

BAPTIST FEATURES

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W. C. Fields, *Director*

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

Kennedy And Carlson
Discuss Religious Issue

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Sen. John F. Kennedy (D., Mass.), Democratic Presidential candidate, agreed with a Baptist leader that "political power as a means to religious ends" should be renounced by all churches.

In a 30-minute conference with C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Sen. Kennedy discussed many of the problems involved in the "religious issue" of the current Presidential campaign. The issue is being widely discussed because of the senator's affiliation with the Roman Catholic Church.

The two men agreed that "a frank renunciation by all churches of political power as a means to religious ends would greatly improve the political climate and would seem to be a legitimate request by both political parties."

In commenting on the interview Carlson expressed concern "for the integrity, the goodwill and the unity of the nation during the intense political efforts which are now beginning." He said that already evidence is appearing that "partisan interests have sought to use church channels for their own ends."

Carlson continued, "Half truths and sham materials are already bearing down on our churches. This we aim to resist; for this resistance we seek the co-operation of both parties and of all participants."

The conversation of the Baptist leader with Sen. Kennedy is in harmony with action taken by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in March of this year to encourage discussion with candidates for public office on civic issues and matters pertaining to the separation of church and state.

Carlson also announced that he has made himself available for an invitation from the Republican Presidential candidate, Vice President Richard M. Nixon, for discussions along similar lines.

In his conversation with Carlson, Sen. Kennedy expressed concern that agitation would be stirred up against him solely on the ground that he is a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He appealed to the voters to make their decisions on the basis of his voting record in Congress, on his public statements on the issues involved in the problem of separation of church and state, and on the positions of the candidates on the public issues before the nation.

Sen. Kennedy has publicly announced that he is opposed to an ambassador to the Vatican, that he is not in favor of federal aid to parochial schools, and that he believes in the constitutional principle of separation of church and state. He has declared in his campaigns that a public official that takes orders from the Pope should be impeached.

Carlson emphasized that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a non-partisan and non-political office. His appeal was for a fair and open discussion by both parties of all the issues and problems involved in the use of political power to accomplish religious ends.

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(8-27-60)

Folks & facts.....

Two Southern Baptist leaders who are alumni of Howard College, Birmingham, received honorary doctors' degrees there this summer. They were Joe Davis Heacock, dean, school of religious education, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and S. Louis Armstrong, pastor, Morningview Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala. Heacock received a doctor of humanities and Armstrong received the doctor of divinity degree. (BP)

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Deaf Work Gets
Ridgecrest Study

RIDGECREST, N. C.--(BP)--Deaf work received major emphasis during home missions week here because the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf held its annual session at the same time.

The deaf group met separately from the remainder the conferences, but also participated in the home missions program at Southern Baptists' summer assembly here.

Interpreters used sign language to relay the sessions of the home mission program to the deaf. They served as a means of communication and fellowship with the hearing.

Expenses of many of the more than 125 deaf people attending the conference were paid by their local churches. Churches across the Southern Baptist Convention conduct a ministry to the deaf, using sign language interpreters for worship services, special Sunday school classes, and other organizational meetings.

The denomination's Home Mission Board employs more than 20 workers with the deaf as a part of its language missions program.

An announcement was made by Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly Manager Willard K. Weeks that the "Christmas in July" offering of college and seminary students serving on the staff of Ridgecrest will be used to set up an Ila Ruth Jennings Bruffey scholarship fund at a deaf college.

The scholarship will go to some worthy Baptist deaf person wishing to continue his education beyond high school level and to render service among the deaf.

Ila Ruth Jennings, later Mrs. Clifford Bruffey, the first deaf student to serve on the staff at Ridgecrest, was killed in an automobile accident July 1 in Mississippi. She and her husband of three weeks, both deaf, were serving as missionaries to the deaf in Jackson, Miss.

Weeks became interested in deaf students through Mrs. Connie Black, a home economics teacher at Mississippi School for the Deaf. In 1953, Ila Ruth and a classmate from the Mississippi school, Joan Lockhart, served on the staff. According to Weeks, deaf students have served every summer since that time until this summer when plans for one to come failed to work out.

The scholarship of \$550 will be set up in Ila Ruth's honor for two years with the staff's contributions of \$1100 to the "Christmas in July" offering. Part of the 1959 offering went to help Ila Ruth complete a year at Galladet College for the Deaf.

"Those she influenced and interested in deaf work are scattered across the country," said Weeks. He estimates that 100 people are in some type of deaf work because of her direct or indirect influence.

The 1960 deaf conference elected Leon Myatt of Houston, Tex., president; Lloyd Bridges of Dallas, Tex., vice-president; Leslie Gunn, missionary to the deaf in Oklahoma City, Okla., secretary and Roy Blaylock of Memphis, Tenn., treasurer. They elected four trustees and announced dates for their 1961 conference on Aug. 6-9 at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, N. M.

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American Convention
Congo Staff Meeting

(8-27-60)

NEW YORK--(BP)--Displaced American Baptist Convention missionaries to the Congo will meet here in September to consider on what basis they should return to the riot-torn country in Africa.

Only eight of the Convention's missionaries remain in the Congo, newly independent of Belgian government authority. Two of the eight missionaries still in the Congo will attend the New York City meeting.

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Editors:

Although there are no Southern Baptist missionaries appointed to the Congo, the interest you have evidenced in this prompts us to give a brief word about American Baptist Convention's missions in the Congo.

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Guffin Named
Dean At Howard

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--The president of Eastern Baptist Theological seminary, Philadelphia, and Eastern Baptist College, St. Davids, Pa., will become dean of religion at Howard College here.

Gilbert L. Guffin, who originated and was director of the widely-imitated extension division for Christian training at Howard from 1947-49, will assume his duties as soon as his successor has been appointed.

Howard President Leslie S. Wright said this new position is being created to co-ordinate an enlarged program of religious activities and services to the college and to Alabama Baptist State Convention, which operates it.

As dean of religion, Guffin will have a close advisory relationship with Vernon G. Davison, head of the department of Bible and religious education; Ben Connell, director of student religious activities on the campus; and with the director of the extension division for Christian training which operates through about 50 centers throughout the state.

Guffin's responsibility will include co-ordination of an "enriched program" of religious activities for the student body, faculty and administration, according to Wright. In this connection he will serve as dean of the chapel.

He is a graduate of Mercer University, and also holds an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mercer (Baptist) University.

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Folks & facts.....

(8-27-60)

.....Professor and Mrs. George A. Carver have returned to Carver School of Missions and Social work from a six-month teaching tour at Hong Kong Baptist College. On their way back to the United States, the Carvers visited several mission stations in the Orient. (BP)

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