

City Ministers Discuss Response to UW Blast

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About 100 Madison ministers met Wednesday at Bethel Lutheran Church to discuss church reaction to violence in Madison, but they seemed to be as confused about possible answers as everyone else.

The one specific action the ad hoc group took was to ask a smaller group of pastors to draw up a list of recommendations to be presented at another meeting next Wednesday.

HOWEVER, THE main purpose of Wednesday's meeting was to give an opportunity to those pastors who wished to speak their minds on the bombing of the Army Mathematics Research Center and on violence in general.

Most seemed to agree that the churches should offer positive leadership to students.

The Rev. Carroll Anderson, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, said, "If we've learned one thing in the last week it is that we're far more impressed when buildings are blown up than when young people are destroyed by other means.

"MY CONCERN is for the youngster who is looking for someone to follow," Pastor Anderson continued.

"I hope we don't concentrate on the bricks and mortar but on a better kind of leadership to offer these young people."

The participants were divided, however, on a theological question involving God's judgment on man.

Some, including the Rev. Arthur Lloyd, Episcopal chaplain at the University, see violence at home as an indication of God's unhappiness with the American role in Southeast Asia.

"I DO NOT believe that we can deal with what's happening in Madison without facing the possibility that God is exercising his judgment on this nation



REV. CARROLL ANDERSON



STUART BECKER

for the ... incredible crimes committed by the United States of America on the people of Southeast Asia." Fr. Lloyd said.

Others, including Stuart Becker, chairman of the city's Police and Fire Commission, scorned any such relationship and said the problem is at home.

Another layman attending the meeting, Police Chief Wilbur Emery, spoke out for the positive values of patriotism and suggested that the churches should help instill it in young

people.

EMERY CRITICIZED a bumper sticker he saw on a car parked in the Bethel Parking lot which had a flag with a peace symbol superimposed on it.

He said he is "disappointed" when he sees clergymen displaying such symbols.

Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky, of Temple Beth El, also spoke in favor of patriotism, terming it a "natural" instinct of man and suggesting that when young people lose patriotic feeling the community is in trouble.

Bishop Cautions Against Reaction

Bishop Cletus F. O'Donnell, of the Madison Catholic Diocese, has warned that caution must be taken not to repress freedom in the wake of last week's bombing on the University of Wisconsin campus.

Writing in the Catholic Herald-Citizen, published Wednesday, the bishop termed the bombing "morally repulsive."

"The moral indignation of our people, as members of this community and the family of God, should be very strong," he said.

But the bishop also noted that "legitimate dissent is absolutely

permissible. To stifle non-violent dissent would simply be another evil."

Bishop O'Donnell had different words for the perpetrators of violence.

"If these people are revolutionaries and anarchists, then I think they must be put away for the protection of society."

"The failings of our American society — no matter how great — are not going to be healed by overthrowing it. All of us must work together to correct what is wrong with present day society."