

NEGRO HEADS 3.2 MILLION PRESBYTERIANS

BIBLE'S VIEWS RAPPED

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PROTESTANT CHURCH IN HISTORIC MOVE

OKLAHOMA CITY--A Negro minister from the Bronx was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. last week. He is the first member of his race to head the 3.2 million-member, predominantly white Protestant denomination.

The new Moderator is the Rev. Dr. Edler G. Hawkins, the pastor of St. Augustine Church at Prospect Avenue and East 165th Street in New York City.

Dr. Hawkins, who will in effect serve as spiritual leader of the denomination for the coming year, defeated the Rev. Dr. A. Ray Cartledge, a white minister from Erie, Pa., where he heads the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. The vote was 465 to 368.

The election marked the opening of the church's 176th general assembly at the Municipal Auditorium here. It undoubtedly set the tone for the days ahead, when the Presbyterians took a strong stand in support of civil rights demonstrations and legislation.

Dr. Hawkins was born in New York and educated in its public school system. He is a graduate of Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, N. J., and Union Theological Seminary.

The organization Dr. Hawkins will head is the largest of the Presbyterian bodies. Another, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, has about 930,000 members.

Dr. Hawkins, 55 years old, has served as Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of New York and was named Vice Moderator of the church's 172nd General Assembly four years ago. At that time he was a candidate for the Moderatorship, but lost the election by two votes.

Dr. Hawkins was nominated by J. Vernon Lloyd, a layman from Danville, Calif. The seconding speech was made by the Rev. Dr. John B. Macnab, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in New York.

At a breakfast meeting of the Presbyterian Interracial Council, the Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, the church's chief executive officer, hailed the growing involvement of churches in the struggle for racial justice.

But, Dr. Blake observed, "It is a tragedy that it is still news when Christians begin to behave" (See HAWKINS, page 12)

WARD SINGERS PRESENT UNIQUE CONCERT TONIGHT

A unique concert featuring selections by two popular gospel singing groups headed separately by a mother and her daughter will be presented at 8 p.m. tonight at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The Clara Ward and Gertrude Ward ensembles will appear together on the same stage for the first time anywhere in a rendition of unusual spiritual arrangements.

Benefitting will be the new Evangelistic Center. Daughter Clara is underwriting the project with her own funds, including rental of the Convention Center.

The Clara Ward group is currently a top attraction at the New Frontier Hotel.



PROTEST BILL EMASCULATION--Nevada Equal Rights Assn. members, meeting at First Presbyterian Community Church in Hawthorne, examine resolution disapproving Sen. Alan Bible's support of amendments to federal civil rights bill that would "emasculate" sections on public accommodations and equal employment. From left: Rev. Benjamin E. Bollman, Hawthorne; Otis Gray, Hawthorne NAACP president; Mrs. O. A. Smith, Sparks; M. William Deutsch, Las Vegas, NERA chairman; Mrs. Barbara Harnage, Hawthorne, and Rev. Donald Thompson, Reno. (See story this page, letter to Sen. Bible by VOICE publisher, Dr. Charles I. West, page 2.)

Nevada Senator's Doubts About Rights Bill Provisions Assailed

MEMBERS of the Nevada Equal Rights Association have expressed disapproval of Sen. Alan Bible's views regarding the federal civil rights bill now being debated in the Senate.

In a recent letter to the Rev. Donald Thompson of Reno, Sen. Bible gave assurances that he favored enactment of a civil rights bill during the present session of Congress, but said he had grave doubts as to the wisdom and constitutionality of certain parts of the bill now under consideration.

Sen. Bible said he referred to Title II, the public accommodations section, and Title VII, the equal or fair employment practices section.

At its recent meeting at the First Presbyterian Community Church in Hawthorne, the NERA went on record as believing that the two sections questioned by Sen. Bible were the heart of the bill and that their deletion or emasculation would result in no significant civil rights legislation whatsoever.

In regard to the constitutionality of the bill, already passed by the House of Representatives by a substantial margin, the NERA pointed out that our government consists of three branches -- executive, legislative and judicial, and that it was up to the latter branch, through the Supreme Court, to determine the constitutionality of any legislation.

In expressing disapproval of Sen. Bible's position, the NERA urged both him and Sen. Howard Cannon to vote for cloture of the current Senate filibuster and support the civil rights bill without crippling amendments, such as the Talmadge amendment.

Churches of God in Christ Convene

Hundreds of members of the Churches of God in Christ throughout Nevada will converge on West Las Vegas next week for their 16th annual State Convocation starting Tuesday, June 2, and continuing through Monday, June 8.

Services will start at 10 a.m. daily at the State Temple (Upper Room Church) at 1117 'F' Street according to Bishop C. C. Cox,

titular head of the Churches of God in Christ in Nevada. Meetings dealing with church business will be conducted during the seven-day convocation, together with presentations by the State Chorus.

Bishop Cox will be aided by Bishop E. N. Webb, Assistant Bishop for Nevada, and Sweetie A. Porter, State Supervisor of the (See COX, page 12)