

## Cleric Asked to Suspend Himself Pending Hearing on Nazi Charge

The executive committee of the National Council of Churches, meeting in special session in Chicago Saturday, suggested that Archbishop Valerian D. Trifa be asked to suspend himself as a member of the council's governing board pending disposition of charges that he was a Nazi war criminal.

A statement issued after the session that the committee was asking "the Orthodox Church in America to refer to the Episcopal commission appointed to study the case of Archbishop Trifa the proposal that it consider requesting the Archbishop to refrain from executing his duties as a member of the governing board until the matter has been resolved by the Holy Synod [of the Orthodox Church] and the civil judicial process."

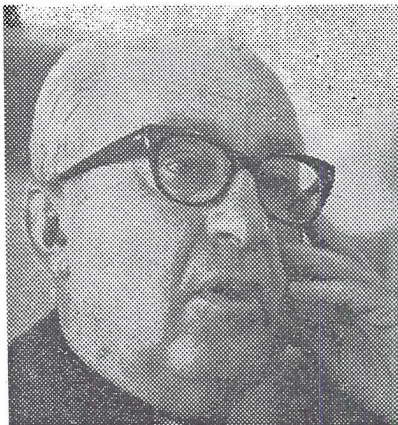
The executive committee noted that it was powerless under the council's constitution to proceed against a board member delegated by one of its constituent bodies and recommended that William T. Thompson, president of the council, appoint a committee to consider "possible changes in the rules" in that respect.

The committee's statement also referred to civil and ecclesiastical proceedings against the Archbishop for alleged war crimes in Rumania in 1941 and more recent anti-Semitic statements.

"In the present situation," it said, "Archbishop Valerian must be presumed innocent until judged otherwise by a competent civil or ecclesiastical court."

The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has been studying denaturalization proceedings against the Archbishop, who has denied having participated in Nazi war crimes.

Rabbi Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, a leader of Concerned Jewish Youth, said after the Chicago meeting that the council's decision was "totally" unsatisfactory.



The New York Times

Archbishop Valerian D. Trifa

"The Trifa issue transcends the [council's] constitution and any internal organizational process," he said.

The rabbi reiterated the demand of the Concerned Jewish Youth that Archbishop Trifa be suspended promptly from the council's governing board, which, he said, "would never allow a member of the Ku Klux Klan to sit at its table."

### Washington Post Backs Carter

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (UPI)—Making its first endorsement of a Presidential candidate in more than two decades, The Washington Post said today that it was inclined to favor Jimmy Carter because he would bring a fresh view to serious problems that lie ahead. The newspaper acknowledged in an editorial, however, that its recommendation was "not much of an endorsement." A spokesman said that the last time the newspaper had formally endorsed a Presidential candidate was when it backed Dwight Eisenhower in 1952.