

Rev. Dake Gets Six Months in Kenosha Case

Pleads Guilty in Federal Court to Charge Involving Kenosha Girl

Rev. Finis Jennings Dake, pastor of the Christian Assembly Church of Zion, Ill., was sentenced to a six months' term in the Milwaukee house of correction today after he pleaded guilty in federal court at Milwaukee to Mann act charges involving a 16-year-old Kenosha High school girl.

The government charged that the husky, 35-year-old pastor took time off from tending his flock and family to take the pretty high school girl to Bloomington and East St. Louis, Ill. He was accused of registering with her as Christian Anderson and wife at a Bloomington hotel.

Dake, blond and handsome, stood before Federal Judge F. A. Geiger today and admitted through counsel that he had taken the girl with him from Wisconsin into Illinois, but denied he had intimate relations with her.

Plea for Leniency

His counsel urged Judge Geiger to take Dake's previously unspotted reputation into consideration in imposing sentence. Assistant U. S. Attorney E. J. Koelzer told the court that Dake became acquainted with a group of Kenosha high school girls and that he frequently left his church parish to go on "petting" parties with his young friends.

Dake replied that his interest in the Kenosha girl was purely platonic and that he took her to East St. Louis only at her request and in an effort to help her find work. In East St. Louis they stayed at the home of his sister, Dake said.

The Zion pastor stood before the bar of justice today while more than 100 of his parishioners were in the courtroom, and with the knowledge that his congregation had testified its faith in him at special services last Sunday.

Indicted Year Ago

Rev. Dake was indicted by a federal jury a year ago. He was accused of taking the young Kenosha girl from Kenosha to East St. Louis in the spring of 1935. He had been at liberty under \$2,000 bond.

A widespread search was launched for the girl after her family reported her missing. Policewoman Beulah McNeill worked on the case for several weeks before the trail led to East St. Louis. Letters written by the girl, saying that the man she had accompanied to the Illinois city was holding outdoor revival meetings, finally led to Dake's arrest and to the girl's return home.

At one time, Rev. Dake was a follower of Wilbur Glenn Voliva, Zion overseer and head of the Christian Catholic Apostolic church. He broke away from Voliva's church and founded his rival Christian Assembly church.

Makes Tearful Plea

Rev. Dake had prepared his congregation for anything that might happen at the trial, scheduled to start Monday, at the special services in his church Sunday. Preceding the pastor's morning sermon, Mrs. Dorothy Dake, his wife, who is also an ordained minister and who has remained loyal to her husband during his difficulties, sang a hymn of her own composition. She wept while announcing the hymn.

Addressing his congregation, Rev. Dake read part of the 22nd chapter of Luke and the 34th Psalm. The latter, he said, was his experience, as it was that of David of old, who wrote it. He urged his congregation to remain faithful at all costs.

"No matter what happens," he said, "may this people be united in their efforts for the Lord. Everything is in God's hands and He will not fail you."