

Uncommon Courage

In this day when the symbol of the conservative minister too often might be the jellyfish, George A. Anderson is one of a rapidly ~~is~~ disappearing breed of spiritual giants. Among others who possess backbones of boiled macaroni, Andy (as he is affectionately known by his friends) has a backbone of steel.

Mr. Anderson was ~~is~~ enrolled in Columbia Seminary at the start of World War II and when he heard the voice of his country ~~is~~ calling he left the seminary to enlist. He ended the war a top kick (First Sergeant) in a rifle company in the famed 45th Division. We know because we joined him in that pilgrimage, spending the war in the 36th Division, a corps partner of the 45th.

Lately Mr. Anderson has been dean of King College, Bristol, Tenn., and one of the reasons why we sent our daughter to King.

A man of profound evangelical convictions, Mr. Anderson has lately ~~is~~ joined the host of ministers and laymen perturbed over the anti-Biblical directions taken by the Presbyterian Church US and her institutions. He was a commissioner to the 1968 Assembly and like every evangelical commissioner to that body he came home with deep and troubled thoughts.

In July Holston Presbytery took under advisement the ordination of a young seminary graduate who, like too many graduates from ~~seminaries~~ Presbyterian seminaries these days, showed little evidence of an acceptable Christian faith. In his appearance before the presbytery's examining committee (of which Mr. Anderson was a member) the young man could not say what he would ~~answer~~ answer if someone asked him, "What must I do to be saved?" But what constituted the last straw for Mr. Anderson was the fact that the committee approved the candidate anyhow.

Mr. Anderson has decided to leave the ministry of the Presbyterian Church US. To us this constitutes a decision reflecting uncommon courage. We greatly regret that he has decided to make his witness in this fashion because in these days of the

disintegration of the Church evangelicals must make a united and not a fragmented ~~mix~~ effort. But we admire him greatly and we think the Church ought to know about him.