

CORNISH

NEW YORK TIMES,

DR. L. CORNISH DIES;  
CHURCH LEADER, 79

President of U. S. Unitarians  
From '27 to '37 Was Head  
of Religious Liberals

1950

The Rev. Dr. Louis Craig Cornish, president from 1927 until 1937 of the American Unitarian Association, died yesterday at his home in Winter Park, Fla., according to word received here. His age was 79.

While serving the Unitarian association for twenty-two years Dr. Cornish had held several other posts. Before becoming its head, he was from 1915 until 1925 secretary and then administrative vice president.

He also headed for ten years the International Association for Free Christianity and Religious Freedom. In 1938, under the auspices of the American Unitarian Association and the Independent Church of the Philippines, he toured the Philippine Islands.

As president in 1940 of the International Association of Religious Liberals, Dr. Cornish warned that if the United States withdrew from the Philippines in 1945 in accordance with arrangements for granting independence to the islands in that year, Japan would move in and much that had been gained under United States rule would be lost.

While serving as vice president of the Unitarian group in 1925, Dr. Cornish, who also was chairman of the Anglo-American Church Commissions to Rumania in 1922 and 1924, charged that Rumania, in violation of the Trianon Treaty, had oppressed the minorities in Transylvania.

Ten years later, when head of the Free Church Fellowship, he appealed for coordination of "religious liberalism" to combat "great reactionary forces at work in the world."

Born in New Bedford, Mass., Dr. Cornish was the son of Dr. Aaron and Frances Hawkins Cornish. He was educated at Harvard and Stanford Universities. He received an A. B. degree from the latter and an A. M. from Harvard while a student at the Harvard Divinity School. In the same year he was ordained a minister of the First Parish, Hingham, Mass., where he served until 1915.

He held honorary degrees of Doctor of Divinity from St. Lawrence University and Meadville Theological School, 1922; the Independent Church of the Philippines, 1930; the Pacific Unitarian School for the Ministry, and the degree of Doctor of Political Science from the University of Szeged, Hungary, 1931.

Dr. Cornish was the author of several books, among them, "Work and Dreams and the Wide Horizon," "The Philippines Calling," and "Transylvania; the land beyond the forest."

Since his retirement Dr. Cornish had made his home in Florida and maintained a summer residence at Harvard, Mass.

His widow, Mrs. Frances Eliot Foote Cornish, whom he married in 1906, survives.