

1 FEB. 1971

Anglican, United churches vote today on joint hymn book

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (CP) — The Anglican and United churches will vote separately today on whether to accept a joint hymn book that will cost both churches \$411,000 in the first printing.

It was unclear Sunday night what would happen if one church turned it down.

The plates have already gone to an engraver, University Press in Wurzburg, Germany. If the printer, Southam Murray of Toronto is given the go-ahead, the first 200,000 copies should be ready in May.

Saturday, a joint committee that has been delving into words, music and copyrights since November, 1965, presented the book to the Anglican general synod and the United general council in a hotel ballroom.

Accompanied on a trumpet and a piano the crowd of about 1,000 belted out five of the 150 new hymns in the total 507, including one by Dean Herbert O'Driscoll of Vancouver, an Anglican delegate.

The committee waded through 10,000 hymns in 150 books and came up with 150 new ones, 204 common to both the United Church hymnary and the Anglican hymn book and the rest from one or the other.

The present hymnary was published in 1930 and the present hymn book in 1938.

CUT DOWN WORDS

Jay Macpherson, a committee member, said in reviewing the old hymns, "the words we tried to cut down on were 'sweet' and 'tender' and my pet antipathy, 'bosom.'"

"We also tried to cut hymns which suggest life as this 'hopeless vale of tears' and those in which everything worthwhile is up in the sky."

He said the few hymns on marriage suggest the Christian home is a "fortress against temptation, which doesn't exactly cover the case."

The books will cost about

33.75 each purchased in quantity and the two churches will be required to finance the production of the first 200,000 by bank borrowing, if the book is accepted.

In procedural changes agreed upon during the weekend, Anglican bishops will continue to have the power of voting down clergy and laity in the church's general synod. However, they will have to vote in the open.

At the last general synod in Sudbury, Ont., it was decided to move toward a unicameral house in which everyone would vote at the same time unless anyone called for a vote by order of bishops, clergy and laity, in which case any order could veto the others.

INTRODUCED MOTION

But registrar Douglas Gibson of Toronto this weekend introduced a procedural motion that would give the bishops a separate vote on every issue with the clergy and laity always voting together.

H. D. Arnold, a lay delegate from Kelowna, B.C., said the move "deliberately . . . creates an artificial situation" and reversed a move to give clergy and laity more power in decision-making.

Most Rev. G. P. Gower, Archbishop of New Westminster, and one of the senior bishops, said the clumsy old procedure in which the bishops sometimes withdrew as a unit and sent messages back and forth to the clergy and laity on votes had caused many misunderstandings.

He said there are times when bishops should vote separately and times when they should vote as a unit, but this was covered under an arrangement that the synod could call for a vote by orders. So he would vote against Mr. Gibson's motion.

However, it passed with a majority of clergy and laity and bishops. This was seen as a vote of confidence in the bishops.