5.   The Disestablishment

With the new nation and the new constitution it was obvious that the established churches could not continue in that role. Viginian moved quickly in 1776, 1779 and with the new consti- tution of which Thomas Jefferson was a principal party in 1786..the preferred position of the Anglican church was ended and the legal propagation of any religious expression was authorized. New Hamp- shire saw the end of the congregational establishment in 1817 and Connecticut followed in 1818. Massachusetts was the last state to make this move, disestablishing the congregational church in 1833.

This sense of disestablishment has probably gone to abusive ends in our day..but you must remember that the pendulum never stops in the middle of an arc.

6.   Some concluding thoughts on the colonial period:

a.   The effect of the frontier

b.   The influence of the churches in the war of independence.

c.   The influence of Christianity on the American constitution.

d.   Final notes on the faiths of the "founding fathers".

B. The National Period: Development of the American Churches in the time of the Republic.

In this section our treatment will be like that of the colonial period..a topological study of the church bodies with limited notation of persons and events on the way..followed by a summary of some of these things. Again we are unable to track out the developments of all the bodies although some moves are given more time and space than others due to the practicality they bear with regard to our present system. The section on theological trends will necessarily be larger as well. The student is expected to read this syllabus...mistakes and all...as well as the collateral reading assigned.

We date this period from the time of the conclusion of the war of independence to about 1950 and have a separate section of materials for the church following that time. It is impossible that we shall be successful in even touching all the highlights but at least a skeletal portion of material will be given for your further movement in this field.