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Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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May 27, 1960

Would Give Tax Aid To
Sectarian Health Schools

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Public hearings on bills proposing Government funds for both public and private schools of medicine and dentistry and for public health facilities have been announced by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The subcommittee on Health and Safety will conduct the hearing June 6. Rep. Oren Harris (D., Ark.) is chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Rep. Kenneth A. Roberts (D., Ala.) is chairman of the subcommittee on Health and Safety.

One of the bills, H.R. 6906, introduced by Rep. John E. Fogarty (D., R.I.), would provide $250 million in grants for the expansion of old schools and for the construction of new schools. The funds would be available alike to public and sectarian institutions.

The Fogarty bill would provide $250 million for a five year period for the expansion of existing schools and an additional $100 million for a 10 year period for new schools. The bill would also provide $25,000 grants "upon application of any medical, dental, or public health school" for the purpose of preparing initial plans with estimates for the proposed new construction.

According to the bill a limit of $3 million would be placed on grants to existing medical schools for expansion and $1 million for construction of new schools of dentistry and public health.

Other bills included in the hearing for June 6 provide for scholarship programs for students of medicine and dentistry and to authorize grants-in-aid to universities, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or nonprofit institutions to strengthen their programs of research and research training in sciences related to health.

(The hearing will be on H.R. 6906, H.R. 10255, H.R. 10341, and H.R. 11651.)

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Maryland Names New
Sunday School Secretary (5-31-60) (5-27-60)

BALTIMORE ---(BP)--- The Maryland Baptist State Mission Board has elected John M. Tubbs, of Nashville, Tenn., as Secretary of the Sunday School Department and Church Building Consultant.

Tubbs is now employed as Church-Related Vocations Counselor for the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He will assume his new position July 15. He succeeds L. J. Newton, Jr., who resigned to accept a position with the Sunday School Board.

Tubbs will also direct the Maryland Baptist Summer Assembly which meets annually in July. Originally from Orlando, Fla., he served for 10 years as Training Union Secretary in Virginia before going to Nashville.

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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. W. C. Fields, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 127 Ninth Ave., No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

Parochial School Aid
Killed By House Ruling

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Federal aid for parochial school construction was ruled "not germane" and thus temporarily side-tracked during debate in the House of Representatives on the Thompson Education bill.

Two Congressmen, both Roman Catholics, Clement J. Zablocki (D., Wis.) and Roman C. Pucinski (D., Ill.), announced that they would propose amendments to the Education Bill to authorize Federal loans to private schools as a means of aiding these schools. Only the Pucinski amendment reached the floor.

Pucinski proposed that an additional amount of 15 per cent of the grants to public schools be made available as long-term, low-interest loans for private schools, the program to be administered by the Commissioner of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, rather than through the State Departments of education. His reason for the 15 per cent figure was that 15 per cent of the Nation's school pupils are in parochial schools.

During the debate Pucinski showed members of the House pictures of the Our Lady of Angels parochial school fire in Chicago in 1958 which claimed the lives of 87 pupils. He said that at the time of the fire he determined that if he ever got to Congress he would fight for Federal aid to parochial schools in order to enable them to build adequate and fireproof buildings.

Pucinski and the others proposing loans for parochial schools made it clear that they conceived of such measures as substantial "aid" and that such loans would be more than mere business transactions with the Government.

When the amendment was offered it was referred to the Parliamentarian, who ruled that it was "not germane" to the purposes of the bill under consideration. He said that the question under debate was aid to public schools and that the proposal for loans for parochial schools was for aid to private schools, two different subjects.

This was the second serious attempt to secure Congressional authorization for Federal aid for parochial school construction this year. Earlier a similar proposal by Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) was defeated in the Senate by a narrow margin which could have been changed by seven votes. Just what the outcome in the House would have been if a vote had been allowed is unknown.

The Thompson bill provides for $1.3 billion for a four-year period for school construction throughout the Nation. Among the amendments accepted as part of the bill was the so-called "Powell Amendment" which provides for withholding Federal funds from school systems resisting desegregation.

The House education bill now goes to a Senate-House conference committee to iron out differences with the Senate-passed measure providing $1.8 billion for two years for both school construction and teachers' salaries. No amendments can be proposed to a bill after it comes from conference committee.

