



EMPLOYMENT

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA Resolution 79.71

79.71 It was resolved that the Assembly:

- a. affirms the dignity of all people and deplores the tendency to denigrate the unemployed and to depersonalize people by the labels "dole bludger" and "parasite";
- b. recognises that the right of all people to work within our society is now under severe challenge and sees unemployment as a far more serious danger to the welfare of individual people than the problems created by inflation;
- c. sees that increasing technology and the practice of private firms and government departments not to replace people leaving the work force depletes job opportunities;
- d. calls upon the Federal Government to initiate an Australia-wide conference on unemployment enquiring into its causes and its social and economic effects, and looking for ways to increase employment;
- e. asks that delegates to the conference include representatives of Federal and State governments, employer groups unions, churches, social welfare organisations and other concerned groups; and
- f. asks Presbyteries and parishes
 - i. to become better informed about the impact of unemployment on the people in their own communities;
 - ii. to take steps to lessen the impact of unemployment on those affected most;
 - iii. to attempt imaginative programs which give support and encouragement;
 - iv. to be alert to the needs of members and adherents faced with unemployment; and
 - v. to counteract attitudes which depersonalize and undermine the sense of worth of the unemployed individual.

79.71 The following amendment was moved and carried:

That Standing Committee

- (1)
 - a. Recognises the need to analyse from a theological and sociological perspective the effects of increasing technology upon the traditional work ethic, and of present high levels of unemployment upon the welfare of individual people;
 - b. requests the Commission on Social Responsibility to co-ordinate and assess material and programs and to keep the President and Secretary informed;

- c. requests theological colleges in consultation with the Ministerial Education Council to give consideration to the theology of work in the light of such analyses.
- (2) Urges Presbyteries and parishes to
- a. become better informed about the impact of unemployment on the people in their own communities;
 - b. be alert to the needs of members and adherents faced with unemployment, and to take steps to discourage attitudes which depersonalise and undermine the sense of worth of the unemployed person;
 - c. attempt imaginative programs of support and encouragement for unemployed people, lessening where possible the impact of unemployment on those effected most;
 - d. share the experiences and results of such programs through Synod newspapers.