

### Important Decisions Face Presbyterian Delegates

MONTREAT, May 28—(P)—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the U. S. will find itself confronted with familiar subjects of controversy, and some new ones, when it meets here tomorrow for its annual six-day session.

Two long-standing and much debated issues involve proposed reunion with the Presbyterian church in the U. S. A. (The Northern branch), and withdrawal or continued affiliation with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Prospective other questions, as indicated by overtures from various Presbyteries, include a request that the assembly urge the enactment of a federal marriage and divorce law, that it condemn the appropriation of public funds for private or parochial schools, and that steps be taken to bring the denomination's summer assembly ground here at Montreat more directly under control of the assembly.

Reporting that the cost of operating the General Assembly had

increased in line with higher costs generally, the Stated Clerk, Dr. E. C. Scott, of Dallas, Texas, was prepared to submit a recommendation that the per capita tax be made ten cents instead of the present nine cents. Prior to 1944 it was seven cents.

With regard to the proposal to unite with the Northern church after a separation that dates back to the Civil War, the Presbytery of Missouri submitted an overture asking that the assembly "make no delay in completing this union, so long postponed."

On the other hand, the Presbytery of Savannah overtured the assembly to desist from all further effort toward organic union for the time being, and the Holston Presbytery proposed that the committee on cooperation and

church union be replaced by a committee on cooperation.

**Favor Withdrawal**

Overtures asking withdrawal from the Federal Council were sent in by the Presbyteries of East Mississippi, Holston, Mecklenburg, Meridan, Knoxville, Tuscaloosa, Central Mississippi, Congaree, East Alabama, Pine Bluff, and Asheville, and a number of others asked that the question be submitted to a vote of all the church's 88 Presbyteries.

The assembly will be called to order at 7:30 p. m. tomorrow. Dr. J. B. Green, of Decatur, Ga., the retiring moderator, will preside and preach the opening sermon. Afterward a new moderator will be elected and installed, and various matters of routine business will be attended to.

**NEGRO GETS CHANCE TO ESCAPE PENALTY BY GIVING UP GUN**

Leroy Thomas, 48-year-old Negro, has a good chance to escape a county farm sentence today in Recorder's court. That is if he acts at the suggestion of the court.

Brought before Judge Winfield Smith yesterday on a charge of assault, his wife, Lillie, testified that he had threatened her with a pistol. Thomas admitted shooting the gun but said he did not shoot at his wife.

The court suggested Thomas

**COURT TO DECIDE CHILDREN'S FATE**

**Negro Brother And Sister, Alleged To Have Been Held By Mother**

Disposition of two tiny Negro children—a brother and a sister—who, their father alleged were deserted by their mother but later

turned over the gun to the court. But the Negro was hesitant. "Well, think it over until tomorrow," said the court. "Case continued until then."

removed from school without his knowledge, probably will be made today by Judge Clawson L. Williams.

The youngsters appeared in court yesterday on a habeas corpus writ instituted by their father. They were brought here by Sheriff Clyde Huntis of Mecklenburg county, from Charlotte.

The children are Luther Smith, 11, and Helen Smith, 8. The mother, Lucille Smith, appeared in court with them.

But failing to appear was the father, Glenn Smith. The court ordered the children placed in the custody of their mother until 9:30 a. m. today when a hearing was ordered. Court attaches yesterday

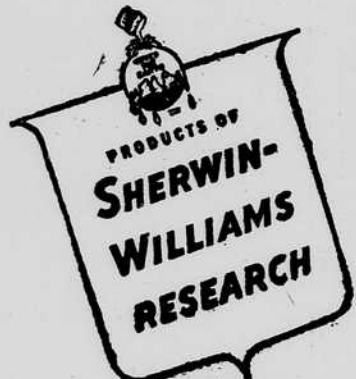
and his attorney to complete the hearing.

In a court action May 19-Judge John J. Burney ordered the habeas corpus writ issued and the sheriff to produce the youngsters at Wilmington yesterday.

The father, in a petition seeking the writ, declared that his wife in 1943 "ran away with another man" deserting him and the children and since then has lived in Charlotte.

Or May 12 last, according to the father, his wife came to the Columbus county school where the youngsters were attending class and spirited them away with her to Charlotte where she has since kept them.

He asserted that the mother is "not the proper person" to have custody of the two.



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