

August 5, 1960

July News Spotlights
Kennedy Nomination

(monthly roundup)

By the Baptist Press

Baptist editors fear what may happen if a member of the Roman Catholic Church is elected President of the United States.

This is evident in the news and comment during July, following nomination of Sen. John F. Kennedy (D., Mass.) by the Democratic Party National Convention at Los Angeles.

"Now we know who is prejudiced," wrote one editor--E. S. James of Dallas, whose paper, the Baptist Standard with 335,000 subscribers, is largest of all Baptist weekly state papers.

In Wisconsin, James said, Catholic Republicans crossed the party line barrier to vote for Sen. Kennedy in a Democratic Presidential primary, while chiefly-Protestant West Virginia also gave Sen. Kennedy the nod.

"Now . . . we wonder where the Protestant 'bigots' were," he added.

A fellow editor, Floyd Looney of the California Southern Baptist, at Fresno, said that "granting there are good reasons why a Catholic should not be the President of the United States, . . . let us level criticism at Catholicism as such and not at Catholics personally."

"Religion is still an issue in the Presidential race," declared two Baptist leaders in Atlanta--Louie D. Newton, former Southern Baptist Convention president, and Walker L. Knight, editor of Home Missions, magazine of the Convention's Home Mission Board.

"Baptists fear Catholics in politics because basically the two groups differ so on their church and state philosophies . . . The Catholic Church favors union of church and state; Kennedy is a Catholic, therefore, many feel he would be forced to give in to Catholic demands, despite his statement to the contrary," Knight wrote in an editorial.

"If Kennedy insists that he will think for himself and resist the pressures of the Roman Church, he is not a true Catholic," was the opinion voiced by Editor Gene Puckett of the Ohio Baptist Messenger at Columbus.

F. Paul Allison, editor of the Baptist Digest in Wichita, suggested that Kansas Baptists not "make second class citizens of the Roman Catholics" nor "villify personally the Roman Catholic."

He added, "It is not the man we are against--it's his church and her doctrines that disqualify the man for public office in a democracy."

Baptists returning to the United States from the Baptist World Alliance Congress at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, noted the religious liberty of Brazil but most said it is not typical of conditions they saw in Catholic-dominated governments in Latin America. Comments from the pulpit followed their return home by some ministers.

The papers also devoted space to specifying the religious faiths of Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, Kennedy's running mate on the Democratic ticket; of Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, who was chosen to be Republican Party candidate for president, and of Henry Cabot Lodge, vice-president nominee with Nixon.

The social service commission of Georgia Baptist Convention, acting in another area of political and public issues--integration, said:

"We have been and will continue to be law abiding citizens. At the same time our religious practice and sense of practical right would be violated by any forced integration of the races in public schools."

This statement is from its report which will be presented to the state convention for acceptance this fall. Convention instructions require it be published in advance.

The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in annual meeting at Nashville in July, heard a suggestion that more information on history of religious liberty be published for Baptists to read.

The commission re-elected W. Fred Kendall, Nashville, executive secretary of Tennessee Baptist Convention, as chairman. It discussed plans for a Baptist atlas, covering historical sites of Baptist interest; reported three history books being written or at some other stage of planning, and defined more clearly its program in relation to the overall work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptist Convention and state foundations reported total assets of \$66-2/3 million dollars.

Baptists, of Illinois and Ohio set their 1961 state budgets, subject to adoption at conventions later in the year.

Arizona Southern Baptists revealed plans for a 5000-home golden years housing program at Tucson.

Five Southern Baptist ministers were among 13 recognized as rural ministers of the year in their states. Awards were from Emory University, Atlanta, and Progressive Farmer magazine.

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Total 1960 Giving
Passes \$20 Million

(8-5-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Total gifts to agency work of the Southern Baptist Convention passed the \$20 million mark in July. A slight pickup in Cooperative Program (undesignated) giving was manifested.

Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville announced that Cooperative Program and designated giving combined reached \$20,735,853 as of July 31. Cooperative Program made up \$10,007,338 of that amount, and trailed designated total gifts for the seven months by \$721,000.

July receipts were \$1,507,900 through the Cooperative Program and \$318,261 from designations. Receipts are forwarded from state Baptist offices, which have received them from church collections.

Churches keep the largest percentage of their collections, and the state retains a share of Cooperative Program money sent from churches in addition to all gifts designated to state Baptist agency work. These church and state work figures are not incorporated in the S B C total.

Gifts from churches normally require six weeks to two months to reach the Convention treasurer's office.

Designated gifts are up 10.36 per cent over the amount reported for January through July, 1959. Cooperative Program income for the first seven months runs 2.71 per cent over the previous year to date.

The slight increase in Cooperative Program receipts is evidenced by the fact that as of June 30, 1960, these receipts were only 2.17 per cent ahead of 1959. But they are still short of the 9.31 per cent gain shown in July, 1959, over July, 1958.

