1964 No. 7

A MEASURE passed by the National Assembly of the Church of England to regulate the vestures to be worn by Ministers at the times of their ministrations.

[31st July 1964]

Whereas the Church of England does not attach any particular doctrinal significance to the diversities of vesture which may lawfully be worn. And whereas a vesture worn by a Minister in accordance with the provisions of this Measure is not to be understood as implying any doctrines other than those now contained in the formularies of the Church of England.

Vesture of Minister.

1. The provisions of the introductory Rubric for the Order for Morning and Evening Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer (commonly known as the Ornaments Rubric) and of section thirteen of the Act of Uniformity 1558 (which provide that such ornaments of the Ministers at all times of their ministration shall be retained and be in use as were in the Church of England by the authority of Parliament in the Second Year of the Reign of King Edward the Sixth) shall have effect subject to the following:

1 Eliz. 1 c. 2.

(*a*) At Morning and Evening Prayer the Minister shall wear a cassock, a surplice and a scarf, and for the Occasional Offices a cassock and a surplice with scarf or stole;

(*b*) At the Holy Communion the Celebrant, as also the Gospeller and the Epistoler, and at Public Baptism the Minister, shall wear with the cassock either a surplice with scarf or stole, or a surplice or alb with stole and cope, or an alb with the customary vestments;

(*c*) A Minister may at his discretion wear a cope on any appropriate occasion;

(*d*) When a scarf is worn the Minister, if so entitled, may also wear a hood.

Parochial Church Council to be consulted.

2.—(1) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Measure no Minister shall change the form of vesture in use in the Church or Chapel in which he officiates unless he has ascertained by consultation with the Parochial Church Council of the parish that such a change will be acceptable to the Council:

Provided always that in the case of disagreement either the Minister or the Parochial Church Council may refer the matter to the Bishop who after such consultation as he shall think right both with the Minister and with the Parochial Church Council shall give directions thereon.

(2) In the foregoing subsection the expression 'the Bishop' means the Bishop of the diocese in which the Church or Chapel is situate, and during a vacancy in the see includes the Archbishop of the province in which the Church or Chapel is situate, or in the case of the archbishopric being vacant or the vacant see being Canterbury or York the Archbishop of the other province.

Extent.

3. This Measure shall extend to the whole of the Provinces of Canterbury and York except the Channel Islands:

Provided that this Measure may be applied to the Channel Islands as defined in the Channel Islands (Church Legislation) Measures 1931 and 1957 or either of them in accordance with those Measures.

Short Title.

4. This Measure may be cited as the Vestures of Ministers Measure 1964.