

Church History S 1

These are supreme in their area but subject to the Director who is in China. He can remove them or can change anything they do but within their area they are supreme. Of course, there may have been some change in recent years but I know twenty years ago the General Director for North America had a committee for North America of fifteen or twenty prominent men. All they could do was advise him. They had absolutely no authority in any thing. If they voted one hundred per cent one way they could he could do the exact opposite and that is the type of organization which it has adopted and which the Methodist church with certain revisions in recent years but in general which the Methodist church has followed. Well, the Episcopal church had that for a background. In the Episcopal church the king was supreme. He took the place of the pope. He was supreme, the bishops were underneath him and under them the priests, or the ^{as} rectors, /they called themselves, although they also called them priests, but in the Episcopal church you had, that is in the Church of England, from which our American the Episcopal church, you had the situation in which the reason there was a church of England was that the people were protestant minded and the king was limited in what he could order them to do. If he went too far one way or the other there would be trouble. He could exert tremendous influence. Queen Elizabeth, I think, would gladly have gone back to the Roman catholic church and the pope would gladly have received her in spite of her mother's sins, he would gladly have received her back but the church would not have gone with her. She probably would have lost her throne and she realized it, and so her influence made the church far more catholic than it had been before but it was against the opposition of a large element of the church and when later on you have the revolution of 1688 in which James II of England who was a Roman catholic was head of the Church of England and all the bishops were required to declare their absolute loyalty to this King James II and did declare absolute loyalty to him and declared that anything he said they should do they must do, and yet when it came that what he was trying to get them to do was to give up being the Church of England and become Roman catholic, they balked