

October 28, 1960

Missouri Commits Self To St. Louis College

ST. LOUIS--(BP)--Missouri Baptist Convention in its 1960 annual session here committed itself to creating a denominational college in St. Louis.

It also provided for a statewide capital fund drive among churches to raise support for the new college and for three already existing Missouri Baptist colleges.

The three are William Jewell College at Liberty, a senior college, and two junior colleges--Hannibal-LaGrange at Hannibal and Southwest Baptist College at Bolivar.

The convention's executive board received authority to negotiate for a site for the St. Louis school. In taking the action, the state convention made the college plan a statewide effort, rather than a regional affair.

The convention also acted to aid a Baptist hospital, home for the aged, and assembly grounds.

Baptist Memorial Hospital, Kansas City, may conduct a "quiet solicitation" among individuals for added funds. Baptist Home for the Aged at Ironton, Mo., may borrow funds to complete a new building to house 40 more persons.

The convention, through half a million dollars of borrowed money, will increase housing facilities at its Windermere Baptist Assembly at Lake of the Ozarks. The goal is accommodations for 1000 persons at the new year-round assembly grounds.

The convention's 1961 Cooperative Program budget will be \$3 million. The Southern Baptist Convention will receive a 35 per cent share of it.

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Evangelism Associate Goes to Pastorate

(10-28-60)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Fred E. White, Georgia Baptist Convention's first full-time worker in the field of prisoner contact and rehabilitation, resigned to accept the pastorate of the Second Ave. Baptist Church in Rome, Ga., effective Jan. 1.

White has been associate in the department of evangelism in Georgia for more than five years. He has begun and co-ordinated a program of ministry to state prisons and work farms and county prison camps.

His work with prison chaplains and Baptist pastors and Brotherhood groups who work with prisoners has been recognized in several publications. He has also been widely used in evangelism clinics and in helping former prisoners become rehabilitated in society.

He pastored the Grove Level Baptist Church at Dalton, Ga., before joining the Georgia Baptist Convention staff in 1955.

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Little Rock Establishes
\$50,000 Relocation Fund

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Pulaski County Baptist Association here has voted to establish a \$50,000 fund to buy building sites for new churches.

It will raise the money by selling bonds.

Lee I. Dance, Little Rock, associational superintendent of missions, said the new bond program will help solve the problems of relocating churches which, for one reason or another, need to move.

He estimates 20 Baptist churches will need to re-locate during the decade ahead. During that same 10 years, 56 new churches will need to be organized, he added.

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Pastors Assist
Evangelism Effort

(10-28-60)

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Over 230 Georgia Baptist pastors have agreed to gratuitously lead revival efforts in 1961 in churches of the Georgia Baptist Convention which reported no baptisms last year.

R. T. Russell, Georgia's secretary of evangelism, said 442 churches in the state had no baptisms in 1959, and 1,200 reported less than five professions of faith. There are about 2,900 churches in the convention.

Russell surveyed the 442 churches with no '59 baptisms and found two primary reasons: 1) The churches had no revival meeting at all or 2) Because of size and budget limitations they were not able to secure a visiting speaker who was an effective evangelist.

So, Russell wrote letters to 460 pastors over the state whom he considered to be effective evangelists, asking them if they would donate one week of their time in 1961 to a church which did not have a baptism last year.

"Before we even got through mailing the last of the letters," said Russell, "affirmative replies began pouring in to our first letters mailed out. We have already received 234 affirmative replies and the answers are still coming in.

In many cases, laymen and churches have offered to underwrite all expenses so their pastors can go. Only about five pastors have said their 1961 schedules are already too full to squeeze in another meeting, but all these made themselves available for 1962 or later if needed.

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Nixon Reaffirms Stand
On School Tax Support

(10-28-60)

By Lloyd Wright

DALLAS--(BP)--Vice President Richard M. Nixon, in a telegram to Texas Baptist Standard Editor E. S. James here, has reaffirmed his stand on tax support for public and private higher education.

James said that he wired Nixon "insisting on a clear statement on his views on federal aid to parochial schools and on the separation of church and state."

Nixon's telegram was his first response to repeated efforts by prominent Southern Baptists to get a clear-cut statement on the issue.

But James said Nixon's telegram was "vague, evasive, and ambiguous."

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"We do not believe he has stated the Protestant concept of this issue," said James. "This is not the clear, unequivocal statement Protestants had a right to expect from him and we do not believe they will be very happy with his statement."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., earlier had made three futile attempts to get a statement from Nixon on the subject. Nixon's special assistant, Herbert G. Klein, told the committee that the vice-president would not discuss any "question of religion" in the campaign.

