

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

April 29, 1960

Kennedy Charged With
Raising Religious Issue

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Senator Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.) denies that the religious question is the main issue in the Presidential primary in West Virginia where Senator Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.) and Senator John Kennedy (D., Mass.) are campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Byrd introduced an editorial by Doris Fleeson in the Congressional Record to prove that Kennedy himself is responsible for the religious issue.

According to the columnist, at the Democratic National Convention in 1956 Kennedy, a Roman Catholic, seeking nomination for Vice President, circulated a 3,000 word memorandum suggesting that there is a Catholic vote in this country and that a Catholic candidate would be able to turn enough Catholic votes back to the Democratic party to win the election from President Eisenhower.

The document described in detail the size, location and concentration within the Democratic party of the Catholic vote. The columnist pointed out that "at any given moment Kennedy aids, and the candidates too, can tell anyone the figures of Catholic strength not only in a state, but in a district and even in a county."

Kennedy in a recent speech before the American Society of Newspaper Editors denied that there is a "Catholic vote" in the Nation and he largely blamed the press for creating the issue.

In the light of the 1956 strategy of the Kennedy forces the Fleeson column concluded, "it is clearly disingenuous for Kennedy and his aids to blame the press for raising the religious issue and for the Senator himself in his speech before the editors to cast doubt on the existence of any Catholic bloc voting."

--30--

President's Church Plans
In Moscow Undecided

(5-2-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A White House announcement by James C. Hagerty, the President's press secretary, states that a Religious News Service story that President Eisenhower would worship in the Moscow Baptist Church during his visit is unauthorized.

The Religious News Service story datelined Moscow said that President Eisenhower would worship with the Moscow Baptist Church June 12 from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

No decision has been made about the President's worship schedule, Hagerty told the Baptist Press, and the announcement was unauthorized and premature. Announcements about the President's schedule should come from the White House, he declared.

"We did visit the Baptist church in Moscow," Hagerty said in discussing the President's schedule, "but there are other churches there and we may select one of them."

--30--

Senator Pays High
Tribute To Bible

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Senator Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.) commended the Bible to the consideration of the Nation during a speech before the United States Senate.

Quoting in its entirety Psalm 19 Byrd pointed out that "the Bible is an astonishing miracle." "Written fragment by fragment, over the course of many centuries, under different states of society and in different languages, by persons of the most diverse temperments, talents, and under differing conditions, we can only marvel at the harmony of the whole sublime and momentuous work."

"Lawyer and merchant, physician and diplomat, statesman and soldier, rich and poor -- all may derive from it alike measureless treasures untold....It was divinely inspired and it reveals God's wondrous plan of salvation for erring mankind."

Byrd is a Baptist and a former lay minister.

--30--

Humphrey Praises
Voluntary Agencies

(4-29-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The role of voluntary church agencies in the distribution of American relief and for their part in the World Refugee Year has been highly praised by Senator Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.) in a speech before the United States Senate.

Giving full support to the program of cooperation between church agencies and the Government in programs of relief Humphrey said "it is the great strength of our American assistance operations abroad that they are a practical combination of public and private assistance."

Humphrey endorsed the request of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies For Foreign Service for "full use by the administration of the \$10 million World Refugee Year Fund authorization and refugee admission legislation providing for admission of certain 'difficult to resettle' persons."

The Senator's speech included a statement signed by Monsignor Edward E. Swanstrom, chairman of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, and himself director of the Catholic Relief Services.

According to the statement it is "a basic policy of the American private effort" that "voluntarily contributed funds are expended for assistance to refugees directly by the agencies themselves and/or through cooperating voluntary agencies in oversea countries.

"It is important to note," the statement continued, "that these funds do not appear as part of any governmental, intergovernmental, or international income record, as is the practice in some countries where voluntary contributions are sought by public, tax-supported bodies."

"We are convinced that American concern can be best expressed through the teamwork of the public and voluntary sectors," it concluded.

