

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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August 19, 1960

### Carlson Cautions On Use Of Fake Catholic Oath

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A denominational leader here cautions Baptists to make sure of their facts and to approach the "religious issue" in the Presidential campaign in a manner that will not reflect on their own character.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, declares that Baptists have solid ground on which to stand in making their witness to the world without having to resort to questionable procedures. Specifically, he had reference to the use of such spurious documents as the so-called Knights of Columbus Oath and a new leaflet entitled "America Is A Catholic Country," allegedly circulated by a Catholic Committee For Historical Truth.

Both of these pieces have been proved to be "fakes" Carlson says, and every Baptist should be ready to denounce their distribution and to participate in a campaign of truth in discussing the real issues in the Presidential campaign.

Those who distribute such falsehoods are unwittingly untrue to the integrity that should characterize Christian people, and they are putting themselves in a position of having to defend themselves in libel suits if the offended parties should decide to prosecute, Carlson continued.

Investigation has proved beyond question that both the purported Knights of Columbus "oath" and the "America Is A Catholic Country" leaflet are false documents. The Knights of Columbus have proved in many libel suits that the "oath" is spurious, and the National Catholic Welfare Conference denies that there exists such an organization as "Catholic Committee For Historical Truth" within the knowledge of the church.

John E. Kelly, director of the Bureau of Information for the National Catholic Welfare Conference, says that the leaflet on "America Is A Catholic Country" made its first appearance, as far as his investigation has determined, shortly before the national Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, and that it has received wide distribution since then. The pamphlet seeks to make it appear that the Catholic church is urging its members to convert the United States into a Catholic nation by forgetting the designation of "Republican" and "Democrat" and by voting together at the ballot box. It addresses itself to the Catholic people and presents a perverted viewpoint of American history.

America magazine, a national Catholic weekly review, in its August 20 issue, is as puzzled over the appearance of this false document as those who have received it. It editorially wonders: "If the author of this throwaway is a Catholic, he is a very silly one, indeed. But the suspicion arises in our minds that the man who wrote it is neither Catholic nor silly, but merely clever....Someone is evidently trying to influence the voters. But who, and for whose benefit?"

The fraudulent Knights of Columbus "oath" was published in the Congressional Record, Feb. 15, 1913, as an illustration of bigotry, deceit and falsehood in the election of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania for the 62nd Congress. It has since been lifted out of its context and published as if it were a genuine document.

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Corrections have been attempted by the Masons, Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU), the Congressional Record of Jan. 29, 1915 (p. 2721) and Aug. 16, 1960 (p. A6092), many libel cases, and the Knights of Columbus themselves. For 25 years the Knights have offered a reward of \$25,000 to anyone who could prove the genuineness of the "oath." No one has yet claimed the reward.

The genuine Knights of Columbus oath is as follows: "I swear to support the Constitution of the United States. I pledge myself, as a Catholic citizen and a Knight of Columbus, fully to enlighten myself upon my duties as a citizen and conscientiously perform them entirely in the interest of my country, regardless of all personal consequences. I pledge myself to do all in my power to preserve the integrity and purity of the ballot and to promote respect for law and order. I promise to practice my religion consistently and faithfully, and to so conduct myself in public affairs and in the exercise of public virtue as to reflect nothing but credit upon our Holy Church, to the end that she may flourish and our country prosper to the greater honor and glory of God."

Baptist ministers in various parts of the country already have been embarrassed during the current campaign by printing the spurious "oath" in their church bull tins and then having to apologize publicly for their error. The Knights of Columbus have threatened to enter libel suits against some who have refused to make proper acknowledgments of their error. They have won many similar cases in the past.

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Jewish Senator Debunks  
Religious Issue Tales

(8-19-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A prominent Jewish Senator has debunked the "religious issue" in the Presidential campaign.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R., N. Y.) says that "all four candidates are absolutely devoid of any 'ism' connected with religion and that the people may vote their choice with confidence that the rights of every American in this connection will be respected and guarded by all four candidates."

He avowed, "There is not and should not be any religious issue in this campaign."

The occasion of his remarks before the United States Senate was the charge that Vice President Nixon is anti-Semitic. He said that an editorial in the B'nai B'rith Messenger of Los Angeles cited examples of false charges that Richard M. Nixon is an anti-Semite. Both the editorial and Sen. Javits vigorously denied that the charge is true.

In view of the fact that these charges have been made against the Republican candidate and that the Democratic candidate is a member of the Roman Catholic faith Javits declared, "It should be stated over and over again, however, that religious prejudices must have no place in this presidential year."

