

September 24, 1960

'Bigot' Name Threatens  
'Our Witness' --Garrett

NASHVILLE--(BP)--One of the major problems Baptists face in the current Presidential campaign is that of being wrongly thought of as "bigots," a denominational public affairs specialist declared here.

"Sometimes we might quite unintentionally make the impression of being bigoted, and our witness is damaged as much as if the charges were true," W. Barry Garrett of Washington said.

Garrett, associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said, "It is so hard to make ourselves understood. It is so easy to be misunderstood."

Speaking before an audience of 100 Southern Baptist Convention executives, editors, and lay leaders, Garrett said the dilemma of the "religious issue" in the campaign should cause Baptists to "pause and re-evaluate the situation."

Baptists should, in his opinion, "give most serious consideration to the Baptist image that is being created by their participation in the campaign."

He asked, "What will be the effect of our political participation on our Baptist integrity and on the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ? . . . That is the question."

He discussed the varying viewpoints which Baptists have on the "religious issue" and said that Baptists "must not create false issues." He talked during a session of the semi-annual Southern Baptist Promotion Conference.

Pastors should avoid the "pitfall" of "weakening (their) leadership position in the church by becoming a political partisan," he added.

Another campaign "pitfall" is "the problem of dividing the church fellowship on a political issue," according to Garrett. Another possibility is "alienating financial support" of Baptist objectives by offending Baptists with "abiding loyalty" to the Democratic Party.

"The problem of opposing the social and political purposes and program of the Roman Catholic Church, while maintaining our position of respect for the individual Roman Catholic and his right to religious freedom" is another "pitfall" listed by Garrett.

Getting across "our position" to the American people in the face of a usually unkind press presents another "pitfall," Garrett continued. The terms of "bigoted Baptists" and "Protestant prejudices" are frequently used against those "who oppose the Roman Catholic social and political line . . ." he noted.

In another address to the same conference, C. Emanuel Carlson of Washington, asserted that "Whatever our disagreements may be with Roman Catholicism, nonetheless there is enough of Christian residue in concept and program so that we cannot afford to let our movement be shaped on the basis of a negative response to their expressions and efforts."

Carlson is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, an organization supported by six Baptist bodies including the Southern Baptist Convention. It reports to Baptists on the religious aspect in public issues and helps set forth the Baptist viewpoint on church-state separation to government bodies in the Capital.

Question Of Relocating  
Offices Remains Open

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to continue its study on relocating its offices. Present offices are in Nashville.

It left to a "location planning committee" the task of conducting the future study on moving.

The Executive Committee freed the Baptist Sunday School Board of its offer of the Frost Building, an office building currently housing some of the board's departments and two other agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It kept open the question not only as to time of relocation but as to whether relocation will be in another building in Nashville or will be in another city.

A committee leader said that original plans to remodel the Frost Building for Executive Committee and other S B C agencies had been abandoned.

The Executive Committee voted, however, to accept the \$1,200,000 cash offer of the Sunday School Board to use in erecting a new office. The money will be deposited with the Southern Baptist Foundation, where it will be invested for interest, until such time as it is needed.

The Sunday School Board will be reimbursed for its expenses in having architects draft a preliminary plan for remodeling the Frost Building.

The Frost Building, adjacent to the present main offices of the Sunday School Board, is one of the earliest buildings ever used by the board. It appeared on board literature for many years.

Under the proposed remodeling the Frost Building would have housed the Executive Committee and these S B C agencies: Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, and Southern Baptist Foundation, all of which are based in Nashville.

The Education and Christian Life Commissions are in the present Frost Building. The Executive Committee and the Foundation have space in the Sunday School Board's 12-story main administration building across the street from the Frost Building.

The Sunday School Board plans to move its departments out of the Frost Building upon completion of a remodeling program in another building under way now.

In reaching its decision to continue the relocation study, the Executive Committee voted down a proposal that the relocation issue be deferred until after the Baptist Jubilee Year of 1964.

When the relocation was discussed in Miami Beach, Fla., in May, Memphis was proposed as the new site, but was turned down pending further study. Tulsa, Okla., also has been considered.

James L. Sullivan, Nashville, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, said the Executive Committee is welcome to stay in the board's administration building as long as it wishes.

Charles E. Curry, Kansas City, Mo., layman on the Executive Committee, said the Frost Building remodeling would be a "poor investment."

Judge Frank A. Hooper of Atlanta's District Federal Court, a member of the Executive Committee, said, "The sooner we can settle the question of where we're going, the better."

