

Christian school supporters await code violation verdict

By TERI BANAS

The fate of a Christian school fighting state building codes will be decided within six weeks by a Plymouth judge.

Central Baptist Temple School is continuing to hold classes in Plymouth until Judge Dunbar Davis of 35th District Court renders his decision in the non-jury trial.

Davis announced to the packed court on Thursday that he will make his decision in six weeks. He said he will study the arguments and will accept briefs from both sides in the next month.

Davis also said he would consider a dismissal of the case requested by the school's attorney, Charles Craze, nationally known for his defense of Christian congregations around the country.

About 150 observers, most of them Christian school advocates, attended the trial which has attracted state-wide attention.

Central Baptist has been the focus of a local fight between state officials and Christians arguing their right to perform their ministry without state strings. Those strings include state school building codes that say a private school must comply with the same fire code regulations as public schools.

It's a "close question," Davis said, when questioned about the outcome.

THE SCHOOL was served with violations of the building code last month following an investigation by a state fire marshal. The wood construction of the building, considered unsafe for school use, and failure to obtain prior approval to open from the state school superintendent, were cited in the violations.

Central Baptist opened its doors to K-12 instruction early last September. About 35 students attend the school held in a first-floor open classroom in the church building on 670 Church Street in Plymouth.

School officials maintain that Central Baptist is a church first and a school second. Dr. Stanley Jenkins, the school's pastor, says that providing education to children is an "incidental" aspect of the ministry.

Rev. Jenkins faces up to 90 days imprisonment or a \$500 fine, or both, for refusing to comply to the state fire codes.

'It becomes absurd when you allow people to hide behind their religion when the laws are made for the protection of all of us. It's our obligation to enforce the law.'

— Howard Philippart
Wayne County prosecutor

Wayne County Asst. Prosecutor Howard Philippart prosecuted the case. It began at noon Thursday and lasted more than five hours.

Craze, a member of an Ohio-based Christian law firm, drew support from the majority of trial observers.

With an occasional outburst of "Amen" from church supporters in the audience, Craze continually hammered home his argument that the building should not be regulated as a school but rather judged for safety under codes that apply to churches.

"WE DON'T have a school as defined in the Michigan Fire Code. We've always been ready, willing and able to comply to the law as it applies to a church."

"If the building is in fact unsafe, then they should not have 150 people in there on Sunday," he added.

Philippart argued in his closing statement: "It's an essential portion of the function of that building to have a school. It's more than an incidental use when kids use that building five times a week."

"It becomes absurd when you allow people to hide behind their religion when the laws are made for the protection of all of us," Philippart added. "It's our obligation to enforce the law."

The prosecution called two key witnesses to testify, Sgt. Walter Davenport of the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal's Division, and Ralph Turnbull, a consultant to the Michigan Education Department.

Turnball, who handles licensing of private schools, said he first visited the school Oct. 12 and that Jenkins was aware of the violations. Turnball also testified that Jenkins had never applied for an inspection of the building — a requirement of state licensing.

Turnball also stated that Central Baptist is among 50-60 other church-schools around

the state that are in "jeopardy" because of various state code violations.

Asked who initiated the inspection of Central Baptist, Turnball said a complaint from the Plymouth Fire Department prompted the inspection, rather than a complaint from the state education department.

IN AN ATTEMPT to demonstrate an alleged state crackdown on private schools, Craze asked Turnball if the same inspection is done regularly in public schools.

"Isn't it a fact that the Detroit Public School System is a mess?" Craze asked.

"I only know what I read," Turnball responded.

Following the same line, Craze also asked Davenport if he was aware of unsafe conditions in the Plymouth-Canton School District where fire extinguishers have been emptied because of vandalism.

Central Baptist school teacher Karen Jackman testified the school's curriculum followed the national guidelines of Alpha-Omega, a Christian set of course work that incorporates the Bible in every subject.

Craze used the testimony of Jenkins' secretary, Louise Haley, to illustrate that the building had been used for school purposes long before state fire code standards were toughened in 1974.

