

October 7, 1960

28 Tarheels Announce Campaign Issue Fears

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--More than a score of prominent North Carolina Baptists have joined together to issue a "declaration of conscience" about the "religious issue" in the campaign.

In their message, addressed to "brother laymen and ministers in Southern Baptist Convention," the 28 individuals "feel it our duty to voice a solemn warning about . . . the fiercely debated so-called 'religious issue.'"

They announced it is their belief that it constitutes a "regrettable and, we think, unjustified trend toward bitterness and disunity in our denomination--a disunity that could hinder our work and progress for a generation to come."

The signers, acting as individuals and not for the Baptist denomination, include members of agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Three of the signers are members of the board of directors of the Biblical Recorder here, weekly state convention newsmagazine; one is a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N. C., a S B C agency; one is a member of the general board which acts for the state convention between sessions, and two others are trustees of state Baptist colleges.

"We submit that the perils which now confront our nation and humanity demand a mighty and massive constructive unity of action by all Christian sects to save world peace. By concentrating on this end and forgetting all minor things that might divide us, Baptists can best serve the today and tomorrow of our denomination and that Prince of Peace under whose banner we should all rejoice to serve," the statement ended.

They declared that both major candidates for Presidency of the United States have (1) supported church-state separation, (2) opposed federal aid to parochial schools, (3) opposed an embassy to the Vatican, (4) deplored religious restrictions in countries where they exist, and (5) announced they would be against any attempt of a church to control the President in his official duties.

The 28 said they are not, by issuing the declaration, "urging support for any candidate or party."

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Adjective Objective Underlining Unions

(10-7-60)

AIKEN, S. C.--(BP)--Aiken's First Baptist Church goes out of its way to say that it has a Training Union for every age.

The church bulletin describes the Training Union as being for tiny tots, jolly juniors, tender teens, trying twenties, testing thirties, fiery forties, forceful fifties, serious sixties, sacred seventies, energetic eighties, and nervous nineties.

An enterprising newspaper reporter pointed out they were overlooking the happy hundreds.

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Ohio Baptists Consider
\$439,600 Annual Budget

COLUMBUS, Ohio--(BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio will act next month on a proposed 1961 budget of \$439,600.

The Convention's executive board has proposed the budget which is an increase of about \$90,000 over the current budget.

The new budget will provide more to the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program--23 per cent of the estimated receipts from churches instead of the present 21 per cent.

The estimated income on which the percentage scale applies is \$288,000. Matching funds for work in which S B C agencies have joint interest swells the year's budget figure to \$439,600.

A new associate in the state's Brotherhood-Royal Ambassador department will be employed under a provision in the new budget.

The executive board also approved enlargement and remodeling of the Baptist state office building here. The cost will probably be \$82,000. Work will be done in 1961.

The building now used is a former residence. When remodeled and enlarged, it will have a facade similar to other office buildings and it will provide more office space for convention staff.

A personnel survey committee appointed by the executive board will prepare job descriptions of staff members. This also will be carried out with a report in 1961. No professional management consultants will be called in for assistance.

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Carver Honors Rankin
In Building Dedication

(10-7-60)

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--Mrs. M. Theron Rankin, widow of the late Foreign Mission Board statesman, brought personal greetings here as a building named after Dr. Rankin was dedicated.

Carver School of Missions and Social Work, an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention, will use the new academic building.

Dr. Rankin was executive secretary of the S B C Foreign Mission Board from 1945 until he died in 1953. He was a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, whose campus neighbors that of Carver.

Carver President Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., of Louisville opened the doors of the building and led in the dedication.

W. R. Pettigrew, pastor of Walnut St. Baptist Church here and former S B C vice-president, described the vision of Dr. Rankin, who was a missionary in China before heading the board.

"Everything in the life of M. Theron Rankin was missionary," Pettigrew remarked. "To the degree that this building is dedicated to world missions, to that extent shall it appropriately wear the name, the M. Theron Rankin Academic Building."

Mrs. Rankin expressed appreciation of the Rankin family. She spoke, also, on behalf of Carver alumni who are serving in mission points at home and abroad. She praised Carver's past achievements and was confident of its future.

At a founder's day service later, Miss Georgie Fancher, retired Carver librarian, traced the school's history. It formerly was known as Woman's Missionary Union Training School and was operated by the women's group. The Convention accepted operation of it several years ago.

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Directors Name Jackson
National Baptist Head

ATLANTA--(BP)--The board of directors of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. has voted that Joseph H. Jackson of Chicago is still president of the convention.

L. M. Terrill of Atlanta, president of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia and assistant secretary of the National Convention, made the announcement in Atlanta. He is also a member of the board of directors.