Asserting that the effort to inject the religious issue into the campaign is an affront to the citizenship of every American Javits concluded, "Those who through ignorance or sheer viciousness repeat anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic remarks and rumors are doing the country a great disservice."

The editorial in the Jewish publication cited by Javits says, "There is no element of anti-Semitism in this campaign. Nixon, Kennedy, Lodge and Johnson are absolutely devoid of that crass anti-Jew stuff called anti-Semitism."

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August 19, 1960

3

Baptist Press

Church Influence On  
Legislation Praised

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The effectiveness of "church" influence on social legislation was highly praised by Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R., S. D.) in a speech before the U. S. Senate.

Speaking on his bill to curb obscene literature, Mundt said, "I am convinced that if it had not been for the churches of all denominations throughout the country the support for this legislation would not have been developed to the point where it resulted in successful Senate action."

Specifically Mundt referred to the hundreds of letters from constituents that he and other Senators received, the resolutions passed by church groups, sermons by the ministers, and articles in religious publications.

"I can only conclude that the passage of this legislation is due in great part to the aroused anger of the public against this vicious blight upon the nation's morals," he said.

Mundt's remarks illustrate the importance and the effectiveness of church people studying current national issues and communicating their views to their public officials.

The legislation to which he referred is S. 3736 to establish a Commission on Noxious and Obscene Matters and Materials, and which was passed by the Senate on June 30. It is now pending in the House of Representatives.

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Asks Emphasis on Role  
Of Religion In Nation

(8-19-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The role of religion as a deterrent to Communism and as a "major strength of our way of life" has not been stressed as it should, according to Sen. Alexander Wiley (R., Wisc.) in remarks before the United States Senate.

Referring to "the right and privilege to be spiritually free," the Senator said, "perhaps no one appreciates this great heritage so much as those to whom it has been denied."

The occasion of his remarks was an insertion in the Congressional Record of a resolution of the Wisconsin State Council, Knights of Columbus, requesting that future U. S. national and international exhibitions "give greater and more emphatic recognition to our religious heritage."

"Basically, the resolution proposed the importance of stressing the significant role which freedom of religion - including all faiths - has played in the lives of our people and the history of our country," Wiley said.

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August 19, 1960

### Supreme Court Upholds Bremond Case Decision

AUSTIN, Tex.--(BP)--The Texas Supreme Court has handed down a decision upholding earlier district and appellate court rulings that plaintiffs in the Bremond School case "have not exhausted administrative remedy" before taking the case to court.

Plaintiffs in the case sought a court ruling on the constitutionality of tax support for a public school where Catholic nuns teach while wearing the robes of their order.

The taxpayer-citizen group which filed the charges contends that the school is actually a Catholic parochial school and that tax support of the institution violates both the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.

Bremond School superintendent J. W. Baker said the nuns were certified by the state educational authorities as public school teachers. They were permitted to wear their traditional habits, Baker said, because he felt he could not tell them what they must wear any more than any other teacher.

The state's highest judicial body upheld rulings by the Tenth Court of Civil Appeals and by the 85th District Court that the plaintiffs in the case must file a complaint with the local school board before the courts can consider the matter.

An attorney representing the plaintiffs said that the Protestant group his firm represents would not carry the case to the U. S. Supreme Court because of overcrowded dockets.

"Instead," he said, "my clients will file a formal complaint with the Bremond School District's board of trustees during their Aug. 25 meeting to try to get local authorities to act on the long-delayed case."

If the school board denies the charges, he said, the complaint will be appealed to the state commissioner of education, J. W. Edgar, and later appealed to the state board of education.

Plaintiffs in the case include clergymen and prominent laymen from at least five Protestant faiths.

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Folks & facts . . . . .

(8-19-60)

. . . . . Joe Davis Heacock, dean of the School of Religious Education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, will deliver the commencement address for the summer graduation exercises at Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., on Aug. 19. Howard College will confer the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree on Heacock. (BP)

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SBC Radio-TV Commission  
To Receive Safety Award

FORT WORTH--(BP)--An award for exceptional service to safety in the production of a film will be presented to the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission by the Fort Worth Branch of the National Safety Council Sept. 5.

Larry Graft, safety director for the Fort Worth Safety Council, said a plaque will be presented to the Commission during a semi-annual meeting of the organization's central committee.

Paul M. Stevens, Commission director, and Edgar Arendall of Birmingham, Ala., chairman, will accept the honor.

The Commission's award is specifically for a crusade for traffic safety put on by a newspaper in the dramatic film entitled, "Gimmick," a motion picture dealing with civic righteousness in the 1959 "The Answer" series sponsored by the Commission.

