1-19-79

page 15

Sunday -- I'd only been in Berlin a very few days. I went to the service. I did not know anybody there. There were two men from Chicago, --- my impression was they were ministers from the Chicago area in front of me in the service. This Mr. Blakeley from the Southern Presbyterian Church had quite a little southern accent and gave just a nice simple Biblical message. These two ministers in front of me began whistering, Oh, that old-fashioned out-of-date nonsense; the fellow ought to be strangled giving such stuff." I really felt badly with that! But Dr. Dickie then said, We are now going to have a congregational meeting and he said, Those of w you who do not regularly attend the congregation, we're glad to have you stay because I know people are always interested when something happens in the church. He wanted a motion to elect Blakeley the pastor. of the church. But he was only there one semester and then he came back. But that was a bad introduction to see these feelings from these Americans about Blakeley. It gave me a friendly feeling toward Blakeley, but Blakeley was a real nice fellow. But he never took any real stand. He taught a few years in this seminary and then he had a big church call him and I have not had any contact with him since.

That gave me the feeling --- and yet it was a very pleasant surprise to find how many very earnest Christians there were in Berlin, in Germany. It seemed as if at that time in Germany they had the Association for Christian Railroad men; the Association for Christian Waiters. Christian most any thing you could think of--- they had an association. They seemed to be real earnest Christian people. One man who was prominen¢t in