The recent meeting of the National Convention was disrupted with both Jackson and Gardner C. Taylor of New Ycrk being declared by opposing factions as president of the group. Jackson has served previously as president.

Terrill said the disputed election suit was thrown out of court in Philadelphia. The local court ruled it had no jurisdiction over a national body.

Taylor is taking the matter to the Pennsylvania State Court, according to Terrill, but Terrill anticipates the same ruling there.

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Pollard Reiterates
Own Election Ideas

(10-7-60)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.--(BP)--Speaking at a church anniversary here, Ramsey Pollard, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, restated his personal opposition to the election of John F. Kennedy.

The Memphis minister took part in the 50th anniversary celebration of Central Park Baptist Church.

He declared, "Any man who believes that every man should have the freedom to attend the church of his choice will go to the polls in November and vote against Jack Kennedy for President."

Continuing to express his own sentiments on the election issues, Pollard added, "I may be called a bigot but you who have read history, read the daily papers, or visited in any foreign countries will know I speak the truth in love."

He mentioned a Baptist church in Madrid, Spain, closed by the government. "When the seal rotted and fell off and the preacher went into preach, he was arrested," Pollard said. "In many of these countries there is no more religious freedom than in Russia today."

Referring to Kennedy, the minister continued, "We give him the right to belong to whatever church he pleases. All we ask is that Roman Catholicism should lift its bloody hands of persecution and bigotry from the throats of those who wish to worship in some other church than a Roman Catholic church. If this be bigotry, make the most of it."

Pollard reported he has received several insulting letters recently on his stand. But, he went on, if anyone is being persecuted it is those of Protestant denominations.

(When individual Baptists speak, even those who hold office, they do so as individuals, not as spokesmen for the Convention.)

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FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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October 7, 1960

Bremond School Board Delays Reply To Charges

BREMOND, Tex.--(BP)--The Bremond School case continued its long trip up a legal staircase here with a hearing before the Bremond School Board.

The Board voted to delay at least two weeks in replying to charges that they are operating an illegal Catholic parochial school with public tax funds.

Board members listened to a three-hour presentation of testimony and evidence collected since the initial suit was filed by a group of taxpayers in March of 1959.

Another hearing is tentatively set Oct. 19 in Bremond when the board may rule on the complaint.

The suit was sidetracked last October when a district court ruled that the plaintiffs had not "exhausted all possible administrative remedies" before taking the case to court.

Both an appellate court and the state Supreme Court upheld the ruling.

School Board consideration of the charges is the first step in pursuing the administrative remedies. If the Board denies the charges, appeals are expected to the State Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education.

Should satisfactory relief be denied by these administrative bodies, the plaintiffs have indicated that they will then return to the courts "seeking to bring about an actual separation of church and state in the school."

The suit, the first of its kind to be filed in the state, is viewed as an important test of "released-time" religious instruction, the wearing of religious habits in schools, and principles of church-state separation.

Placed in evidence at the Board meeting were depositions taken from Bremond School Superintendent J. W. Baker, Catholic teachers and church officials.

The nuns admitted that religious instruction was given to youngsters in the school building prior to the time the suit was filed. After the complaint was lodged, religious instruction was moved to the nearby St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Plaintiffs argued, however, that the nun's wearing of religious robes, the location of the school building, and the conduct of religious classes "are all factors that promulgate religion and constitute sectarian instruction."

"It is our contention," said Waco Attorney Lyndon Olsen representing the plaintiffs, "that St. Mary's School is in truth and in fact a parochial school and is being operated in violation of both state and federal constitutions."

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Two "Official Catholic Directories" for 1959 and 1960 were placed in the records. Both listed the "St. Mary's School" among parochial schools operated by the Catholic Church.

Annual yearbooks published during the past nine years were shown to identify various groups by the school name, "St. Mary's."

School officials maintain that the school is actually named "Elementary School No. 2," and that the name "St. Mary's" is a holdover from the days before the Board began operating it as a public school.

Until 1947, the school was operated by the Catholic Church. At that time the board leased the building for \$1 a year. Testimony indicated, however, that the Board had actually paid only \$6 to the church during the past 13 years.

School officials, represented by Waco Lawyer David Kultgen, say the nun-teachers are qualified public school teachers certified by the state, and that the Board has no right to dictate what they wear.

The religious instruction, says the Board, is not given in classrooms and is not a part of the prescribed course of study.

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Pastors Oppose Beer
Sales In Auditorium

(10-7-60)

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex.—(BP)—A group of Corpus Christi Baptists have launched a drive to prevent the sale of beer in the city's Memorial Coliseum and Exposition Hall.