Haley, a 1957 graduate of Plymouth High School, then housed in Central Middle School on Church Street, said the high school used the neighboring church building at that time for some course study including high school band practice.

Craze concluded that Central Baptist should be exempt from the fire code regulation.

Philippart, for the prosecution, ended his presentation by saying the church-school should be regulated by state standards because it meets the requirements of a legitimate school.

Monday, November 12, 1979 (T.S.P.-44X015A)

FALL INSULATION SPECIAL

FREE 10 LB. TURKEY WITH EACH ORDER THRU 11-21-79

\$299 per 1000 sq. ft. ceiling

8" blown fiberglass FREE ESTIMATES

Roll Insulation Available for Do-It-Yourselfers

348-9880 • 227-4839

Jones Insulation Supplies

28111 Lanny, Novi

LOOSE RUG CLEANING

Ferguson

1 Bk. West of Washtenaw, Jeffries Commerce Ctr.

CARPET CLEANERS

- SCATTER RUGS
- BRAIDED RUGS
- HAND HOOKS
- ORIENTALS
- SHAGS

PICK-UP DELIVERY • WALL TO WALL • STEAM CLEANING • OR SHAMPOO • METHOD AVAILABLE

27513 SCHOOLCRAFT LIVING

AVAILABLE 525-1220

20%

Come Home To Win Schuler's For Family Thanksgiving TURKEY & ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Make Your Reservations Now For an Old Fashioned Pilgrim Feast In the Traditional Style at Family Prices

Thursday, November 22

Ann Arbor 3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9400

Rochester 2601 Rochester Rd. 852-8330

West Bloomfield 6066 W. Maple Road 851-8880

Serving Thanksgiving Day dinner until 8 P.M.

Schuler's

PRE-SEASON cross country sale 6 DAYS ONLY MON.-TUES.-WED.-THURS.-FRI.-SAT.

ALL THE NEW CROSS-COUNTRY SKI GEAR IS IN STOCK NOW

ADIDAS • TRAK • K-2 • KNEISSEL ROSSIGNOL • FISCHER • DOVRE KARHU • HEIERLING • SKIOLM EXCEL • BONNA • ROSSIGNOL SUVEREN • KNEISSEL • K-2 JARVINEN • SCAN • TRAK STAVEN • DOVRE • EXCEL LILLJEDAHN • HEIERLING SKIOLM • ROTTEFELLA

FROM THE SHOPS THAT ARE FAMOUS FOR LOW, LOW PRICES, EXPERT ADVICE AND A GREAT SELECTION OF PREMIUM BRAND NAMES. A TREMENDOUS SELECTION OF SKI PACKAGE SETS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY ARE ON SALE NOW THROUGH SAT. NOV. 17. HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLS. LAYAWAYS ACCEPTED.

WAXLESS BASE JARVINEN SET INCLUDES THESE FINE SKIS, TRAK LEATHER BOOTS, BINDINGS AND DURABLE NORDIC TONKILIN POLES.

SALE \$79.90

SAVE \$34 All Sizes Mens - Ladies

WORLD'S TOP SELLING ROSSIGNOL TOURING AIR SKIS (WAXABLE OR WAXLESS MODEL) OR TRAK FISHSKALE L.S. SKIS COMBINED WITH DELUXE HEIERLING MARATHON LEATHER BOOTS, MATCHING BINDING AND STAVIN TONKILIN POLES. ALL SIZES.

SALE \$99.90

A SUPER SET, ALL MENS LADIES SIZES

FAMOUS 90.00 KARHU LAHTI MOON SKIS-WAXLESS MODEL • DELUXE 40.00 SKI BOOTS • SKIOLM 3 PIN BINDING AND MATCHING EXEL GLASS FIBRE POLES, ALL SIZES.

SALE \$109.90

SAVE 40.00 TIL NOV. 17

BUY THE BEST! ROSSIGNOL CARIBOU AR (STEP OR WAXABLE) PREMIUM HEIERLING THORSTEN MATCHING BOOTS, BINDINGS AND EXEL GLASS FIBRE POLES.

