Thursday, August 20, 1964

Churches Vary on Race Issue

Ministers Take Different Slants on Morality of Civil Rights

Dan Thrapp, religion editor of the Los Angeles Times, recently compiled a resume of his observations on the different slants taken by various members of the Christian Clergy on the moral aspects of the civil rights movement. His resume follows:

This, it has been freely gree, but beside the point. predicted, is going to be a long, hot summer on the racial front, but many doors closed against the their hearts to themselves heat and won't know the and got a whip and chased difference.

about the race issue in California, from Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders and laity, and it may be that in this part of the country the problem is not quite so intense as problems are today. . elsewhere. But it exists here, too.

A number of churchmen moral issue, clearly enough.

not involve them, or if it nominations.

Others Avoid Issue

Others evade the issue by with the race issue. polemics and rationalization.

They say that because -the Methodists and the part of the problem.

Many of them are overly and were counted. rights," and "the only real the chutch. answer to civil rights is changing men's hearts." And so on.

Elect . . .

money changers in the temple He didn't wring his hands and weep, or try to churches will keep the change their hearts. He left with the image of the Centhem out of the temple, thereby giving us an ex-We have heard a lot ample for all time of the simple fact that direct ac-Pittsburgh again this tion is sometimes appro-spring. A "voluntary" priate and called for.

When Jesus found the

been so clear a moral issue hallmark of racial bias will as the civil rights and racial still be with us four years

leading the nation toward vately, "that we as a dethe solution, instead of lag- nomination have lost any issue involved, but most churches are doing today. speak out anywhere on the men of the cloth see it as a Not only individual race problem. It's a dis-Not only individual grace." Not only individual grace." But many think it does churches, but whole de-

does that it is less pressing fortune this spring to cover gation quiet and happy and conventions of some of the meeting the annual budget. greatest. Protestant denom-inations.

Each dealt in some way

Two of the largest denominations of our country

they live in a white com- Southern Baptists - ginmunity, the integration gerly stepped out of the problem does not directly ring. Two denominations affect them, not seeing, or lesser in size-the United not wanting to see, that Presbyterians and the their white community is American Baptists - met the issue head-on, stood up

impressed by segregationa- Methodists were faced as lists in their congregation they have been since its and find excuses why they creation in 1939 with thecan not align themselves on problem of their Central the issue. And too many Jurisdiction, a Negro adhide behind such shib-ministrative unit that boleths as, "you can't sprawls across the country change human nature," regardless of the normal "you can't legislate civil geographic jurisdictions of

Pressure Within All true enough, to a de-pressure within the de-

it vier

the General Conference matter at least. so "just vet."

Rather than see the shown to be defeated. tions as it was before 1939 nothing and meant nothing, white jurisdictions. the bulk of Methodists have was a dopted, but the the Rev. Milton Wood of grated. taken what they consider stronger statement was the Atlanta Diocese, said When the lessen will of mutting up quadrennium.

Hallmark Remains

program for dissolution of ination at some time in the reports no trouble with the there is no problem locally. The point is that rarely in the Central Jurisdiction our history has a matter was adopted - and that

And that the church "I think," said a noted should be out in front Methodist minister priissue involved, but most ging far behind as many right we may have had to

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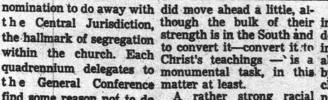
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The real reason is that tion, and almost adopted, the Southeastern Jurisdic- which would have been tion, the politically best precedent-shattering, in- The Southeastern Synou organized unit of the deed. As a matter of fact America has an open-door

800 according to another.

The count was secret. not too distant future. The United Presbyter-

ians, meanwhile, elected Dr. Edler G. Hawkins, the

praises upon Dr. Eugene pressing problem. Carson Blake, their stated There are probably few clerk, for his forthright ac- ministers today who would

integration.

FRESH

MUSTARD GREENS

The Presbyterian Church his race attitude probably the Central Jurisdiction, though the bulk of their in the U.S. (Southern) or- had nothing to do with his the hallmark of segregation within the church. Each Christ's teachings —' is a absorb three Negro pres-quadrennium delegates to monumental task, in this byteries. Roman Catholic McIntyre believes that no churches in the South gefind some reason not to do A rather strong racial nerally are integrated, al-

Lutheran Open-Door

church, has threatened to the presiding officer at one policy, and finds that few bolt the denomination if the point declared it to be Negroes take advantage of the cardinal's wishes, that Central Jurisdiction is dis- adopted, but a ballot vote it. The Lutheran Church race was an issue, might solved. Rather than see the shown to be defeated it has integrated churches, open the matter to question. Rather than see the shown to be defeated. but "there are problems in But even Father DuBay church split once more into A substitute that said the South." It has merged a greed that Catholic

"in isolated instances."

But the closeness of the Churches of Christ are trend toward integration, even in the South where it has most of its strength.

Not Pressing Here

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race problem raises a moral issue of moment to the statement was proposed at though there are relatively the Atlantic City conven- few Negro Catholics there. Catholic Church in his arch-diocese.

Open to Question

The incident involving the Rev. William H. Du-Bay, who insisted, against

But even Father DuBay northern and southern fac- nothing and required its Negro jurisdictions with churches and Catholic institutions in this archdiocese were fully inte-

Where he took issue with tral Jurisdiction for another according to one report, or area was integrated except of the whole matter, is

where the church's re-The 2.2 million-member sponsibility lies-and ends. If it is confined to the That's what happened at But the closeness of the sometimes integrated and four walls of the church it ts hur gh again this vote may foreshadow action by this great denom- sometimes segregated and and its institutions, then

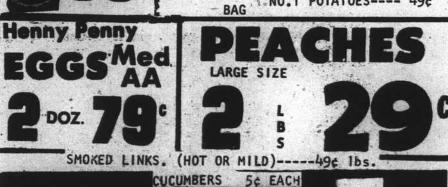
Matter of Definition

If it reaches out into the shops and streets and offices and homes, wherever a first Negro moderator they Here in the West church Christian lives and moves h a v e had, and h e a p e d integration in itself is not a and earns his' livelihood, then it becomes a problem There are probably few and an urgent one.

That is where our Negro tivities on the race front. behave as 10 years ago a fellow citizens say the The American (Northern) Baptist clergyman assured problem exists, and they Baptists also were willing me he would, should a Ne- say it is a moral as well as a

to be counted. Other churches have "I would tell him to go churchmen agree, and act tentatively moved toward elsewhere," he said. He no on that assumption. Many longer is a pastor although more agree, but fail to act. 0738 DAIIA7 8AM - 10791 In The HI-VIEW PLAZA North of BRUCE's LIQUORS WHOLE END CU KERNS LARGE JAR APPLE BUTTER 3 for \$1.00 GIANT 577

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