

# Convention News

**T**HE Christmas deadline for the documents that the 10 Drafting Commissions of the Diocesan Convention have been working on for the last six months has come and gone. Not all the Commissions, however, succeeded in meeting this deadline. Some are still struggling to get their document into final shape, but hope to have it ready within the next week or ten days. Meanwhile the work of printing the already completed documents has begun. The first to appear will be that on Communications Media, to be followed by the document on Religious. They will be published in Chinese and English, in separate booklets. The delegates will be sent copies as soon as they are ready. Copies will also be available on application for anyone interested in studying these documents and making comments on them.

Most of the names of the 420 delegates have already been forwarded to the Steering Committee. However, some parishes and districts have not been heard from yet. As soon as the complete list can be drawn up it will be made public.

In the next stage of the Convention the delegates will be divided into 10 working groups; each of these groups will be especially responsible for working on one of the ten documents. Delegates, of course, will have

to make a careful study of all the 10 documents, since they will be called on to vote on each of them and on the amendments to them proposed by the different working groups.

Soon after the Chinese New Year it is hoped that the regular meetings of these working groups will begin. They will be held in the evenings, at some time and place convenient to the majority of the group. Each group will meet on a different evening once every two weeks (on one of the ten Monday-to-Friday evenings in a two-weekly cycle). This will enable each delegate to attend the meetings of any other working group he may be interested in in addition to his own, and will also ensure that as each fortnight goes by, progress will be made in each and every one of the documents. It will moreover mean that no delegate will be obliged to attend regularly more than one meeting every two weeks.

The meetings will be open not only to all the delegates, but to the public as well. These then are what some people have been calling the open forums. Their purpose will be to study the documents, discuss and propose amendments and improvements to them. Lists of proposed amendments will be circulated among all the delegates and at intervals the whole body of 420 will be called together to vote on these proposals.