

Churches to

Local Adventists Explain Sunday Law Opposition

The Santa Cruz and Soquel Seventh-Day Adventist churches have issued a public statement giving reasons why they oppose Sunday closing laws.

Pastor John M. Nerness of the Santa Cruz church said, "So much publicity has been given to our opposition to the Sunday selling bill proposed by the state legislature and recently withdrawn by its author, Sen. Joseph A. Rattigan, D-Santa Rosa, that I feel the public should know our reasons for such opposition."

His statement said, in part:

1. Such laws are not necessary to protect the working man. Laws limit the work week to 40 hours under a single employer.
2. Carried to their ultimate Sunday laws could set neighbor against neighbor, creating informers and further dividing the nation.
3. Because of the proposed exceptions of items eligible to be sold, the laws would be confusing.
4. Where licenses for Sunday selling are issued to some enterprises, the state is placed in the position of discriminating, which could lead to unscrupulous trans-

actions between business and government officials.

5. In most cases the laws are unenforceable.

6. To appoint the religious rest day of one religion as a national rest day favors that religion above others.

7. Many ministers favor Sunday laws as a means of attaining proper Sunday observance, including church attendance on that day. Empty pews are a challenge to the preacher.

8. Police power might better be used in apprehending actual criminals or in averting crime rather than making "criminals" of honest citizens who worship God according to the dictates of their conscience.

9. Some argue that Sunday keeping is traditional and Sunday laws are traditional. Since when did tradition require legislation or serve as a basis for legislation?

WATSONVILLE HIGH TRUSTEES TO MEET

Watsonville High school district trustees will meet tonight at 8:30 at 165 Blackburn street, Watsonville.