

J. Irwin Miller who was chosen as the new President of the National Council of Churches. Mr. Miller is a layman and Chairman of the Board of Cummins Diesel Company.

The involvement of the National Council of Churches in political and economical areas is indeed deep as can be seen from a list of such activities published in the workbook for the Fifth General Assembly, page 131. This list refers to the activities of the Division of Christian Life and Work. Following is a quotation from this book:

"During the triennium the Department maintained the primary relationship for the Council with many agencies, conferences, and councils of the Federal government, including the White House Conference on Children and Youth, the White House Conference on Aging, the Conference on Homemaker Services, the Advisory Council on Public Assistance, the Advisory Council on Child Welfare Services, the President's Committee on Youth Fitness, the Housing and Home Finance Agency, the Bureau of Public Assistance, the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors's Insurance, the President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped, and others. The director served on executive boards of the National Social Welfare Assembly, the National Housing Conference, the National Safety Council, the Council on Social Work Education, the American Immigration and Citizenship Council, the Family Service Association of America, the Council of National Organizations for Children and Youth, the National Committee on Aging, and other clearing house agencies.

"Meetings of denominational welfare executives with representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Charities are held two or three times yearly; the Department executive gave a major address at the 1959 Conference of Catholic Charities. Thirty representatives of major religious groups meet several times yearly with the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare at an Interfaith Consultation of which the Department executive is co-chairman."

II History and Organization of the World Council of Churches

A. History of the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches as we know it today had its origin in three other organizations - The International Missionary Council, the Faith and Order Movement, and the Life and Work Movement.

(World Missionary Conference)

In 1910 at Edinburgh, Scotland, a world-wide missionary conference was held comprised of many mission agencies and boards. The liberal elements of the Christian world were well represented. They discussed areas of mutual concern, mutual cooperation and with a view towards ecumenical activity and merger as will be later seen. The International Missionary Council emerged as an organization by that name in 1928, in Jerusalem. The I.M.C. met again in 1938 in India, 1947 in Canada, and 1952 at Geneva.

(Faith and Order)

Another organization known as the Faith and Order Movement came into being first in the mind of Mr. Charles Brent, who attended the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh. As a result of his idea for a study group to examine and look for a common denominator of faith and order in the various denominations led to a conference in 1927 in Lausanne, Switzerland. This conference discussed mutual areas of agreement along the faith and order lines. A second conference was held in 1937.

(Life and Work)

The third movement known as the Life and Works Movement got under way in 1925