do with it.

"All I have is thine, O, Lord; All I may have thou givest me." Montgomery, Ala.

PENNSYLVANIA PETITION SENATORS CUMMINS AND KNOX ON JIM CROW CARS

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 5, 1919. The following resolution was adopted last evening at a citizen's mass meeting held in the St. Paul Baptist church, Rev. E. Luther Cunningham, pastor, at which time there was an address by William Monroe Trotter of Boston, the Colored American delegate to the Peace Conference. Leading colored citizens present who made addresses on behalf of equal rights for the race were H. Justin Carter, Esq., Dr. C. L. Carter, Rev. B. M. Ward, Rev. James Robinson, Prof. B. H. Baker, Mr. Robert J. Nelson, Rev. E. Luther Cunningham, and L. F. Baldwin, Esq., of New York City. Mr. Robert J. Nelson presided over the meeting.

RESOLVED: That inasmuch as the rights to travel in public conveyance is one of the fundamentals of free governments, and any restrictions thereon based on race, creed or color constitute class legislation of the most drastic and undemocratic kind, we, colored citizens of Harrisburg, Pa., call upon the Interstate Commerce Commission, through its chairman, Senator Cummins, to enjoin in the present Railroad bill a clause doing away with that anomaly, that insult to the race, segregation for color in interstate travel, or to grant a hearing on such a proposal, also.

RESOLVED; that we, citizens of Harrisburg, assembled in the St. Paul Baptist church, December 4th, 1919, do hereby petition Senator P. C. Knox of this state to see to it that an amendment is made to the Railroad bill, which will do away with segregation of Colored Interstate passengers by a hearing on the matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission, or by his moving such an amendment to the bill when under consideration by the Senate.

RESOLVED: That the Secretary Reverend E. Luther Cunningham, send a letter with a copy of these resolutions to Senator Cummins and Senator P. C. Knox and Senator Boise Penrose. (Signed) Robert J. Nelson, chairman. Rev. E. Luther Cunningham, Secretary.

THE VIRGINIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Supreme importance and interest attached to the 54th annual session of the Virginia annual conference, Richmond, Va., Nov. 26 to Dec. 1, 1919, in view of the fact that it was held in the capital city of the Southern confederacy, after the struggle and experiments of 54 years and by the finest church owned by Negroes in that city.

The conference was organized by Mr. B. T. Parson, secretary; Rev. J. W. Morgan, assistant secretary; Mr. J. W. Poe, Reporter to the city papers; Rev. W. J. Hines, Reporter to The Star of Zion; Rev. B. J. Bolding, Reporter to the Norfolk Journal and Guide; Revs. E. T. Lynn, R. H. Spelman and P. H. Dallas, Marshalls; Prof. W. E. Woodyard, secretary to the Bishop; Mrs. P. R. Flack, Mrs. M. L. King, Mrs. M. A. Everette, and Mrs. M. F. Gregory were made life members of the W. H. and F. Missionary Society.

This society totaled in its annual receipts \$1216.42. They conducted their beautiful program Saturday night at which time the Silver Leaf Glee club of the Fifth Street Baptist church sang several of their popular selections to the delight of the large audience.

It was announced that Bishop G. C. Clement would sail for Africa December 17, 1919.

The attendance of General Officers included Dr. J. Harvey Anderson, Editor of The Star of Zion; Dr. J. W. Martin, Secretary of Education and others.

General Conference delegates: W. E. Woodyard, S. P. Cooke, C. L. Alexander, N. D. King, P. R. Flack, G. W. Brown, M. F. Gregory, Alternates, G. H. Miles, T. J. Williamson, W. M. Spalding, W. T. Beck, W. H. Horton, Lay Delegates: B. T. Parsons, T. C. Irwin, alternates. B. T. Lynn, J. H. Brooks.

