THE SPRINGFIELDER

Vol. XXV Summer, 1961 No. 2

THE SPRINGFIELDER is published quarterly by the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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Clergy changes of address reported to Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo., will also cover mailing change of The Springfielder. Other changes of address should be sent to the Business Manager of The Springfielder, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Address communications to the Editor, Erich H. Heintzen, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Business correspondence should be addressed to Norman A. Bumby, Business Manager, Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois.

Editorials

The Right to Say It

THE right to say what you think is yours as an American citizen. Whether the individual is a Christian or not makes no difference. To think as the right to say it is our privilege, and in the same respect, it is our duty. This is true of Christians as well as non-Christians. You are free to say what you think and believe, provided you do not violate the law.

While the variety of contributions to this issue is wide, it is not surprising that the right to say what you think is the predominant one. The right to speak your mind on such issues, however, runs the gamut of opinions.

The State of the Church Conference

A LL in all the State of the Church Conference was regarded as a miraculous gift to the Church. Lord to His church in these last historic fate hangs in the balance.

"This was not an official communication, it was a meeting of a very small and could not be substantiated by objective information.

Neither of the statements of the Church Conference with the well-believed that it was a meeting of a "very small and cannot be substantiated."

In evaluating the Conference, observations wholly in the realm
Called Teachers' Retirement:  
A Faculty Opinion

The following resolution was sent to the Faculty with a request for an opinion. Apparently some of the brethren in the Association had their misgivings regarding the enforced retirement provision in the resolution.

A RESOLUTION REGARDING CALLED TEACHERS
BE IT RESOLVED:

1. (A) Called Teachers' retirement age shall be 65, or sooner, if he shall so elect. The retirement shall become effective at the end of the school term during which he shall have attained the age of 65.
   (B) By mutual agreement between the School Board and said retired teacher, he may be rehired on a contract basis.
   (C) Said teacher's salary, by mutual agreement by said teacher and the Board of Lutheran School Association, shall be not less than the salary said teacher received before changing his status.

2. That called teacher's status, after reaching the retirement age and/or sixty-five years of age, shall be that of a contract teacher.

3. That Contract Teachers shall be on a year-to-year basis of hire, the contract being between teachers or instructors and the Lutheran School Association.

4. That teachers' or instructors' contract can be terminated, governed by the rules of the constitution of the Lutheran School Association, directed by the School Board of the Association.

5. That this resolution be presented at the next Lutheran School Association meeting; and if the resolution be adopted, that the first four points be made a policy of the Lutheran School Association, and of said School Board, and incorporated into the by-laws of the Constitution of the Lutheran School Association.
The Faculty Opinion follows:

1. The teaching ministry in the church is ordinarily a lifetime profession for the individual. Thus, a servant of the Word expects and is expected to serve the church or the local congregation(s) to which he has been called during the normal course of his working life. He may, however, accept another call. Likewise, he can be dismissed for the usual reasons, such as persistent teaching of false doctrine, scandalous life, and refusal or inability to carry out his duties.

2. Under normal conditions the Call, which is a relationship established by God between the church and the servant, is limited only by circumstances affecting the ability of the servant or the needs of the calling agency.

3. A proper call must always determine the area of activity and may also determine the length of service required. (The best interests of the individual and of the calling agency may at times require a limitation of tenure. The divinity of the call is not affected by such limited tenure.)

4. It would appear that Paragraphs 1 (B) and (C) in the proposed resolution are designed to assure a servant of the Word that, if he is able and willing to serve, he will be given that opportunity.

5. While there is no conflict between the proposed resolution and the doctrine of the call, the matter of Christian ethics must be considered in the implementation of any such resolution. Care must be taken not to violate the sanctity of the call. Christian brotherly love dictates that the congregation(s) also fulfill its obligation to its servants. Thus, provision will be made for the decent maintenance of the servants, not only while they are actively engaged in their work, but also in their retirement. Pension plans, provision for housing, etc., need to be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Naumann
Otto Stahlke
Martin Luebke

Adopted by the Faculty, April 14, 1961