SALE \$134.90

ALL MENS AND LADIES SIZES

OTHER FINE SETS ON SALE

\$74.90 \$89.90 \$119.90 \$124.90 \$146.90 \$164.90

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR TREMENDOUS SELECTION AND PRE-SEASON SALE PRICES NOW BEFORE THE SNOW FLIES. SALE ENDS SAT. NOV. 17

Bavarian Village

CROSS COUNTRY SKI SPECIALISTS

- BLOOMFIELD HILLS: 2540 WOODWARD at Square Lake Rd.
- BIRMINGHAM: 101 TOWNSEND corner of Pierce
- MT. CLEMENS: 1216 S. GRATIOT 1/2 mile north of 16 Mile
- LATHRUP VILLAGE: 28645 SOUTHFIELD south of 12 Mile
- FARMINGTON HILLS: 34789 GRAND RIVER east of Drake
- LIVONIA/REDFORD: 14211 TELEGRAPH at Jeffries Fwy.
- EAST DETROIT: 22301 KELLY RD. between 8 & 9 Mile
- ANN ARBOR: 3336 WASHTENAW West of U.S. 23

338-6803 644-5550 463-3620 559-2360 477-2528 534-8200 778-7020 973-9340

Power at UN conference

Philip H. Power, owner of Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, recently served as a media advisor during a United Nations-sponsored conference designed to help poor countries improve their news and communications systems.

Power of Ann Arbor advised a United States delegation to the conference held last week in Washington, D.C., from the point of view of the American news media.

Power is chairman of Suburban Communications Corporation, which publishes the 12 Observer & Eccentric newspapers.

Get your pictures back tomorrow or get them FREE!

The Quick-as-a-Fox Guarantee.

Bring your roll of 110, 126, or 35mm color print film (full frame, C41 process only — includes all popular film) for developing and printing to a Fox Photo retail store, Monday thru Thursday, before the afternoon pick-up (check your friendly Fox store for exact time.) Your pictures will be ready after the last delivery the next day, excluding holidays. If not, your order is FREE!

FOX PHOTO

6 Convenient Locations To Serve You!

- 882 West Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
- 25604 Michigan Ave., Dearborn Heights
- 300 North Center, Northville
- 3638 W. Maple, Birmingham
- 8438 Telegraph Rd., Dearborn Heights
- 30209 Cherry Hill, Inkster

1/2 OFF DEVELOPING AND PRINTING COLOR PRINT FILM

On any 110, 126 or 35mm color print film (full frame, C-41 process only). One roll per coupon, excludes use of other coupons. Valid at any Fox Photo walk-in or drive-up store. OFFER GOOD THRU NOVEMBER 17, 1979.

FOX PHOTO

COUPON MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

THE BOARDROOM

For the most interesting ways to keep up appearances.

Somerset Mall • Fairlane Towne Center (Inside Hughes & Hatcher)

Hickey-Freeman

CLOTHES ARE EXCLUSIVE WITH US IN DETROIT

Capper & Capper

Clothiers to Gentlemen

Somerset Mall David Whitney Bldg. Troy Detroit

LOWREY - BALDWIN ORGANS

BALDWIN - CHICKERING STORY & CLARK - WURLITZER MASON & HAMLIN PIANOS

Largest Selection Lowest Prices

EVOLAMUSIC

BLOOMFIELD HILLS 4400 W. 12 Mile 324-0566

DRAYTON PLAINS 4200 W. 12 Mile 674-0433

Everything you need is available at PLYMOUTH TOWNE APARTMENTS

Enjoy healthy independence in this beautiful new complex.

One and two bedroom apartments for Senior Citizens including:

- Two meals
- Housekeeping services
- Linens
- Transportation
- Optional social activities
- Medical security

Now Taking Reservations Call or visit

The Plymouth TOWNE APARTMENTS

107 Hagerty Road

Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(313) 455-0510

The Plymouth TOWNE APARTMENTS

107 Hagerty Road

Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(313) 455-0510