Texas led states with total gifts in July of \$335,837. Others forwarding \$100,000 or more in order were Georgia, \$151,252; North Carolina, \$149,988; Tennessee, \$148,998; Virginia, \$137,178; Florida, \$122,643, and South Carolina, \$105,552.

Nearly \$800,000 was sent to the Foreign Mission Board during July raising its year to date total to \$12,768,867. The Home Mission Board has gotten \$4,076,649 thus far this year, including \$447,000 during July.

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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August 5, 1960

South American Baptists
Fear Catholic President

By the Baptist Press

Southern Baptist missionaries in Latin America have expressed alarm at the nomination of Sen. John F. Kennedy as the Democratic presidential candidate, Texas Baptists' top denominational leader said.

Forrest C. Feezor, executive secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, reporting on a recent mission tour of nine South American countries, said the missionaries fear that the election of a Catholic president would heighten religious persecution in their areas.

"Knowing what the Catholic church has done in South America in keeping the people submerged in superstition," said Feezor, "the missionaries are greatly concerned about the coming election."

But a more vital concern of the missionaries, he said, is the spreading influence of Communism in Latin America.

"None of the people with whom I talked approve of Castro and his allegiances," said Feezor, "but they have an affinity for Cuba that makes them hesitant to criticize. Individuals, however, would not hesitate to say that Castro is "out of his mind."

In the countries he visited, Feezor said that there was no apparent overflow of communistic influence from Cuba.

"But the missionaries," he said, "insist that a spirit of vigilance must be maintained or red influences will infiltrate other countries."

Feezor and a party of nearly a hundred Baptists enroute to Rio de Janeiro last month were caught in a security net following an assassination attempt of Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt. They were detained five days in Caracas, missing most of the Baptist World Congress meeting in Rio.

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Folks & Facts.

(8-5-60)

.A new book by A. Donald Bell, newly-elected executive vice president at Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., has been named the August selection for a nation-wide book club. Bell's book, "How To Get Along With People in Church," was previously the July selection of the Pinehurst Book Club, a religious literature club in the eastern states, and will be the August selection of the national Nazarene Book Club. (BP)

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.J. M. Price, dean emeritus of Southwestern Theological Seminary's school of religious education in Fort Worth, has departed for an extensive religious education lecture tour of South America. Price is also professor of religious psychology and education principles at the seminary. (BP)

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Dallas College To Hire
Education Consultants

DALLAS--(BP)--Members of the steering committee for the proposed Dallas Baptist University here have voted to employ an educational consultant firm to help map an academic blueprint for the new college scheduled to open in 1963.

"The consultants," said Committee Chairman C. E. Colton, "will help to map thoroughly the school's academic objectives, enabling the development of a master campus plan to achieve these objectives."

A search for the best location in metropolitan Dallas will continue, said Colton, pastor of the Royal Haven Baptist Church here.

"Several sites are under consideration and no final decision has been made," he said. Some Baptist leaders here had expected the site to be announced at the meeting.

A statement issued following the closed meeting of the steering committee said: "Realizing the importance of the location of the university in regard to the school's future growth and service to all the Dallas area, our committee is continuing to prayerfully seek divine guidance in this matter."

In other action the committee elected T. C. Bateson, Dallas building contractor and Baptist layman, as head of the school's development committee.

The school, planned as a four-year liberal arts institution, will begin to function only when it meets criteria set by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Trustees for the new university will be named at the state Baptist convention's annual meeting in November at Lubbock, Tex.

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Missionary Named New
Bible Institute Head

(8-5-60)

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.--(BP)--H. B. Ramsour, Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary to Hawaii for the past 14 years, has been named president of the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute here.

He succeeds C. G. Carter, who founded the institute and is retiring after ten years as the institute's president.

A graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Ramsour has served with the Foreign Mission Board for 22 years. His first assignment after appointment in 1939 was to Japan. He later served in Argentina and went to Hawaii in 1946.

He was pastor of the University Avenue Baptist Church in Honolulu and was president of the Hawaii Baptist Convention for two years.

While in Argentina, he was administrator of the Baptist Seminary where he taught for four years.

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Pastor Fears Catholic
Tool In Presidency

(8-5-60)

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Pastor Harold E. Lindsey lambasted the Catholic hierarchy from the pulpit in a Sunday sermon entitled "The Issues Before Us" here July 31.

The 39-year-old minister acknowledged Kennedy, the Democratic nominee for president, as a "highly intelligent, well-informed, well-educated and experienced young man," and said that he has every right to be president.

"Yet if his religion would prevent his absolute allegiance to the United States, the question of his religion can be raised legitimately," said Lindsey.

"The ultimate danger involved," he said, "is that eventually we will be subject to the power of Rome. Tax funds for the support of Catholic schools, grants for Catholic hospitals, orphanages and other forms of Catholic relief would become the order of the day if a Catholic is elected U. S. President."