The conference by vote endorsed Drs. B. J. Bolding and P. A. Wallace

for the Bishopric; Dr. J. Harvey Anderson for the editor of The Star of Zion; Dr. A. J. Gorham for Foreign Missions; Dr. C. L. Alexander for Secretary of A. M. E. Zion League of Financiers, Dr. S. P. Cooke, for Secretary of A. M. E. Zion Ministerial Brotherhood and Rev. W. T. Beck for Ter Centenary.

Prominent pastors in evidence were Dr. P. A. Wallace, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Dr. W. J. Walls, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. H. J. Johnson, Ithaca, N. Y.; Dr. L. T. Conquest, Detroit, Michigan; Dr. J. Fulford Williams, of Henderson, North Carolina; Dr. W. C. Brown and Dr. W. D. Battle, and Dr. J. T. Moppins and Prof. S. M. Dudley, Washington, D. C.; Lieut. A. H. Hatwood, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Great sermons were delivered at the seat of the conference by Rev. W. J. Hines, D. D., annual sermon, Wednesday night by Dr. J. Moppins; Thanksgiving sermon Thursday night, Rev. W. J. Walls; Educational sermon Friday night, Dr. P. A. Wallace, 11 A. M. Sunday; Dr. J. W. Martin, 3, P. M.; Dr. J. Harvey Anderson also preached at 11 A. M., at the Presbyterian church, Rev. A. A. Hector Pastor. Dr. L. T. Conquest delivered the missionary sermon Monday night.

The local choir was assisted Sunday 3 P. M., by the choir of the Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion church of Norfolk, Va., Oak Street A. M. E. Zion church of Petersburg, Va., Fifth St. Baptist church and the A. M. E. church both of Richmond, Va.

The finances as shown by the reports ran ahead of the schedules.

The Ter Centenary Drive went up into the thousands by cash and subscriptions. The General claims were all in excess of the scheduled amounts.

The conference totaled for the year \$110,000. The Sunday offering amounted to over \$500. The conference is divided into three districts manned by efficient and able officers. Norfolk district, Dr. S. P. Cooke; Petersburg district, Dr. M. F. Gregory; Victory district, Rev. T. J. Williamson. The leading Missionary spirits are: Mrs. Nannie Brooks and Mrs. Mollie Jones of Petersburg; and Mrs. M. F. Gregory, of Berkley. (Other names will appear in conference write-ups by the reporters.)

The entertainment of the conference by Dr. P. R. Flack and his cultured congregation was excellent. Meals were served at the church and the homing accommodations were superb, the Richmond citizens owning and possessing very fine homes supported by a large line of business and skilled labor, professional and other industries for which Richmond is famous. The Stewardess Board of the A. M. E. Church fed the conference sumptuously one day. Bishop G. L. Blackwell was at his best and happy. Drs. Wallace and Martin were good assistants to him in the conduct of the conference. It is not an easy matter to flatter Bishop Blackwell by praise and compliment. He is all that can be sincerely said about him. In another way we will speak more definitely of Hood Temple A. M. E. Zion Church, the Rev. P. R. Flack and of his work presenting cuts of himself, church and parsonage. Following is the program of welcome.

Wednesday 8 P. M., Devotional Exercises.

Annual Sermon by Rev. W. J. Hines, D. D.

Welcome Addresses— On behalf of Hood Temple church, Dr. W. J. Pettis.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. A. A. Hector, D. D.

On behalf of the A. M. E. Church, Rev. M. E. Davis, D. D.

On behalf of the M. E. Church, Rev. C. C. Gill, D. D.

On behalf of the Baptist Church, Rev. T. J. King, D. D.

On behalf of colored citizens, Hon. Giles B. Jackson

On behalf of societies, Dr. W. M. H. Smith.

On behalf of town, Mayor George Ainslie.

Responses, members of the Conference and the Bishop.

Bishop Blackwell conducted his proverbial "School of the Prophets," allotting one occasion to Dr. Sterling Brown, Professor in Howard Univer-

(Continued to Page 7)