Since the aid to parochial schools feature was successfully defeated in both Houses, it is unlikely that this feature will be added to the compromise version to come out of the conference committee.

Roman Catholic educators have worked diligently for the inclusion of parochial schools in any Federal school aid bill. It was the announced strategy of the Catholic educators that if parochial schools were not included in the school aid bills, they would be opposed to any bill providing Federal aid to education.

Although the probability is that the issue of aid to parochial schools is dead for the remainder of this session of Congress, the issue remains very much alive, and continuous and strong efforts will be made in the future to secure such aid.

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Religious Leaders Favor
Rural Study Commission (5-31-60) (5-27-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Baptist leaders have joined other religious spokesmen to urge the establishment of a Federal Commission on Problems of Small Towns and Rural Counties.

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Jointly sponsored by Sens. Karl E. Mundt (R., S.D.), Clifford P. Case (R., S.D.) and Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.) S. 3140 calls for a study of the problems of rural America. It is similar to a recently passed Senate bill that provides for a study of the problems of metropolitan areas.

Commenting on the proposed rural study on the floor of the Senate, Mr. Mundt said that "most of those who have contacted me in regard to the need for establishing a commission on small town problems, indicate that they see a general breakdown in smaller towns which threatens the existence of churches and other forces for good in these areas."

Among those who have written the Senator pleading their support of the bill are Willis J. Ray., executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, Wm. H. Rhoades, executive secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and M. Wendell Belew, secretary of the department of associational missions of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic leaders are also cited by Mundt as having assured him of their support.

The Baptist leaders pointed out that a large portion of their churches are located in small towns and rural communities. Others declared that the welfare of the churches is directly related to the economic development of those communities.

According to the proposal such a Commission would try to determine the present and future needs of the small towns in the field of public services, including but not limited to planning, highways, water resources, recreational facilities, prevention of juvenile delinquency, municipal financing, and business expansion, including ways and means to induce new businesses to small towns.

The bill has been reported favorably out of the Committee on Government Operations and is now awaiting a place on the Senate calendar.

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Says Christians Should
Be Active in Politics (5-31-60) (5-27-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Responsible Christian citizens cannot avoid the conflicts and issues that confront continued freedom for America, declared Rep. James E. Van Zandt (R., Pa.) in a speech printed in the Congressional Record.

Originally delivered to the United Churchwomen of Altoona, Pa., the Van Zandt speech said, "In any threat to free government in America, religious people have more to lose than any other class. If the basic freedoms were to go, not only would the churches be closed, but the mouths of believers as well."

He continued, "If the church people will vote during the week as they vow on Sunday, representative government will gain a victory, whichever candidate wins."

Speaking on "Citizenship - Free and Responsible" Van Zandt, a Lutheran, emphasized that Christian citizens can be most effective by participating in party politics. "Idealistic Christians should come to realize the enormous importance of party organizations as instruments for creating a concensus that is necessary for decision and action."

"It is a major error for any Christian citizen to look down on politics because he regards the whole political world as a bit shady," he said. "However well or badly the political affairs of the Nation may be conducted, politics is the process by which a nation or a community makes decisions."

"The question is, therefore, are you willing to sit back and let others make the basic decisions which will control your destiny."

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Christian citizens make a contribution by active participation in politics and government, by assisting in maintaining the spiritual health of the community, and by being informed about what is happening around them, he asserted.

"Free and responsible citizenship takes more than repeating the pledge of allegiance to the flag and repeating the Lord's Prayer," Van Zandt concluded.

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President Asks
Prayer for Peace (5-31-60) (5-27-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- President Eisenhower is calling on the Nation to observe Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, as a day of prayer for permanent peace.

In a proclamation Mr. Eisenhower said, "I call upon the people of the United States to join with one another, at the appointed time, in churches and other appropriate places in asking the blessing of God on those who have given their lives for the Nation, in offering thanks for God's manifold mercies, and in beseeching His aid in the building of a world based on freedom and justice, where all men may live in friendship and war shall be no more."

Eleven o'clock in the morning was designated by the President as the time to unite in such prayer.

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