

Council of Churches Admits Aid From Probed Groups

By CASPAR NANNES
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CHICAGO—The National Council of Churches has acknowledged that it received financial help in three instances from foundations identified as conduits for funds from the Central Intelligence Agency.

But the general secretary of the interdenominational church body, Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, emphasized while making the report yesterday "the National Council had no knowledge at any time that any of these gifts may have had any links with CIA involvement."

Dr. Espy said the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs had contributed between \$200 and \$2,000 in 1965 toward expenses of a conference of the council-related National Student Christian Federation.

Last year and this year \$2,000 was received from the Katlin Foundation to assist the council in its poverty rights program, he said.

And prior to 1965, the David and Winfield Baird Foundation contributed for several years between \$3,000 and \$4,000 annually for "direct relief" programs in the United States and overseas to the council's Department of Church World Service, and to migrant and Indian work of the council. The Baird Foundation was abolished two years ago.

Dr. Espy said the council would be "only too glad to cooperate to the fullest in any and all federal efforts to investigate the matter."

The 250-member general board of the council, its top policy making body between triennial general assemblies, opened a five-day meeting yesterday in the Pick-Congress

Hotel. Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, president of the University of Oregon who was elected head of the church body last December, is presiding at the sessions.

A statement declaring that economic boycotts are justified under certain circumstances to fight injustice was scheduled to be acted on today by the board.

A crowded agenda confronts the board. Among the issues to be discussed are church and state relations, religious discrimination and a possible motion calling on Congress to establish a basic code of ethics. A statement setting forth the council's position on world peace will also be presented to the delegates.

In addition, the board will act on a proposed plan for a colloquium on higher education to be held later this year under council auspices, approve a budget and program for 1967, and install as members of the body representatives of four denominations voted into the National Council of Churches at the December meeting.

These denominations are the Antiochian Orthodox Catholic Archdiocese of Toledo, Ohio and dependencies; the Church of the New Jerusalem, the Progressive

National Baptist Convention, and the Exarchate of The Russian Orthodox Church in North and South America. Their addition brings the council to 34 Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox church bodies having a constituent membership of over 24 million.

The policy statement on withholding consumer patronage in order to secure justice asserts that "when there is evidence of discrimination or exploitation, substantiated by an impartial investigation" the Christian "should make his purchasing decisions with due regard to the facts that are known to him."