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Houston Pastor Joins  
Kennedy Opposition

(8-19-60)

HOUSTON--(BP)--Another Texas Baptist pastor has joined the ranks of ministers who have openly opposed Catholic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy.

K. O. White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Houston, said from the pulpit at the beginning of a Sunday worship service that he had a "statement on national affairs" that he felt obligated to make. He asked his congregation to remain after his regular sermon for the address.

Most of the 1,500 persons present stayed.

"Putting Sen. John Kennedy, the Democratic presidential nominee, in the White House would be the first step in a series the Catholic Church will take as a part of a planned campaign to lay hold of our country," said White.

"Kennedy says he will act as a free individual," White said, "but he cannot act as a free individual and be a good faithful Catholic. His church is under obligation to dictate."

"Kennedy says he believes in separation of church and state, but I don't know why he says that and remains a member of the Catholic Church," White said.

The pastor described the forthcoming election as "the most important in the last 40 years."

He closed his address by telling the congregation to "read your Bible, pray, and be guided by that."

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Folks & facts. . . . .

(8-19-60)

. . . . .Z. T. Huff, dean and academic vice president of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., will retire after 22 years of service at the Texas Baptist school. Huff, who was dean at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., before his deanship at Howard Payne, has served the two Texas Baptist colleges for the past 35 years. He was the first faculty member at both schools with an earned Ph.D. degree. (BP)

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### Southwestern Religious Education Meet Slated

FORT WORTH--(BP)--More than 350 religious education workers from a 12-state area are expected to attend the annual Southwestern Religious Education Association meeting at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here Aug. 30-Sept. 1.

The three-day program will feature workshop sessions for the various fields of religious education work plus general sessions at the Seminary's Price Hall.

Principal speakers for the meeting include Leon Marsh, associate professor of religious education principles at Southwestern Seminary; Phillip Harris, secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Training Union Department; David Mashburn, associate in the Baptist Brotherhood Commission; Ray Rozell, publisher of the Rozell Sunday School Aids; W. L. Howse, director of the Sunday School Board's Education Division; and Mack Douglas, pastor of the Tower Grove Baptist Church of St. Louis, Mo.

The Southwestern Religious Education Association is one of three regional organizations. The Western Religious Education Association meets annually at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, San Francisco, Calif., and the Southeastern Religious Education Association meets at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

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### Twelve Tracts Released On Jubilee Revivals

(8-19-60)

DALLAS--(BP)--No person need lack information on how to carry out his responsibilities in a Baptist Jubilee Revival, said C. E. Autrey of Dallas, in announcing the publication of a dozen new "How-To-Do-It" tracts on this special program of associational revival meetings.

Autrey directs the Division of Evangelism of Southern Baptists' Home Mission Board which inaugurated the Baptist Jubilee Revival. Under the plan, churches in an association work together in locating prospects, preparing and conducting the evangelistic services, and inaugurating a spiritual growth program for new members.

Tracts are off the press for every association officer, the chairman of evangelism, the moderator, missionary and/or vice moderator, clerk, treasurer, Sunday School superintendent, Training Union director, Woman's Missionary Union president, Brotherhood president, music director, public relations director, and the director of the Baptist Jubilee Revival.

The tracts, to be distributed by state secretaries of evangelism, include the "What, Where, When, and How" of each officer's responsibilities for the revival.

A special participation chart has been prepared to guide the churches and association in setting dates and making plans. Certificates of participation will be awarded to churches having Baptist Jubilee Revivals.

The Baptist Jubilee Revivals, planned for 1961 through 1964, will focus attention on the annual emphasis of the Baptist Jubilee Advance of all North American Baptists.

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San Antonio Hospital  
Groundbreaking Held

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.,--(BP)--Groundbreaking ceremonies have officially launched a seven story, \$4 million addition to the Baptist Memorial Hospital here.

The addition, scheduled for completion in 1962, will include 175 beds, raising the total accommodations to 465.

The new wing will house X-ray, dietary and surgical facilities. Construction is to begin immediately.

The executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas told those attending the ceremonies that the hospital's enlargement commanded their concern for improving the nation's health city by city.

Forrest C. Feezor, Texas Baptists' top denominational leader and principal speaker at the groundbreaking ceremonies, described the health problem as "being of major concern to every community, city and nation."

The San Antonio Baptist Memorial Hospital is one of eight institutions under the healing ministry of Texas Baptists' Human Welfare Commission. Fred R. Higginbotham is administrator of the ten-year-old San Antonio hospital. More than 18,250 persons were treated by the hospital last year.



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