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In 1935, just before Francis entered the seminary, Dr. Machen had taken an important part in organizing the "Presbyterian Constitutional Covenant Union," an organization seeking to stand for historic Christian principles within the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Although no faculty member ever criticized him to his face for this action it is extremely probable that some of them did so in talking with students. At any rate, during Schaeffer's first year in seminary many students harshly criticized Dr. Machen for working with men who were not truly "Reformed." On one occasion I heard Machen speak approximately as follows: "If they would support the PCCU they they might well speak out in its meetings about the importance of the Reformed Faith, but why should they criticize me for working with real Christians in the preservation of Christian principles on the ground that some of them in the organization are not "truly Reformed." During that year Dr. Machen felt very strongly about this attitude that was being shown by the most vocal of the students--an attitude that must have been produced by the attitude of a considerable segment of the faculty, though I doubt if Dr. Machen realized this.

This attitude toward Dr. Machen ~~de~~ changed completely during the next summer when the -- his condemnation by the Presbytery of New Brunswick was upheld by the General Assembly and actions were taken that led to the formation of a new church to be called the Presbyterian Church of America. Of course he was elected Moderator of its first General Assembly and was generally considered as the hero of the movement.