

March 30, 1960

Some Sentiment Favors  
Moving From Nashville

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Since Nashville's city government has asked Baptists here to pay taxes on their property, sentiment has been shown for moving some Baptist offices out of the city.

The Word and Way, Missouri Baptist Convention weekly magazine, editorially supported the move. Editor H. H. McGinty of Jefferson City cited the fact that "the expansion of the Southern Baptist Convention...is moving the geographical center of the Southern Baptist Convention farther and farther away from Nashville."

He added that travel into Nashville by air and rail is not as convenient as it might be, due eight to curtailed service or bad weather conditions. He complained of poor hotel facilities also.

"For some time, the Word and Way has been convinced that consideration should be given to this matter. (Referring to relocation.) This appears to be an opportune time," McGinty declared.

The tax has been assessed chiefly against the Baptist Sunday School Board, largest SBC agency. The Board has challenged the tax in court on the claim its buildings and property are used for religious purposes, therefore are constitutionally exempt. It is awaiting the court's ruling.

Denominational officers recounted the experience of the Convention's Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., a few years ago. When the city government sought to tax this agency, the board temporarily held up on plans to construct a new office building in Richmond.

Virginia state officials intervened and helped quash the tax. The board remains in Richmond, tax exempt, and has built its new quarters. Meanwhile, during the period of uncertainty, Baptists in Memphis, Tenn., had offered to help the Foreign Mission Board relocate in that city if the tax was not overruled.

One of the properties of the Baptist Sunday School Board here included on the city's new tax roll is the historic office building at 161 Eighth Ave. No. The Sunday School Board has for several years planned to remodel this building and make it a home for other Baptist offices than those a part of the Sunday School Board.

Major Baptist office in this category is the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Others who have been included in plans for the renovated 161 Eighth Ave. building are the Convention's Education Commission, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, and Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Executive Committee of the SBC was in its semi-annual session the very day the 161 Eighth Ave. building as assessed taxes of \$131,400. When it learned of the unexpected action, it instructed its new-building committee to reconsider renovation in light of the tax situation.

Several Executive Committee members, half-joking, half-serious, suggested that the Executive Committee relocate in a city west of the Mississippi River. Even before the tax crisis, occasional sentiment, similar to that by Editor McGinty of the Word and Way, had been expressed.

Should the court rule the tax valid, and should the city stand by its decision to impose the tax, others might join Editor McGinty in his feeling:

"Is the time not here when the Southern Baptist Convention should have its own headquarters offices, housed in a building of its own, modern and appropriately appointed....and located where it can be most easily reached by the greatest number of those concerned?"

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Baptist Press

Chautauqua Site  
For Fund Workshop

CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y.---The 13th annual workshop in fund raising will be offered at the Chautauqua center of Syracuse University July 18-29.

University officials said the workshop will be of special interest to college presidents, administrative officers, and fund directors of schools, for it will help them find ways to increase funds through better organization and improved methods.

The course at Chautauqua Institute here will deal with the fundamentals of educational support. Bernard P. Taylor, former consultant in educational fund raising and now executive director of the Penn State Foundation at Pennsylvania State University, will lead the workshop.

Other consultants and fund raising specialists from across the nation will take part.

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Rental Car Outfit  
States Miami Plan

MIAMI, Fla.--(BP)--A national car rental agency here --Hertz--has announced that messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention traveling to certain northern points may like to take advantage of the company's "deal" for moving cars northward.

Each year, after the winter tourist season, the company has many rental cars in Miami which it needs to move north to other locations as the demand for car rentals fluctuates.

Therefore, for \$6 one may secure use of a rental car for returning northward from the convention. The Hertz Co. pays for gas and oil used on the trip, if driven to one of the locations where they need the cars during summer months.

Interested messengers should contact H. G. Merritt, Hertz, 666 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Fla. They should inform him of their travel plans, dates of leaving Miami and arriving northern point, and that they are in Miami Beach for the 1960 Southern Baptist Convention.

The Hertz Co., makes the decision on applications from motorists wishing to take advantage of the offer.

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Midwestern Appoints  
Pierce Matheney

(3-30-60)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Pierce Matheney, native of Eldorado, Ark., and graduate of Baylor and Brown Universities, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will teach at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Trustees elected Matheney assistant professor of Old Testament interpretation. He will assume teaching duties when he completes his doctor of theology thesis at Southern Seminary this fall.

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Ministers' Wives  
Set Conference

MIAMI BEACH, Fla.--(BP)-- The Conference of Ministers' Wives, held each year in the Southern Baptist convention city, will use the Miami Beach Auditorium.

Meeting time is 3 P.M. (EST) Wednesday, May 18, according to Mrs. Rollin S. Burhans, Louisville, president of the organization.

One of the highlights of the Ministers' Wives Conference is presentation of a distinguished service award. Program participants include Mrs. Ramsey Pollard of Memphis, Tenn., wife of the Southern Baptist Convention President, who will lead in prayer, and Mrs. J. O. Williams, widow of the late business manager and secretary of education and promotion for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mrs. Williams, of Nashville, Tenn., will speak on the topic, "What I Expect of My Minister's Wife."

W. O. Vaught, Jr., Little Rock, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, will bring greetings from the husbands.

# BAPTIST PRESS

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