

Jan 16, 1955

Mr. Lindberg, I think, had a couple of questions at the end of the hour which I thought were worth discussing, and I thought others would have some along the same line maybe. Now, maybe you've forgotten what they were.

Mr. Lindberg:.....practical application.....board of elders or deacons or whatever you have.....

AAM: This was a practical question, and I think a very worthwhile one. It is one on which no rule of thumb can be laid down, but on which a great deal of wisdom is desirable. And I think it is a very important aspect of church government. The church government is not like the operation of courts in the U. S. Gov't where you go up and you present the case, and one man has right and he wins, and the other loses. Even in those it is not as simple as that, because there is even in those a great deal of human nature enters in, and a great deal of uncertainty as to what the judge will rule. The idea that many people have that government is a matter of right and wrong, and even balances, and is this or that, you win or you lose, or else it is democracy, it is counting noses, and the one that gets the majority rules, and the majority is the voice of God. All this is contrary to experience. The fact of the matter is that any kind of government is an expedient to try to make it possible for people to co-operate together in the accomplishment of certain results. And the attempt is to secure rules and principles which will save an awful lot of time and uncertainty, let people know exactly where they stand. I remember Wendell Wilkie, before he ran for president, some time before that he was writing a number of articles, criticizing the administration, and there was one point that he brought out that should not be carried to an extreme, but yet in ~~xxx~~ itself is a very important point. He said, suppose that you have having a game with somebody else, having a game of chess with them. I don't know what game he used, but we'll say chess. You are having a game of chess, and he said, you are just getting along ~~xxx~~ nicely getting certain points, and the other man says, now let's change the rules. I don't like that rule.. We are going to change it this way. You get him in a tight fix there, now we are going to change it this way. Well, he says, you