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Remondet Hersty

SUMMER SEMINAR COURSE
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HISTORY AND FOUNDATION
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES AND THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Meaning of the word 'Ecumenical'

According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, ecumenical means "The inhabited world, world-wide in extent, influence, etc." This word is derived from the Greek nou 'oikoumene' which according to Thayer's Lexicon means: 1. the inhabited earth; (a) the portion of the earth inhabited by the Greeks in distinction of the lands of the Barbarians, (b) the Roman Empire (c) the whole inhabited earth, the world; 2. The universe, the world. According to the Lexicon by Arndt and Ginrich (1957) University of Chicago, the definition is as follows: 1. The inhabited earth, the world, as the whole inhabited earth, the churches throughout the world; (b) world in the sense of its inhabitants, human kind, 2. The Roman Empire, 3. And extraordinary meaning for 'oikoumene' seems to mean the whole world (so far as living beings inhabit it, therefore the realm of spirits as well) Hebrews 2:5 "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world (oikoumene) to come, whereof we speak".

The ecumenical movement as it is expressed in the National and World Council of Churches intends to extend its influence over the whole inhabited world, and I have the feeling that they intend to include the moon as well. Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, former President of the National Council of Churches, on Sunday, December 4, 1960, at the N.C.C. meeting in San Francisco made this statement "We have here a Biblical mandate - given to us already by Christ and the prophets of Israel - to extend the sway of Christ's spirit over governments, races, peoples, freedoms, military and economic power structures and whatever exists even beyond the frontiers of space. All that engages the energies and loyalties of mankind is of concern to Christ and the Church". The involvements of the ecumenical leaders indicate, as we shall see, their desire to exercise influence on a world-wide basis.

I History and Organization of the National Council of Churches

A. History of the National Council of Churches

The idea of a council of churches began before the turn of the century. In 1894 a conference of religious leaders held at Union Theological Seminary in New York called for a commission to consider the practicability of organizing a Federate Council of Churches for the city of New York. By 1900 plans had advanced and the first Federate Council of New York City was held and called for a resolution to form a National Federation of Churches. A Committee of 25 was appointed to spread the idea nation-wide. In 1901 The National Federation of Churches was actually organized in Philadelphia. Harry F. Ward came from Chicago and was one of the key architects in setting up the National Federation of Churches which was destined to be the father of the Federal Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches.

Who is Harry F. Ward? In March of this year I spoke at the American Freedoms Academy Rally at La Crescenta, California. I shared the platform with Mr. Karl Prussian. Karl Prussian was an active communist agent for more than twenty years before leaving