Wayne Dehoney, Jackson, Tenn., minister, interpreted a recent survey of opinion as showing that "out in the Convention it made no difference whether we stayed (in Nashville) or moved."

Minus Officers, Carver  
Trustees Elect Again

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Trustees of Carver School of Missions and Social Work have elected new officers.

The Louisville, Ky., Southern Baptist Convention institution found itself without both a chairman and a vice-chairman when J. Herbert Gilmore of Louisville resigned to join the school's faculty and Frederick G. Schlafer moved from Birmingham, Ala., to another state.

By accepting a pastorate in Paducah, Ky., Vice-Chairman Schlafer was forced to resign since he was an Alabama representative on the trustees.

Succeeding them in office were B. L. Williams, Jr., of Johnston City, Ill., as chairman, and John P. Sandidge, Louisville attorney, as vice-chairman.

Both Williams, a minister, and Sandidge have previously been chairman of Carver's trustees.

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Tuscaloosa Pastor  
New Editor's Aid

(9-24-60)

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--John C. Taylor of Tuscaloosa, Ala., has been elected associate editor of the Illinois Baptist, weekly newspaper published here.

Taylor has served Southside Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa. During that pastorate, he secured bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Alabama there.

On assuming the position Oct. 15, Taylor will assist Editor L. H. Moore of Carbondale. The Illinois Baptist, official paper of the Illinois Baptist State Association, has a circulation of 21,000.

John C. Taylor is no relation to Noel M. Taylor of Carbondale, executive secretary of Illinois association.

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Policy Negates Offer  
Of Arkansas Assembly

(9-24-60)

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador camp site in northwest Arkansas, offered by a layman's group to the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, must be declined because of established Convention policy on assembly operations.

The Executive Committee of the S B C voted here to uphold a Convention policy assigning operation of Conventionwide assemblies to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Commission favored accepting the proffered site near Huntsville, Ark., until it found itself in conflict with assembly policy.

George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, said he "was not too happy" with the decision but declared that the Commission's viewpoint had received "fair consideration in a fine spirit."

The Sunday School Board operates Conventionwide assemblies at Ridgecrest, N. C., and at Glorieta, N. M.

The Executive Committee expressed hope that those who offered the Arkansas site will, in conference with Commission and Sunday School Board executives, "work out a plan for using the funds which were to be applied (in Arkansas) . . . through use of our existing encampment facilities at Ridgecrest and Gloriet."

The 1800-acre site at Huntsville is not far from Harrison, Ark., the western assembly location Southern Baptists bypassed in their 1949 Convention in favor of Glorieta, N. M.

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Leader 'Heavy-Hearted'  
Over Downward Trends

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A former vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention said here he is "very greatly concerned" over evidence there may be a spiritual recession among Southern Baptists.

A financial report also presented to the Executive Committee of the S B C suggested revising--downward--Cooperative Program estimated gifts during the 1960's.

This followed by two weeks an announcement by Southern Baptist evangelism leaders that baptism goals had been reduced.

W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., and a member of the Executive Committee, said "heaviness of heart" prompted his statements.

"After 10 years of apparent materialistic success, we are noting a definite downward turn," according to Hudgins. He said fewer young people are committing themselves to the ministry and other church-related vocations. Seminary enrolments declined, he added.

"We have omitted one thing," Hudgins declared. This he said was the "primacy of worship." The downward turn indicates that "somewhere in the last 8-10 years some of us pastors must have been failing God."

The financial statement caused the Executive Committee to cut half a million dollars from its estimated capital needs and operating income for S B C agencies next year. The \$18,513,500 projected a year ago was trimmed to \$18,054,716 because of a sharp decline in giving trends this year.

Giving is ahead of last year, but in far less degree than comparative periods in the past several years.

Increases of from 6.69 to 13.4 per cent over the year before have been noted during the years since 1953. Gifts for 1959 over 1958 were up 9.63 per cent at year's end. But, financial reports show, the 1960 receipts may be as little as 1.11 per cent greater than 1959 income.

Even with a pickup in giving during the fall, estimates were that the percentage of increase would be only 2.75.

Because of this reversal, the Executive Committee voted to request S B C agencies not to spend or to commit more than 85 per cent of their capital needs income for 1961.

The Executive Committee approved a projected Cooperative program capital needs and operating fund of \$18,551,221 for 1962. This is based on the more optimistic 2.75 per cent increase.

By the year 1965 the revised projection of income through the Cooperative Program would be nearly \$6 million under the earlier forecast--\$20,124,171 compared with \$26 million.

Hudgins called for pastors and churches to magnify the worship service and predicted that as a result other areas would show increases.