

Church Leadership Seen In This Age of Crisis

The Assemblies of God are destined for world leadership in the present age of crisis, a



McLees

speaker told 8,000 delegates at the world-wide church's biennial council here Thursday.

The Rev. Murray W. McLees, Eugene, Ore., pastor and former prison chaplain and U.S. Navy flier, declared at a

devotional service Thursday morning:

"I believe the Assemblies of God has been in the mind of God for such an hour as this—an age that great leaders predict is facing the possible disappearance of all that we know in the dust of an atomic explosion."

McLees explained, "God has a plan whereby he will defeat the aims of Satan and his crowd, a plan that will permit him to pick up fallen man from his state of ruin and cause him to become a ruling being."

Housing Critical

Delegates to the council faced a critical housing shortage as more and more church members arrived to swell the total attendance toward 12,000.

Larger rooms in some hotels and the YMCA were being converted into dormitories. Officials announced that delegates arriving the rest of the week must accept rooms offered in private homes. Housing committee chairman C.E. McNeely said, "The situation will be critical by Friday and Saturday because of the weekend traffic."

The council has 8,000 registered delegates but this number is being swelled by members of delegates' families and other visitors to the convention, which continues through Tuesday.

Sessions of the 28th General Council opened Wednesday night with a keynote sermon by the Rev. Ralph M. Riggs of Springfield, Mo., general superintendent of the Assemblies of God. His address, taking note of the council's "Forward with Christ" theme, dealt with the commissioning of

the disciples by Christ.

The Rev. J. Robert Ashcroft, president of Central Bible Institute and Evangel College in Springfield, was to speak at an evangelistic service at 7 p.m.