

April 11, 1958

### 12 Executive Committee Recommendations Coming

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee will ask the 1958 session of the Southern Baptist Convention to approve 12 recommendations.

Recommendations include a budget for the Convention for 1959, proposed changes in the Convention's annual meeting schedule, a proposed new rotating basis for the committee preparing the annual Convention order of business (agenda), and a charter for new Midwestern Baptist Seminary.

The recommendations will be presented to the Convention during the Executive Committee's administrative report at Houston Coliseum on May 21.

The proposed 1959 Convention budget is \$17-1/2 million. Of that sum, \$10,800,000 will be for operating budgets of the about 20 Convention agencies and \$4,200,000 will be for their capital needs.

The budget will be reached through Cooperative Program gifts. The \$2-1/2 million additional will be the Advance goal and will be shared by the Convention's two mission boards only after the \$15 million required for operating and capital expenses has been met.

The Executive Committee further recommends that the Convention establish a procedure for opening its annual session on Tuesday night and closing on Friday night, holding afternoon sessions on Thursday and Friday. There would be morning and night sessions every day.

Wednesday afternoon would be left open for seminary luncheons and other special group meetings. The Convention Sermon would be preached on Tuesday night and no debatable business could be presented at that session.

The recommendation also provides that the Convention hold no meetings in a city "in which there is a considerable distance between the available hotels and the Convention Hall."

The Committee on Order of Business, responsible for scheduling the various parts of the annual meeting of the Convention, would be given a rotating membership if another recommendation is approved.

The committee now is constituted new each year. The six rotating members of the proposed new committee will serve three-year terms, with two members changing each year. A seventh member of the committee will be the Convention president.

The order of business each year also would be revised to permit more time for those attending the Convention to consider business matters and resolutions presented at the Convention meeting.

Midwestern Baptist Seminary was created by the 1957 session of the Convention. It will open to students in September in Kansas City, Mo.

The charter for the new institution is being presented to the Convention for approval, with the recommendation of the Executive Committee for its acceptance.

2 Landmarks Go; New  
Fine Arts Building Due

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--Two 47-year-old landmarks at Louisiana College here, known as the "Cottages," and more recently as "Rebel Hall," are being dismantled.

The two eight-room wooden buildings were constructed in the summer of 1911.

At the same time, College President G. Earl Guinn announced that another spot on the campus was due for a new building. A \$500,000 fine arts building will be started in the next 12 months.

The building, near the college entrance, will house its music, art, speech, and drama departments.

President Guinn also announced that the college will widen campus streets and surface the streets and three parking lots.

-30-

Parking Facilities  
At Houston 'Good'

HOUSTON--(BP)--Parking facilities are excellent in the vicinity of all meeting places for the Southern Baptist Convention and related groups, the Houston arrangements committee reports.

"Especially do we have good parking grounds around the Coliseum," according to Ray Mayfield, pastor of Houston's West University Baptist Church. The Coliseum is site of the meeting of the Convention proper from Tuesday night through Friday night.

The Coliseum and First Baptist Church, site of the Pastors Conference, are in walking distance of Rice Hotel, Convention headquarters hotel. The Woman's Missionary Union session will be in the Music Hall, which is next to the Coliseum and also in walking distance.

Houston's two railway stations are within 10 minutes taxi drive of Rice Hotel. The bus station is only five blocks from the hotel.

The airport is about a half-hour's drive by airport limousine.

"If messengers drive their automobiles there is ample space to park at hotel garages," according to Mayfield.

-30-

NOTE TO BAPTIST EDITORS: There has been an additional change in the suggested Order of Business for the 1958 Southern Baptist Convention. The report of the Radio & TV Commission has been moved up to 10 a. m. Thursday. The reports of the Committee on Church-Related Vocations and Committee on Canadian Baptist Co-operation have been changed to Friday, 11:20 a. m., filling the time of the former R&TV report.--Baptist Press

-30-

April 11, 1958

Baptist Press

Cutlines to picture:

'HOWDY, PARDNER!'---Dressed in colorful costume appropriate for the West, Harry P. Stagg may first be mistaken for a range-rider. But actually he's the executive secretary of Baptist Convention of New Mexico, Albuquerque. He's all dressed up that way 'cause he's got some place to go, and that, pardner, happens to be the Second Conventionwide Royal Ambassador Congress in Fort Worth Aug. 12. Stagg will be "Western Parson" during opening sessions of the Congress. He'll ride in under the Western stars on a sorrel stallion. He'll spin some yarns about the West--for which he is famous--and follow it up with a keynote message about Christ the Saviour. Congress attendance goal is 8,858 boys.

FROM  
WASHINGTON OFFICE  
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR  
1628-16TH ST., N. W.  
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.  
TELEPHONE: ADAMS 2-1760

April 11, 1958

### Proposes Baptist Action for Religious Liberty

FREDERICK, Md.--(BP)--A five-fold proposal for Baptist action in public affairs was outlined here by W. Barry Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C. He spoke to the Woman's Missionary Union of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association at the First Baptist Church.

