

EDITORIAL

Much more thought needs to be given to the question of school assemblies for worship in multi-racial communities. 'Take it or leave it' is an insult both to the form of worship and to those to whom it may be something completely foreign and largely unintelligible. If in this country we feel that instruction in Christian Religion or in Comparative Religions (or a combination of the two) is an essential part of life and the answer to the nation's ills which it is claimed by the churches to be then something much more realistic than a 30/40 minute period per week plus a terminal service needs to be built in to the curriculum. If it is claimed that there is no room, we need another look at what else is there already.

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In view of discussion with other denominations who make such provisions, the Church of Scotland cannot dismiss out of hand the proposals of the Committee of Forty that acceptable non-ministers should be authorized to carry out local administration of the sacraments. Proper instruction and safeguards would have to be observed; but it is clear that good order can be preserved by an intelligent lay-person as well as by a minister! The problems are many but waste of resources is as big a sin for a church as for a government.

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A very useful series of pamphlets dealing with matters of church order, church buildings, economics, current worship and revision of worship has been issued by Grove Books, Bramcote, Notts. We hope to make a more detailed mention of some of them in a later issue. Meantime we suggest that readers would profit by writing to the address given for a detailed list.

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Too many intercessions are used to instruct the congregation rather than to bring the concerns and problems of others before God – in other words they are mini sermons. There is a place for everything and we feel the lack of modern equivalents for the Books of Common Order which would provide a model of discouragement for the aberration of which we have just been complaining.