

Senator Sam J. Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—This session of the Congress has witnessed a continuing controversy over our Federal Judiciary. The Senate has considered three nominees to fill a single vacancy on the Supreme Court. The House has taken preliminary steps to consider a possible impeachment of one of the Justices of that Court.

These controversies, together with a general public criticism of the administration of justice by the federal courts, have apparently caused many members of the Congress to introduce no less than 27 bills to discipline federal judges. Some of these bills would require judges to disclose their personal finances, while other measures would establish sweeping controls over the power of judges to try cases and interpret the laws. Some of these legislative proposals seek to establish inquisition-like commissions which could purge unpopular judges in violation of constitutional requirements for impeachments.

As the readers of this column know, I have consistently urged that we have the best possible judiciary, and that we appoint federal judges who interpret the Constitution in accordance with its true intent and meaning. At the same time, I am concerned about many of the proposals now being offered which would undermine the independence of the federal judiciary in an unwise and unconstitutional manner.

For this reason, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, I have been conducting hearings to determine how we can best resolve the difficult questions involved in judicial reform so that we may preserve the fundamental need for an independent judiciary.

The principal issue at stake before the subcommittee relates to the future role of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the judicial circuit councils which have been in existence for many years. Congress created the Judicial Conference in 1922 to clear up a backlog of cases and to improve the functioning of the federal courts. For many years, judicial councils confined their activities to "housekeeping" duties which involved the making of plans for the best use of judges in clearing crowded court dockets and in preparing suggested rules of practice and procedure for the efficient administration of the courts.

In recent years, however, due to the national concern about judicial ethics, these councils have begun to assume disciplinary duties. The assumption of this authority has been questioned by many judges, and has raised the questions of how far such councils should be permitted to go in supervising the operation of the courts.

As with any issue of this nature, there are widely diverse views on how these councils have functioned within their statutory authorization. The function of the subcommittee's study is to try to ascertain how we can best protect the public, the courts, and assure the fair and impartial administration of the laws in accordance with constitutional principles.

Since the performance and integrity of the federal courts is at stake, I believe that the testimony given at these hearings will be most helpful as the Congress undertakes to weigh the consequences of the various legislative proposals on this subject.

Guard Position To Maj. Harrell

Hanover Street, Williamston, has been named battalion executive officer of 1st Bn. 119th Infantry, N. C. Army National Guard, with headquarters in Ahoskie.

Maj. Harrell enlisted in the Guard in Edenton 21 years ago. He received his commission from ROTC at N. C. State University in 1954, where he was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. He served on active duty as company executive officer with the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Straubing, Germany.

In the Guard he has been a company commander, Brigade S-3 (operations and training officer), and Battalion S-3.

The 1st Bn. 119th Infantry has units in Wilson, Nashville, Tarboro, Scotland Neck, Woodland, Roanoke Rapids, Windsor, Edenton, Elizabeth City and Williamston.

Maj. Harrell is the American Oil distributor for Martin, Washington and Bertie counties.

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Make Going To Church A Habit

HOW IS ONE SAVED?

International Sunday School Lesson for May 17

Memory Selection: "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ."—Galatians 2:16.

Lesson Text: Acts 15:1-35; Galatians 2.

In our lesson today we will endeavor to show that Salvation is the true gift of God—a gift given freely and willingly through the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. And the only "price tag" that salvation bears is that of an unflinching and trusting faith. For, contrary to somewhat popular beliefs, it is not necessarily "earned" by good deeds alone.

In these passages today we will also see a familiar battle waged—the battle between what the "law" proclaimed as right—and what was truly right. (We are reminded of the many times Jesus was confronted with the law, as opposed to His interpretations; for which He was often regarded as a radical). But Jesus felt that in a strict and fanatical observance of rules and regulations (laid down, no doubt, with the best intentions in the world) the larger and more meaningful issues were oftentimes overlooked completely.

The church, at the time of our studies, was having "growing pains." The church at Antioch, the forerunner of the concept of Christianity for all, was free-thinking in its concepts, dedicated and enthusiastic about spreading God's word to all men, while the church at Jerusalem clung even more tenaciously to its history in the life of the Jewish people, determined to preserve the old customs and the accepted ways of Jewish life.

It is not surprising, therefore, that circumstances forced the church, as a body, to delineate the requirements for salvation and church membership. The concept that merely a dedicated observance of time-honored rituals and a meeting of the obligations of rules and regulations met head-on with Paul's interpretations. For he constantly maintained that Christ was one who came in man's behalf, a Being who could reactivate and re-direct the life of any man who believed in Him and that for which He stood. Identification with Christ, maintained Paul, enabled the weakest of men to duplicate His principles.

For Paul the Christian faith was not only a religion—it was a practical and rewarding way of life. It was a sharing in Christ. Salvation and fellowship, to him, went hand in hand. This is reiterated throughout all his writings.

Controversy still rages, throughout many of our churches today, on many diverse topics. We should not, let it be said, be necessarily dismayed—although we need to be wary of unhealthy dissension. For dissension can become a way of life—a habit which accomplishes nothing—and which even destroys. But healthy, active controversy can be an enriching and enlivening experience for the church membership. For it could very aptly mean that progress is

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OVER THE TOP



Eddie and Jake have been buddies since they could toddle. Together they hiked, fished, argued and leap-frogged the years away. If they weren't at our house, they were at Eddie's. Sundays, Eddie came along to church with us.

They did everything together, dated, played football, went to college. When they joined the Army, they went together.

Jake is coming home next week, but not Eddie. His mother brought his last letter over today. We cried together.

"Dear Mom," Eddie wrote, "Things are pretty bad. I'm glad Jake is here. We talk about home, about God, too. I know you and Dad never cared about church and all, but I think you'll be glad to know I've learned a lot about God from Jake. Whatever happens, I feel close to Him. I'm not scared."

Faith in God is your child's heritage. Take him to church today.



Friday

John 13:1-17

Saturday

Romans 12:9-21

Scriptures selected by the American Bible Society

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Respectfully,

H. B. Williford



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