This, of course, raises a difficult church-state problem as to the extent to which Government should use church agencies for national objectives and to what extent church agencies should accept Government aid for ecclesiastical purposes.

--30--

Proposes Development
Of Baptist Cooperation

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Strengthening the Baptist lines of communication in the United States has been proposed as an alternative to the dilemma of the American Baptist Convention in its relation to the National Council of Churches.

Although the American Baptist Convention is a member of the National Council of Churches there is a strong element in its constituency that thinks the Convention should withdraw. This movement has been accelerated by the action of the First Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas, which has voted to withhold funds from the American Baptist Convention, pending the outcome of the discussion on the subject in the convention at Rochester, N.Y.

In an editorial in the "Capital Baptist," state Baptist paper of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention affiliated with both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions, James O. Duncan says that this is a bad year for the matter to be discussed by American Baptists.

If the Convention votes to withdraw from the National Council, Duncan says, "it will be interpreted as giving support to the unfounded claim of Communist infiltration into the Protestant churches of America." On the other hand, if the Convention does not face the issue it will only "prolong the day of decision if most of the churches would rather not be a member."

The Southern Baptist Convention is not a member of the National Council of Churches.

Pointing out that Baptists should be willing to work together along lines of mutual interest, Duncan proposed that the pattern of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in the area of religious liberty be extended to include joint committees on evangelism, social action, foreign missions and Christian education.

"It is possible that through such joint committee work we might bring a more effective Baptist witness to the whole world without too much duplication and competition," Duncan said.

"It would seem then that these joint committees might find it to their advantage to have communication with similar groups from other denominations," he continued. "Such an arrangement would allow us to cooperate with other denominations for a specific purpose without trying to totally identify ourselves with others and they with us."

"Cooperation with others as a total Baptist witness on a specific matter without organic union," Duncan asked, "could this be the answer?"

Private Schools Aided
Through Lunch Program

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The Federal government is aiding private schools to the extent of \$5,262,031 for the fiscal year ending June 31, 1960. Additional millions were given to private schools through allotments to State educational agencies.

This support of private education is being done through the National School Lunch Program.

The regulation is that each State receives a certain allotment according to the number of school children in the State. But funds are withheld from those States that have laws prohibiting the use of public funds for private schools, and these funds are administered directly to the schools by the Agricultural Market Service of the Federal government.

The total distributed by the Federal government for the current fiscal year is \$93,814,400, with \$88,552,369 of this going through the State educational agencies and \$5,262,031 going directly to the private schools.

Twenty-five of the States and territories, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have no regulations prohibiting private schools from receiving such public funds. There is no way of knowing how many additional millions of dollars went to the private schools through these State agencies.

Originally designed as a method of distributing surplus agricultural products, the National School Lunch Program is now increasingly being considered "welfare" and aid to education.

States from whom funds were withheld for private schools are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin, plus the island of Guam.

The other States distributed the Federal funds to private schools from the State educational agency.

Dear Sir:

Dear Sir:

Washington, D.C.

Enclosed for you are two copies of the report of the Baptist Press Commission on the subject of the proposed merger of the Baptist Press with the Baptist Board of Christian Education. The report is being distributed to all members of the Commission and to all members of the Executive Committee of the Baptist Board of Christian Education. It is also being distributed to all members of the Executive Committee of the Baptist Press. The report contains a detailed account of the Commission's work and its recommendations. It also contains a list of the members of the Commission and of the Executive Committee of the Baptist Board of Christian Education. The report is being distributed to you as a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist Press.

I am sure that you will find the report of interest and that it will be helpful to you in your work. I am sure that you will find the report of interest and that it will be helpful to you in your work. I am sure that you will find the report of interest and that it will be helpful to you in your work.

BAPTIST PRESS

1628 - 16TH ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
APR 29
8-PM
1960

FIRST CLASS

Mr. Theo Sommerkamp
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville 3, Tennessee

X

THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS

WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE