

# THE SPRINGFIELDER

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# Editorial

*Detroit Post Scripts*

IT IS ALL OVER! And it was a good convention.

Since returning from Detroit I have been reading, *The Strange Tactics of Extremism* by Harry and Bonaro Overstreet. This couple has already written several books on communism, and now they turn their attention to the Radical Right. They made a statement which well characterizes our Synod and especially the Detroit convention, "We in America—having given extremism, as it were, a constitutional right to exist—have been able to afford the active presence of a far Left and a far Right because we have been overwhelmingly a nation of moderates. Extremism of Left and Right, home grown and imported, has been with us always. But the liberal-conservative, or conservative-liberal, center has been the native habitat of the vast majority of our people." This describes the spirit of our Church at Detroit.

There had been talk about "Capturing the Synod," about a last ditch stand, about a total loss of identity. None of these phenomena occurred. The convention showed a "liberal-conservative" spirit. Liberal in its willingness to talk with outsiders—Catholics, even other Lutherans in the new Lutheran Council USA; conservative in its firm and united reaffirmation of the *Quia* subscription to the Confessions in reaffirming our historic position on Moses, Isaiah, Jonah, and the Messianic prophecies. Surprising was the heated debate on State Aid to education—showing a laity even more conservative than the clergy. Sad, because so unnecessary was the long argument about a certain folk singer, who, whatever his politics, certainly did not rate the attention he received. Courageous was the vote on the forty million dollar collection; firm the decision to reject the new intersynodical catechism on theological grounds.

Probably the greatest single hero of the convention was our serene and gentlemanly president. Dr. Oliver R. Harms not only was re-elected thunderously, but as the days wore he gained the confidence and affection of all by his fairness, patience, and good humor. The next biennium under God looks like a progressive period, with good leadership, good theology, good financing, a good program, and the greatest message any men can ever speak. God help us to do His work well and happily.

J.A.O. Preus