James said his wife was prompted by vice presidential candidate Henry Cabot Lodge's support of federal aid to parochial schools, and a "position paper" by Nixon which recommends federal grants to sectarian colleges.

Nixon's telegram credited the church-state separation principles with "opening the way for 103 million of our citizens to be members of 308,000 American churches."

"As for the use of federal funds for aid to education," he said, "My position and my plans are based on these ideas. Traditionally federal funds have been provided in the field of higher education without regard to whether the aided institutions were public or private. . . . I believe we should continue to aid institutions of higher education, public and private, directly."

Nixon reiterated his previous stand that "any assistance which the federal government wants to give in the field of elementary and secondary education should be given to the states. It will then be up to each state to decide whether federal funds given to each state should be used for both public and private schools."

In an editorial prepared for his publication, James said the conflicting statements by Nixon and Democratic Presidential candidate John Kennedy present voters with two pictures.

"The first is that of a Roman Catholic who seeks to be the next President. He declares unequivocally that he favors complete separation of church and state and that he opposes federal aid to parochial schools and the appointment of an envoy to the Vatican.

"The second picture," said James, "is that of a Protestant who wants to be President, and he says that he would pass on to the states the responsibility of deciding whether or not federal money allotted to them for education should be given to parochial or private schools.

"Perhaps the whole matter now resolves itself into one big question--which candidate has the stronger will and the greater determination and which of them will be in the better position to resist the constant pressure of the hierarchy which is determined to get tax money for its institutions.

"In the campaign, one candidate has been vocal and the other silent on the religious issue, but it is evident that each of them was doing the thing which he thought would secure for him the greatest possible number of votes."

James said the Standard, the most widely distributed publication in Texas, is concerned with complete separation of church and state.

"The editor," he said, "will cast his ballot on the basis of his own opinion of which candidate offers the better guarantee of immediate and long-term religious freedom for everyone."

While James has expressed appreciation for Kennedy's personal statement on the church-state separation issue, he questions whether Kennedy's church would support his stand.

"His church had not changed her mind since she first envisioned control of all the world . . . and she won't until she has to do so," he said.

NOTE TO EDITORS: The following is the complete text of Vice President Richard Nixon's telegram to Baptist Standard Editor E. S. James concerning Nixon's views on separation of church and state and aid to parochial schools. Telegram follows:

Oct. 21, 1960

Dr. E. S. James
Editor, Baptist Standard

You were most thoughtful to ask about my views on the separation of church and state and on federal aid to public and private schools. As you know, the separation of church and state is not subject to discussion or alteration. Under our Constitution no church or religion can be supported by the United States Government. We maintain freedom of religion so that an American can either worship in the church of his choice or choose to go to no church at all. This complete freedom has opened the way for 103 million of our citizens to be members of 308,000 American churches. As for the use of federal funds for aid to education, my position and my plans are based on these ideas. Traditionally federal funds have been provided in the field of higher education without regard to whether the aided institutions were public or private.

The burdens on higher education have increased many fold. At the same time there is no public commitment in our country to a free system of higher education comparable to that for the public schools. I believe we should continue to aid institutions of higher education, public and private, directly. There is, however, a public responsibility for elementary and secondary education, a responsibility which under our Constitution rests within the state. Therefore, any assistance which the federal government wants to give in the field of elementary and secondary education should be given to the states. It will then be up to each state to decide whether federal funds given to each state should be used for both public and private schools. With all good wishes,

Richard M. Nixon

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Bishops 'Embarrass'
Catholic Apologists

(10-28-60)

RALEIGH N. C.--(BP)--Church-state developments in the Puerto Rican election are "embarrassing" apologists for the Roman Catholic hierarchy, a Baptist weekly newspaper declared here.

The Biblical Recorder (Circ. 63,000) said the statements of bishops on that island are "embarrassing to those who have stoutly contended in recent weeks that the Roman Catholic hierarchy does not intervene in politics."

The Roman Catholic leaders on the island have forbidden members of the Church to vote for the re-election of the present governor. Residents of continental United States are watching the matter carefully since Puerto Rico is a United States possession which some hope will become the 51st state.

Biblical Recorder Editor J. Marse Grant, who wrote the editorial, lauded candidate John F. Kennedy "for his courage in speaking out against political pressure tactics such as those being used in Puerto Rico. . ."

Admiring the "sincerity" of the nominee, who is a Roman Catholic himself, the Recorder observed that Kennedy's "influence and authority are hardly to be compared to the Vatican's."

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NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
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