

Only the general assembly or the general board can vote policy statements on behalf of the council. The general assembly, which numbers about 800, is made up of lay church members and clergy who are appointed as representatives by the member denominations. About 270 of the general assembly representatives are then designated by that body to sit as members of the general board—a body which meets three times a year.

The policy statements adopted by the general assembly or the general board are addressed to the council's member denominations and to the general public. No council action is binding on any member communion.

When the council adopts a policy statement or resolution it speaks only for itself. Policy statements and resolutions are used as a basis for testifying before legislative bodies on issues related to the subject matter of the statements or resolutions.

Such testimony is presented, however, only on behalf of the council and never on behalf of its member churches or their constituency.

In December 1966 the general board of the national council adopted a policy statement on "the churches and the antipoverty program." In February 1967 the general board passed a resolution related to the policy statement.

Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate it if the members of the committee would permit the insertion of both the policy statement and resolution to which I have referred immediately following this statement.

Chairman PERKINS. Without objection it is so ordered.

Dr. FLEMMING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The December 1966 policy statement makes clear that, in the judgment of the general board, the church should be among the first to hail the declaration of public policy by the Congress of the United States in the preamble to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 which says:

It is the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work and the opportunity to live in decent and dignity.

A number of concerns are reflected in both the general board's policy statement and resolution which I desire to underline.

First, the role of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

In its February 1967 resolution, the board said that—

The Office of Economic Opportunity represents an essential spearhead in the War on Poverty.

I believe that this is a sound position. There are times when new agencies are needed in the executive branch if Government is to deal with major issues in an imaginative and creative manner.

I watched, first as a reporter for what is now U.S. News & World Report, and later as a member of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, the New Deal agencies come and go.

They made significant contributions to the Nation at a critical period in our history. These contributions would not have been made by established agencies.

Already the Office of Economic Opportunity has made contributions to the Nation's war against poverty which would not have been made