A resolution citing "abominable conditions" resulting from "widespread drinking" and urging the city council to halt plans for permitting beer sales "under certain circumstances" was approved by the Corpus Christi Baptist Association.

Only one of nearly 50 ministers present opposed the resolution. He was Jerrel Gaddy, pastor of the Morgan Avenue Baptist Church.

Gaddy said he did not believe the resolution would accomplish anything.

"I am against anything wrong. I am against the sale of alcoholic beverages" he said, "but we ought to be fighting bears and we are fighting gnats."

Gaddy stepped out of his role as moderator of the meeting to express opposition to the resolution. He said, "The only time we Baptists get our names in the newspapers is when we protest something. We're getting to be known as reactionaries."

He said later that "instead of resolutions, I am for presenting a positive workable plan that would bring about civic righteousness."

"While we do not condone the sale or use of alcohol," he said, "at the same time many people are going to use it. Baptists have an evangelistic message for the people and it is more important that we give them this message than to be passing resolutions on the use of alcohol or other things with which we do not agree."

C. E. Hereford, pastor of the First Baptist Church, did not vote on the resolution. He later said action should replace talk.

"One thing that galls me," he said, "is passing resolutions and taking the attitude that we have done our part. That's the easy way out."

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Peacock Named To Head
Baylor Religion Studies

WACO, Tex.--(BP)--Herber F. Peacock, pastor of the First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro, N. C., has been named chairman of the department of religion at Baylor University here.

Peacock, who had previously served for 12 years as professor in theological seminaries in both Europe and America, will assume his duties at Baylor Nov. 15. He succeeds George C. Humphrey who resigned the department's administrative responsibilities a year ago.

Before becoming pastor of the North Wilkesboro church, Peacock was professor of New Testament at International Baptist Seminary, Zurich, Switzerland, and was professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., from 1955-58.

He attended Mars Hill Baptist College, Mars Hill, N. C., and received the bachelor of arts degree from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex. He earned the master of theology degree and the doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Radio-TV Commission
Names Promotion Man

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Virgil W. Hensley, 27, has been named assistant director of promotion and public relations for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

Hensley, a native of Tulsa, Okla., will work primarily in the areas of program publicity, magazine circulation, general and public relations on the local and Radio-TV industry field, said Commission Director Paul M. Stevens.

Prior to accepting his new position, Hensley was public relations director for Parker Chiropractic Research Foundation in Fort Worth. He had previously taught high school and college English in Oklahoma.

Hensley holds the bachelor of arts degree from Tulsa University and has done graduate work there and at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

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Folks and facts

. . . Mrs. Joe A. Wessendorff of Richmond, Tex., the first woman member of the Texas Board of Education, has been awarded the honorary doctor of literature degree by Mary-Hardin Baylor College, Belton, Tex., for "outstanding work in the field of education." The award was presented during the 116th annual convocation which featured Texas Baptist Christian Education Secretary E. N. Jones as principal speaker. (BP)

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Baptist Press

Hardin-Simmons Professor
For Past 35 Years Dies

ABILENE, Tex.--(BP)--The Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Hardin-Simmons University here died after a six year bout with leukemia.

Funeral services were held Oct. 7 at the University Baptist Church here for Dean W. A. Stephenson, who had served on the Baptist college faculty for the past 35 years.

Officiating at the services were Maple Avery, pastor of the University Baptist Church where Stephenson was a deacon, Hardin-Simmons President E. A. Reiff, and President Emeritus Rupert N. Richardson.

Stephenson first came to Hardin-Simmons as assistant professor of history in 1925. He later became the head of the government department. He had been assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences for the past 20 years.

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Folks and Facts

. . . Howard Butt, Jr., Texas grocery executive and Baptist lay preacher, and Leonard Hollaway, executive secretary of Christian Men, Inc., are in Germany to make a study of Evangelical Assemblies there.

Tentative plans have been made to open a laymen's center for theological teaching and discussion in Texas similar to the European Academies, many of which conduct continuous laity programs from old castles and former resort areas, Butt also participated in the concluding days of the Billy Graham Berlin crusade. (BP)

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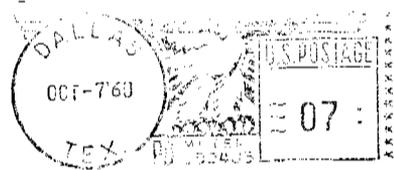
Folks and Facts

. . . E. Leslie Carlson, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1921, has been named honorary lecturer at the Jerusalem branch of the American Schools of Oriental Research for 1961-62. Carlson is the first Southern Baptist ever honored in this capacity. He is also an official photographer for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. (BP)

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