

Rev. D.W. More & Nuclear Arms

In the Fall of 1963, Jack Shaver, Chaplain at U.B.C. (1959-1969), told me a story of Dad, as chair of the Evangelism and Social Service Committee of the United Church, speaking passionately against the adoption of nuclear arms in Canada, turning the committee unanimously away from a previous adoption stance. I have since found, in the proceedings of the 39th British Columbia conference (1963), the following resolutions brought forward by that committee.

5 RE: NUCLEAR WEAPONS:

- (1) That this B.C. Conference urge our Government to renegotiate Canadian commitments to the end that it refuse the installation or storage of nuclear weapons of any kind on Canadian soil.
- (2) That the B.C. Conference protest against the preparation and testing of nuclear weapons in any nation.
- (3) That the B.C. Conference urge upon its constituent churches an increased concern not only for the current nuclear arms issue but for larger things that make for World Peace in the name of Christ.
- (4) That it authorize its E. & S.S. Committee to immediately forward this amended resolution to the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Ottawa, Ontario.

It is also interesting to see the other issues which the committee was dealing with. I find it a fascinating and powerful reminder of the beliefs and values of our Dad.

The Evangelism and Social Service Committee presented reports for information on Christian Burial, Foster Homes, Medical Insurance Plans, the Church and Industry International Relations, Senior Citizens Homes, Alcohol Research and Education and other topics. The Conference approved the following resolutions:

1 RE: MINIMUM WAGE:

"That we express to the Board of Industrial Relations our concern over the low minimum wage rates for a considerable number of occupations, and that we urge the Board, at the earliest possible date, to do all in its power to to review and revise upwards to a minimum of \$1.00 per hour the wage rate for all classes of casual workers and full-time employees.

2 Re: SOCIAL WELFARE

(a) That this Conference congratulate the Provincial Government on passing Bill 46 (re: Training Schools for children) and Bill 70 (re: Family and Children's Courts) and ask for a speedy implementation of the Acts by the framing of the necessary regulations. The Conference is gratified to learn that in preparing these regulations the Government is consulting with voluntary agencies already working in the Welfare field.

(b) This Conference requests the Government to assist Municipalities in setting up local branches of the Family and Children's Court by consultative services and financial subsidy as well as by permissive legislation, and asks the Government to provide additional staff for probation work.

(c) The Conference requests the Government to provide additional facilities for treatment of emotionally disturbed children and pre-delinquent children who have to be removed from their homes for various reasons and for whom foster homes are not available. The Conference is concerned that children of tender years be not housed in the same Institution as older youths with established records of delinquency.

(d) This Conference requests Pastoral Charges throughout British Columbia to be ready to help make Acts effective by providing foster homes, and personnel able and willing to serve on the new Magistrates Committees.

3 RE: OAKALLA PRISON:

In view of the tremendous over-crowding, we recommend that the B.C. Conference urge the Corrections Department of the B.C. Government to take immediate action with regard to the short-term offender in Oakalla, with a view to reducing population so that the constructive programme they support may be carried out

4 RE: LIQUOR CONTROL:

That this Conference recognize the necessity of maintaining a strong Liquor Control Board but, without reflecting upon the present Chairman, urge that the personnel of the Board be increased to three members in order to avoid the possible abuse of such powers when too much responsibility is placed on one person.