

1960 Southern Baptist Convention
Miami Beach, Florida
W. C. Fields, Press Representative
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

GENERAL RELEASE FOR SATURDAY AMS May 21

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 20--Evangelist Billy Graham said here Friday his vote for president of the United States will go to a man of experience and world stature and not a "novice."

While he did not identify his "experienced" candidate by name, observers at the Southern Baptist Convention where Graham gave the closing address agreed it was Vice President Richard Nixon.

"The next four years will be the most critical in world history and we need a president of world stature and experience. This is not a time to experiment with a novice."

Earlier in the press conference, Graham said he was trying to stay as far away from politics as he could although he had "deep personal convictions" in this election.

Graham avoided a question asking him his opinion of a resolution stating public officials should be free from sectarian pressures but he said he didn't believe "we ought to vote for or against a candidate solely because of his religion."

It is just as dangerous to vote for a man because of his religion. He cited a recent Gallup Poll which said 80 per cent of the Catholic people reported they would vote for a candidate because he was a Catholic.

In the area of race relations, Graham said he thinks the situation has improved tremendously in the last 18 months.

Pastors are taking very courageous stands, he said, especially Baptists. He said he was amazed at Methodists recently who continued a stand of segregation.

Asked to give his reasons for the growth of Southern Baptists by 34 per cent during the last 10 years, Graham said one of the answers is that Southern Baptists have stayed "true to the gospel...and stayed biblically centered."

"There is also the emphasis on evangelism. We have put evangelism at the heart of this convention. There has been a warmth in this convention that other denominations are looking for."

Besides Graham's address at the convention's closing session, the highlights were the presentation of officers and the annual report of the Home Mission Board.

(more)

The day was one of exodus for many messengers who left early to get back into their pulpits by Sunday. Registration was estimated at 12,698, second only to the 1953 convention at Houston, Texas, which drew 12,976.

One of the surprises of the convention was the endorsement without opposition of the Christian Life Commission report urging Southern Baptists to make use of every opportunity to help Negro citizens to secure equal rights.

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By Roy Jennings

A RESOLUTION

Whereas, legislation now pending before the Congress of the United States will, if enacted, provide public tax funds to aid nursing education in the form of grants to Schools of Nursing -- many of which are sectarian schools within sectarian institutions, and

Whereas, this type of federal aid to sectarian education is contrary to Baptist principles and is deemed a possible threat to our Baptist Schools of Nursing;

Therefore be it resolved --

That the Southern Baptist Convention records its opposition to any program of federal aid in the form of grants to Schools of Nursing, and

That the Convention requests its Hospital Board and the Southern Baptist Hospital Association to express this opposition by all appropriate means.

T. Sloane Guy, Jr.
Louisiana

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For Immediate Release

Whereas current national and world events have brought into sharp focus the wisdom of recognizing and reaffirming the American principle of separation of church and state and

Whereas the National P.O.A.U. under the direction of Dr. Glenn Archer and his associates have rendered great and valuable service to the nation and to the World in this field,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that this Convention go on record as commending the program of the National P.O.A.U. and its local chapters throughout the nation which supplement in the field of legal action our own Committee on Public Affairs.

Introduced and referred to committee

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All Terms Expiring 1961

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