

The move was frustrated by a number of fundamentalist groups who argued for equality in representation of religious beliefs.

Probably it is not fair to just mention negative projects...the more positive ones came in the form of combined help in health, education, and employment projects. There were some! Local councils often undertook projects on these lines and also in the matter of securing hospital and prison chaplains. Local councils also often sought parity in the placing of churches. Overtones were made in Christian education and attempts were made in different places at regulating released time classes, daily vacation Bible school, and summer camps. Some church mergers were effected and the Federalized churches were given more strength and energy. The run of activities was not such make evangelicals happy although many of them in the older denominations cooperated for the peace of the church and some interpreted the historical movements in very optimistic ways.

(f) Moves to a new body..

Early in the 1940's there came rumblings of a need for a new body comprised along more mobile lines and with a broader outreach. The older council found the number of committees cumbersome and struggling in purpose. The commission masses had become practically unworkable. It was thought that a new body could unite all commissions, committees, etc., on a single basis with a simplified form of government for much greater progress. The need was joined in the creation of the National Council of Churches.

(2) The National Council of Churches 1950

(a) Historical note:

The National Council was formulated in December, 1950 with meetings at Denver (1952) and Evanston (1954). It was the replacement and heir of the Federal Council. It prepared to meet on a triennial basis and was headquartered in New York.

(b) Organization:

Profiting from the problems of the Federal Council, the National Council adjusted its organization so as to avoid the multiplicity of commissions in which the individual character and independency of verdict almost made separate cell councils. It established a more workable medium in the following way:

--the general assembly --constituted by delegates of member denominations and select persons although only the former group had voting privileges.