

to improve myself as a speaker. I had read up a bit on these various types of emphasis-- variety, etc. I thought, I'd like to get a chance to practice these without being where I am embarrassed, where I can make a fool of myself and it does not matter.

So I took a course in public speaking at the YMCA which was principally with the idea that I'd be with people I'd never seen before and would never see again, and I could let myself go loose. I worked for two or three years quite hard on this line. Then I was greatly surprised at the increased effectiveness in the Synod meetings.

I remember one time there was a fellow who had gotten rather unfavorable publicity and they had a motion, and then there was a substitute motion for it and they argued for quite a while and they substituted for the main motion. I got up and said, I would like to speak about the main motion. The leaders thought the thing was all settled. They had overwhelmingly voted to substitute the other for this. I said, It's merely been substituted. I said, Now we have to vote about it. I'd like to speak about it.

I spoke about it and it was defeated by a 3 to one vote after it was -- had been worked out in the course of the discussion, and I was amazed to see what a tremendous difference it made in my influence there.

That led to a rather silly thing. There was a group there which felt that Dr. McIntire had too much influence in the Synod. Now I had at an earlier time been very much irritated at a number of things he had done. When I mentioned them to some others they treated me as if I was a rather disloyal, and they were not much interested in what I said. So I quite saying anything critical of him to anyone else.

Then they began to get very much irritated about things I did not think were half as bad as what I had put up with what I had felt were for the sake of the cause were worth putting up with. So I did not pay a great deal of attention to that. And they didn't pay much attention to mine. And they decided, without my knowing anything about it, to change the rules of the constitution in such a way as to be sure that the authority was more widely divided.

They appointed a committee to consider changes in the constitution. I don't know whether their policy was to start in with simple innocuous things, and then to go on to things that were a little more vital, etc., and gradually get into what they felt would give them more control over the organization, I don't know, but we had the meeting of that at Shelton College which was then in the heart of New York. The Synod met, and this man (young) got up as the chairman of the committee and he moved that -- the first suggestion they made was that in the first article ~~they~~ a comma be shifted, and one word changed. And I, enjoying more influence than I'd had before