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Editorials

"J. A. O. P."

DURING THE PAST decade the editor has had the dubious distinction of presiding editorially over the departure of two of our seminary presidents. In 1962 Dr. George Beto left to become director of corrections for the Texas Board of Corrections. More recently, Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus exchanged the presidency of the Springfield seminary for the presidency of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We leave it to speculative souls to ponder what, if anything at all, there is about the Springfield experience which leads men to such diverse alternatives.

In both instances the seminary has lost—or contributed—excellent men to other fields of service, but it has also benefited from their tenures.

Dr. Preus came to the seminary in 1958 as an assistant professor of exegetical theology. He succeeded to the presidency of this institution in the spring of 1962. In June 1969 he replaced Dr. Oliver Harms as president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Virtually unknown a decade ago in the Missouri Synod, his rapid rise to the top post is indicative of his ability and personal appeal.

As president of the seminary, his services to the church soon overflowed the campus bounded by Matheny and Carpenter between 12th and 15th Streets. He served on the Curriculum Commission of Synod's Board for Higher Education. He was a member of Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations; the Constituting Committee of the Lutheran Council U.S.A.; and the Commission which negotiated with the American Lutheran Church. He was a popular speaker and delivered numerous District essays. In 1963 he represented the Missouri Synod at the Lutheran World Federation meeting at Helsinki, Finland.

Dr. Preus' stature, aided by a genial and gregarious nature, also won for him a solid niche in the community life of the Capitol City. He was a director of the Springfield Association of Commerce and Industry. He served as a member of the Capitol District Planning Commission; the Springfield Committee on Higher Education; Curriculum Commission for Sangamon State University; the Rotary Club and other community activities.

No doubt the high point of his administration was the curriculum revision and the completion of steps leading to accreditation of the seminary by the American Association of Theological Schools, in June 1968. Also to be noted are additions to the faculty and seminary staff, grants secured for faculty study programs, an overall steady increase in enrollment, the erection of a new administration building, and remodeling of Van Horn Hall, providing needed seminar rooms and offices.

Dr. Preus also insisted on keeping one foot in the classroom,

teaching at least one class. And in all of this he found time to engage in scholarly work. Ready for publication is his translation of Chemnitz' *De Duabus Naturis in Christo*, a unique contribution by an administrator.

If one of the significant traits of his administration were to be singled out, it might well be the "open door." Over the years the feet of students tapped out a steady tattoo across the terrazzo to the president's office. His willingness to listen and to adjust what needed to be adjusted, together with his regular meetings with the student body, and his involving them in areas of seminary operations, to a large degree provided a healthy climate for working out problems and made any serious campus "confrontation" unnecessary to date. Dr. Preus' hospitality was not confined to his office. He and his gracious wife regularly hosted students and faculty in their home.

We shall remember him as a man who had his convictions and who expressed them freely, but also as a leader who respected other points of view. In the recent question of fellowship with the ALC, Dr. Preus did not pressure anyone to his views. He encouraged open discussion of differences among the faculty on this matter and the sharing of the discussions with the Synod through the pages of *The Springfielder*, Spring, 1969.

From the tone of numerous letters blossoming in Lutheran periodicals—official and unofficial—since Denver, it is apparent that Dr. Preus does not assume the awesome responsibilities of his new office without benefit of advisers, telling him what he should, *must*, do or not do. He has been so lavishly anointed with such counsel that some of it must of necessity drip off like the precious ointment which ran down upon Aaron's beard.

As president of the seminary, Dr. Preus has always evidenced a high regard for the will of Synod. He repeatedly stated, "The seminary belongs to the Synod." If we know our ex-prexy at all, he will carry into his new office this same spirit, i.e., that the Synod belongs to the Synod—not to any one man or group.

We bespeak for President Preus God's richest blessings. We shall miss him around here, not only as an energetic seminary president, but also as a colleague whose down-to-earth geniality and humor frequently helped to brighten a dull day.

Vale, Jacob!

E. H. H.

Acting President

WE CONGRATULATE Dr. Lorman Petersen, Academic Dean, on his appointment as Acting President of the seminary by the Board of Control. Dr. Petersen brings to his post years of experience as a classroom teacher and, more recently, as Academic Dean. He

directed the seminary self-study preparatory to accreditation by the American Association of Theological Schools. We may be sure that the seminary is in expert hands and that the new academic year will get off to a good start.

E. H. H.

New Editor

WITH THIS ISSUE of *The Springfielder* the present editor relinquishes his duties in order to devote more time to another assignment; namely, writing a history of the seminary in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the institution in 1971. Beginning with the next issue, editorial responsibility for *The Springfielder* will rest in the capable hands of Dr. David Scaer, professor of systematics and a member of the present Editorial Committee. We take this opportunity to thank all who gave of their time and effort in making the publication of *The Springfielder* possible. We are confident that the new editor will enjoy the same fraternal cooperation.

E. H. H.