Lindsey pointed out four reasons "why Kennedy must not be elected:"

(1) Being a Roman Catholic, he would be subject to the traditional pressures which have characterized the Catholic church's bid for power.

(2) Being a Catholic, he would be subject to a power other than God, his conscience or his country.

(3) The Roman Catholic Church, loyal to its nature, would project itself into the affairs of the state through Kennedy.

(4) It would be impossible for him to carry out his duties as president and remain in good and regular standing with his church.

"Changes would come gradually," said Lindsey, "until one day we awaken to discover that our liberties have been whittled away and we are enslaved in our own homeland by a ruthless religious totalitarianism controlled from Rome."

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Alliance Announces
Gift For Smyth Chapel

(8-5-60)

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--The Baptist World Alliance here announced the receipt of a \$30,000 gift to apply on the cost of the John Smyth Memorial Church being erected by Dutch Baptists at Amsterdam, Holland.

Robert S. Denny, associate secretary of the Alliance, said that the gift came from the Jarman Foundation of Nashville, Tenn., and will be forwarded immediately to Rev. T. Jansma, treasurer of the Dutch Baptist Union. (The Jarman Foundation is administered through W. Maxey Jarman, Nashville, Southern Baptist layman, and head of a large national shoe concern. It uses its funds to further religious activities, particularly Baptist work, overseas.)

The Memorial Church is being erected by the Baptists of Holland in tribute to Rev. John Smyth, who in 1609 founded at Amsterdam the first known English-speaking Baptist church and thereby launched the Baptist movement of modern times.

Cost of the building will be about \$115,000. The Baptist World Alliance executive committee had commended the project "to the sympathetic interest of the alliance's constituent bodies throughout the world."

Denny noted that this \$30,000 gift and several other smaller contributions to the Smyth Memorial "are excellent examples of the Alliance's service as a channel through which Baptists of the world may help each other."

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Second Baptist Church
Established In Minnesota

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BP)--A Baptist mission here has been organized into the second Southern Baptist church established in the entire state of Minnesota.

The new church, the South Roberts Street Baptist Church, was constituted into a self-supporting church with 39 charter members. The mission formerly met weekly at the downtown St. Paul YMCA.

Vernon E. Baird, former pastor of the West Frankfort, Ill., Baptist Church, is the pastor of the new church.

Originally sponsored by the Southtown Baptist Church of Minneapolis, the new church now joins its former sponsoring church as the only two self-supporting Baptist churches in the state.

Southern Baptist Convention President Ramsey Pollard brought the principal message at the constitution service July 15. A. B. White, executive vice-president of the Texas Baptist Church Loan Corporation, was also on the program.

Mission work in the Wisconsin-Minnesota area is sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Frank Burress is superintendent of missions for the two-state association.

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Watson To Serve
As President

(8-5-60)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--The Southern Baptist extension education association here elected Clarence Watson of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., as president for the coming year. He succeeds R. Lee Gallman, director, extension department of Southern Baptist seminaries, Jackson, Miss.

P. H. Anderson of Mercer University, Macon, Ga., was elected program chairman for the 1961 meeting Aug. 1-3 at Carson-Newman college. A. D. Phillips of Rossville, Ga., associated with Anderson in Mercer extension education, is association secretary.

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Kennedy Ignores Request
To Cite First Allegiance

(8-5-60)

WICHITA FALLS, Tex.--(BP)--A telegram asking Sen. John F. Kennedy whether his primary allegiance is to the United States or the Roman Catholic church has been ignored, a group of Texas Baptists said here.

The telegram, from a Brotherhood group of the Wichita-Archer Baptist Association, specifically requested a reply.

It stated that the senders would be forced to vote the Republican ticket unless Sen. Kennedy, a Roman Catholic and the Democratic presidential nominee, gave assurance before November of his readiness to break with the Catholic church should it seek to intimidate him in matters affecting the United States.

The telegram prompted a number of telegrams and telephone calls to Bert Mattingly, superintendent of missions for the Wichita-Archer association.

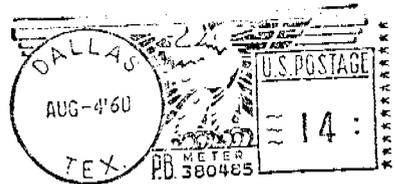
"About half of the calls and telegrams were in opposition to our stand," Mattingly said. He said in a statement to the press that the group is not taking issue with the Catholic religion, but opposes the church's trying to control the government.

The telegram, sent prior to the Democratic nominating convention, but not released publicly until later, said the senders believed Kennedy was sincere in his statements of loyalty to the U.S. Constitution.

However, it said, "the past history of your church for over a thousand years and its most recent published statements in L'osservatore Romano, would prevent the senders voting unless he could satisfy them that his primary allegiance would be to the U. S.

BAPTIST PRESS

103 BAPTIST BUILDING
DALLAS 1, TEXAS



VIA AIR MAIL

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Nashville, Tennessee

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