After pointing out the confusion that exists in the nation over the problem of church-state relations, Garrett declared that "it is one thing to recognize that we are in a bad state of affairs...but it is another thing to know what to do." He asserted, "We believe that an informed, intelligent and alerted Baptist constituency will take its proper place in the national life."

Garrett's five suggestions for participation in public affairs are:

First, Baptists must decide what is their position on religious liberty and separation of church and state. Baptist insights into the nature of the Christian religion must be applied to the modern and highly complex society which has developed in the nation.

Second, Baptists must "learn to transfer their doctrinal positions into practical life." "Spiritual principles," Garrett declared, "have a direct relationship to conduct and to the relation of churches and their agencies to the functionings of government."

Third, courage to stand up for convictions must be exercised. "Bold, raw courage, coupled with a devout consecration to the practical application of our religion to everyday life would go a long way to stem the tide that threatens to destroy religious liberty as we know it."

Fourth, Baptist strength in the nation must be exerted in matters of public concern. Pointing out that every tenth person in the United States is a Baptist, Garrett declared that Baptists "must devise a technique whereby their great power will effectively be felt in the nation, in harmony with their own principles of non-interference in governmental affairs by the churches."

Fifth, interdenominational cooperation can be exercised through Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Baptist churches as such must remain non-political, Garrett said, but Baptist individuals can exert their influence through POAU and other channels.

Operation Understanding  
Gets Favorable Response

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A Baptist editor's proposal to make "Operation Understanding" a two-way street allowing traffic both ways from Catholics to Protestants has received favorable response in both Baptist and Catholic press.

W. Barry Garrett, Washington editor of the Baptist Press, recently proposed that Baptists and Protestants send their publications to their Catholic friends and to Catholic priests. His proposal was in response to the "Operation Understanding" already underway whereby 12,000 or more Protestant ministers are receiving the Lone Star Catholic edition of Our Sunday Visitor.

Several Baptist state papers have published Garrett's proposal and some have reacted favorably to it through editorials. Dale Francis, director of the Catholic "Operation Understanding," in his column also welcomed the exchange from Protestants to Catholics.

The name and address of every Catholic priest in the United States is available to anyone, writes Francis. He said they are in the annual Catholic directory, published by P. J. Kenedy & Sons in New York and available in many libraries.

In welcoming Protestant publications to Catholic priests Francis expressed the opinion that they should be only those that are "well done" and suggested that they be "representative" publications. He welcomed only those publications which would not "destroy the respect Catholics have for the intelligence of their Protestant neighbors."

-30 -

Way Cleared For Hays,  
Cranford Russian Visit

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The way has been cleared for the presidents of the American and Southern Baptist Conventions to visit their Russian Baptist brethren in Moscow.

Both the State Department of the U. S. A. and the Russian Embassy here have approved the visit and visas have been issued to Rep. Brooks Hay, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Clarence W. Cranford, president of the American Baptist Convention.

Recent communications from Jakov Zhidkov, president of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians (Baptists) and from Alexander Karev, general secretary, indicate the Russian Baptist welcome to their "brothers in Christ" from the United States of America.

The Russian Baptist leaders wrote as follows:

"We shall be delighted to see you in the capital of our country and to have talks on various questions in which you and we are interested.

"Let us pray so that the Lord may bless our meeting for the glory of his name, for the good of his church, and for the establishment of the best and the most friendly relations among peoples of the world."

Hays and Cranford will leave for Russia April 15 and will be guests of the Russian Baptists April 16-20. Hays will return to the U. S. A. April 21, but Cranford will deliver a series of lectures April 21-25 at a religious retreat at Berchtesgaden, Germany.

-30-

Calls for Counter-Drive  
On Educational Demands

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A national struggle on the issue of federal funds for parochial and sectarian schools is unavoidable, declares Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"A national counter-drive by all American non-Catholics is needed to protect the United States treasury from such sectarian demands," Archer asserted.

The occasion for Archer's statement was the keynote address of Joseph T. Tinnelly, dean of the school of law at St. John's University, Brooklyn, N. Y., at the 55th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association held recently in Philadelphia.

Speaking on the convention theme, "The Right to Educate -- the Role of Parents, Church, State," Tinnelly said, "On the Federal level, and in many of the states, students of church-related schools receive the benefits of bus transportation, textbooks, free lunches and other measures -- grants-in-aid which are manifestly designed for health, safety and welfare of American youth, irrespective of the school attended."

He declared, however, that "the state which imposes taxation for the secular education of its youth should provide that education to all without question of religion."

The Catholic leader appealed to "the great heart of our country to find a means of aiding Catholic parents with sacrifice neither of religious principles nor of constitutional safeguards."

In his challenge of the Catholic proposal, Archer said that the money involved is trifling compared to the importance of the principle at stake. "The principle is the maintenance of our historic tradition of separation of church and state."

The POAU leader concluded, "Our present policy of granting public funds for public schools only guarantees freedom and fair play to all citizens regardless of faith. Catholics and non-Catholics are guaranteed the right to send their children without cost to the schools of the people, and they are also guaranteed the right to operate their own schools. If they refuse the invitation to attend our free public schools, they cannot plead discrimination, and they should not ask us to pay for their separatism."

