

**JUL 21 1960**~~July 1, 1960~~**Skepticism, Opposition  
Reaction To Campaign****By The Baptist Press**

The Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, a Southern Baptist weekly newspaper, deplored in an editorial July 21 the Democratic Party nomination of a Roman Catholic for President of the United States.

Editor Erwin L. McDonald of Little Rock said that this nomination may be the "big jar" needed "to wake us up to what is happening all about us."

He declared the religious issue in the campaign has been injected "like a hypodermic needle by the Roman Catholic Church."

Editor McDonald said, "We are not against Catholicism as a religious faith . . . Roman Catholicism is more than a religion. It is totalitarianism with a world organization centering in a foreign land and denying the right of any religion to exist outside its own hierarchy."

Elsewhere among Southern Baptists, reaction to the Democratic nomination of Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts met outright opposition or skepticism.

H. Leo Eddleman, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said. "If a Catholic is elected President of the United States, within 20 years our public school system will be non-existent."

Speaking in his pulpit prior to the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Kennedy, Pastor W. A. Criswell of First Baptist Church, Dallas, said:

"If Kennedy is nominated and elected, it will inevitably open the door for a United States ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church, tax support for Catholic schools, and finally the recognition of the Roman Church above all others.

Pastor T. E. Dougherty of Atlanta's 1300-member Oakhurst Baptist Church, when interviewed by telephone on his reaction, said, "I shudder at the prospect of having the very heart and core of our national government dominated by the policies of the Roman Catholic Church. After having spent most of my ministerial service in communities dominated by Roman Catholicism, I know how serious a threat this eventuality can be to our precious liberty in the United States."

H. F. Paschall, pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church, warned in a sermon of dangers he said could come from a Catholic President.

Paschall had just returned from South America, where he said he observed what it is like to live in countries in which the political state and the Roman Catholic Church are not separated.

The freedom of the world is threatened by two deadly forces--Communism in the political realm and Roman Catholicism in the realm of religion, W. O. Vaught, Jr., pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, and first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, declared.

"Roman Catholicism in South America" was his topic following his return from the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

Pastors in other Baptist churches asked members to pray for party leaders selecting their nominees for the Presidency.

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention continued with plans to discuss the topic "Should a Roman Catholic be elected to public office?" The topic will be discussed at Baptist summer assemblies in Ridgecrest, N. C., and Glorieta, N. M., in August.

July 21, 1960

2

Baptist Press

The topic was chosen before Sen. Kennedy was nominated by the Democrats.

The two conferences are on the primary theme of "Christian Citizenship" and include such other topics as "A Look at Today's Political Scene" and a study of the history of religious liberty.

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New Health Center

(7-21-60)

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Grand Canyon College here is building a new student health center. The \$18,000 brick structure is the first unit in the enlarged health center and medical facilities which Grand Canyon College (Southern Baptist) plans.

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New Assembly Director

(7-21-60)

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Arthur L. Nelson of Jackson, business manager of Mississippi Baptist Convention board, has been elected director of Mississippi Baptist Assemblies, effective Nov. 1. He succeeds W. R. Roberts of Jackson, Mississippi representative of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas, who resigned to devote full time to that work.

-30-