

April 23, 1980

MEETING WITH THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Senior ACYOA executive committee gathered in the church hall at 8:30 p.m. on April 23, 1980.

Hratch Shishmanian and Nubar Tossunian came out at about 10:30 p.m. of the parish room and invited the office to the meeting. The office consisted of the chairman, secretary and treasurer. Thus Deacon Krikor asked Hratch if the whole executive could be present for if necessary there would be witnesses concerning this matter. Hratch said then that he must go to the Parish for permission.

All of a sudden Bedros Kokorian, Levon Yazedjian, and Hrant Souin storm out furiously and ask Deacon Krikor why they disobeyed the orders and refused to come in. Deacon Krikor in utter shock and amazement said that we never stated that we do not want to come in, and the whole executive agreed upon that. Then Hrant said that it must have been a misunderstanding. Deacon Krikor said "it was not a misunderstanding and Hratch deliberately twisted my words for his purposes."

Thus the office went into the parish room and took their seats.

Deacon Krikor asked the Parish, "before we start the case, what kind of authority does Hayr Soorp have to give office orders." Hratch and Sarkis (acting Chairman) confirmed that in special cases he has the authority to give orders concerning office matters.

Sarkis Tchilinguirian (acting chairman) stated that the executive was gathered into this meeting with the parish in order to hear their side of the story pertaining to the April 24th comemoration.

Deacon Krikor began by reading the letter sent by Central Council stating the particulars, rules and guidelines dated March 1, 1980. Next, Deacon Krikor began to tell the story. He stated that after attending the parish council meeting on Wednesday April 9, 1980, and receiving no, as an answer for the comemoration on April 24, he went ahead and wrote a letter to Archbishop Torkom Manoogian (President of Central Council), just as he had mentioned to them that he would.

Next, Deacon Krikor read another letter which was sent to him from the Parish Council dated March 14, 1980. In the second paragraph of this letter it states clearly; "we repeat all hall renting, must be taken care of by the office and not, the parish council members."

In this particular case Deacon Krikor stated that Hayr Soorp had given permission for him to phone Mrs. Dovletian (chairlady of Daughters of Vartan). This being a special case shows that Hayr Soorp was in the right.

Deacon Krikor asked the parish; "so why did Barkev Kojajian (chairman of the Parish Council) get upset that we didn't inform him?"

Hratch Shishmanian asked Deacon Krikor how the letter was mailed. Deacon Krikor in return said it was a personal question and stated, "I will not answer the question unless you tell me the statement behind this question." Hratch said, "there are other things behind this matter." Thus Deacon Krikor told Hratch that the letter was sent by special delivery.

Deacon Krikor told the parish that according to the ACYOA bylaws, article 15, section 2; "The Diocesan By-Laws shall supersede and supplement this constitution. Final adjudication of questions, policies, and procedures not resolved through normal channels shall rest with the Primate and the Diocesan Council."

Thus Deacon Krikor stated that his act was in junction with the bylaws.

Next, Deacon Krikor told the parish council about the religious program. Hratch Shishmanian asked who the main speaker was going to be. Deacon Krikor stated that under these abnormal circumstances, he would not disclose of the name, because he was afraid that the parish would sabotage the person.

Meanwhile Hrant Souin was out of the room and returned. Hratch wanted to recap the events and said; "Hrant while you were out we asked Krikor to give us the name of the main speaker and he refused." Deacon Krikor (pointing to Hratch) said; "This is the second time you are twisting my words intentionally, and I don't like that." The Parish Council members agreed and confirmed that Deacon Krikor was in the right. Hrant Souin then asked Deacon Krikor why he was not disclosing the name of the main speaker. Deacon Krikor gave Hrant the same answer as he had previously given to Hratch. Hrant was upset and stated that Deacon Krikor should obey his elders.

Deacon Krikor then stated that "since Monday, you have an answer to give me from the Diocesan Council, and I would like to know the reason for the delay."

After discussion, there came a conclusion that when Deacon Krikor received the official order sent from the Diocesan Council and the Primate concerning April 24, he will convey the name of the main speaker.

The Parish Council asked for 5 minutes alone, so that they could come to a decision.

After their deliberation, Sarkis (acting chairman), said that the ACYOA could use the Parish hall for the April 24 comemoration ceremonies.

Deacon Krikor thanked the parish council and expressed his wish that this unpleasant situation not to become a hurdle for future cooperation and understanding.