

## *The Death of Dean Sprouse*

**T**HE sudden death of the Very Rev. Claude W. Sprouse, president of the House of Deputies just after his unanimous election for a second term in that office, stunned the entire Convention.

The beloved dean of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Mo., had just finished making his acceptance speech and had conducted the election of the Rev. C. Rankin Barnes as secretary of the House when he fell to the floor with a heart attack. Doctors rushed forward to help him and Dr. Barnes led the House in Prayer.

Mrs. Sprouse and the dean's daughter, Mrs. A. R. Cochrane, who with four grandchildren had been observing the proceedings from the gallery, hurried down to the stage. Bishop Welles of West Missouri came to the platform from the House of Bishops. He knelt by the dean's side and said prayers for the dying. Within 10 minutes Dr. Sprouse was pronounced dead.

This ending — sad, but not tragic, as the dean left this world supported by the prayers of hundreds of his fellow Churchmen — brought to a close a life of dedicated Church service.

Dean Sprouse gave an impression of candidness and deliberation in all that he said and did, combined with a truly Christ-like gentleness. Never flustered or angry he had won the respect and love of Churchmen of every school of thought and the House found itself strangely leaderless when he was taken away.

Dean Sprouse's words in his acceptance speech serve to epitomize his outlook:

"There will be earnest debate here on a number of matters, but the one great job of brethren like us meeting together is trying to push this world a little nearer to the Kingdom of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We pray that something we may do here will help to bring peace to this troubled world."

May God "grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy in the fellowship of His Saints."