

June 17, 1961

**Binns Warns Against
City College Drives**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist educators were warned here about trying to establish colleges in all the large cities.

Walter Pope Binns, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., told them such an effort "to provide higher education for all Baptist students...is beyond our resources and would involve us in a program of second-rate education which will not appeal to our brightest young people."

In the last five years, Southern Baptists have been concentrating on big cities for new colleges. Cities such as Atlanta, Memphis, Dallas, Houston, Louisville, St. Louis, Mobile, Charleston, S. C., and Washington, D. C., have been in the education news. Local Baptists have bought campuses in some of these large cities already, while the rest are in a planning stage.

According to Binns, the lure of the big cities for Baptist colleges will involve the denomination in "a contest for size and numbers...to court defeat."

Speaking on the topic, "Our Responsibility in Such an Age," the Baptist college president further told members of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission and college presidents and deans:

"Let us be frank with ourselves and realize that the Christian colleges can not hope to rival the numbers of students who will enrol in state and secular institutions. But let us also not lose sight of the fact that the small Christian colleges in America have produced a leadership out of all proportion to the size of their student bodies..."

"I am not embarrassed when reminded that more Baptist students are enrolled in tax-supported institutions than in church-related colleges and universities. That will always be true. The function of the church-related college is quality undergraduate education for a leavening minority of Christian leaders."

Binns ranked Christian race relations alongside disarmament as one of the leading problems to be faced.

"We should be pioneers in Christian race relations," he said. "The problem is more urgent and more complex than ever before, now that world distances have been eliminated. Most of the people of the world are of a different color. The problem demands a Christian answer."

The speaker's answer to "our problems" is not education, but Christian education.

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**Pastors 'Brainstorm'
Evangelism Program**

(6-17-61)

MEMPHIS (BP)--The first of a series of "brainstorming" sessions to find better methods in evangelism was held here with representative leadership from Southern Baptist churches.

Sponsored by the evangelism division of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the meeting was attended by nearly 50 pastors from various size churches.

Attending were two former Convention presidents, Ramsey Pollard of Memphis and J. D. Grey of New Orleans, and the current president, H. H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City.

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No results were released at the meeting, but the group studies included mass evangelism, personal evangelism, conserving results and child evangelism.

Similar meetings are planned for each of the state conventions. Suggestions from all the meetings will be studied by state and Convention evangelism staffs and new ideas will be incorporated into the evangelism program.

C. E. Autrey of Dallas, secretary of the evangelism division, pointed to trends in Southern Baptist churches. He said less than 1 per cent of the church membership practices soul-winning.

"Five per cent visit to enlist people in church activities," he added. "This means we have been winning about 400,000 a year to Christ by revivalism and through the Sunday school.

"If we can win this many this way, what could we do if we really enlisted our people to witness."

Autrey pointed to Baptists' growth through baptisms. He said that 26 years ago the Convention averaged 200,000 baptisms a year, and in 13 years baptized 2,900,000 converts. In the last 13 years the churches baptized 4,817,000, an average of 400,000 a year.

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First Ordination In Northeast Area

(6-17-61)

NEW YORK (BP)--The first minister to be ordained by a Southern Baptist church in the northeastern part of the United States is Thomas J. Hathcote of Northboro, Mass.

The announcement was made by Elmer Sizemore of New York City, missionary in the area.

Hathcote, mission pastor of Northboro Baptist Chapel and a graduate student at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., was ordained by Screven Memorial Baptist Church of Portsmouth, N. H.

A native of Arkansas, Hathcote is a graduate of Yale University in New Haven, Conn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Membership of the Northboro Chapel has grown from six to 40 in four months under his leadership.

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Folks and Facts.....

(6-17-61)

....Forty-two church leaders, most of them from Oklahoma, left Oklahoma City for a tour of Europe and the Holy Land highlighted by on-the-spot Bible study. The study was to be taught by H. H. Hobbs, recently-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Oklahoma City's First Baptist Church. Another leader was T. B. Lackey, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. (BP)

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Federal College Loans
Called 'Laudable' Deed

NASHVILLE (BP)--By a vote of 40 to 3, presidents and deans of Baptist colleges voted here to back federal loans to education as "a last best hope to avoid federal aid to private education."

The three opponents lifted their hands but not their voices against the resolution at the summer meeting of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools.

The same four-point resolution:

1. Commended President Kennedy for his stand on church-state separation.
2. Said church-separation isn't violated by government loans accepted "at the going rate of interest." The rate was not further defined.
3. Regarding pending legislation, expressed hope federal loans may be available also for constructing academic facilities. The pending bill in Congress provides for loans to academic facilities as well as continues self-liquidating loans for dormitories and dining halls which have been available for several years.
4. Urged Baptist papers to "help clarify any misapprehensions which may exist in the minds of our church leaders about this laudable federal governmental undertaking as a last best hope to avoid federal aid to private education."

The resolution, introduced by J. Ollie Edmunds of DeLand, Fla., was almost directly opposed to action taken a week earlier by the executive board of Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The Texas board asked Baptist-operated colleges in that state to quit borrowing federal funds. According to the state board, these loans did violate separation of church and state.

It was an abrupt change in policy for Texas Baptists, whose schools have borrowed funds in the past. Edmunds, president of Stetson University (Baptist), said most Southern Baptist-related schools have borrowed money for dormitories and eating facilities.

One of the three who voted in opposition, a Baptist college president, told Baptist Press afterward he still questions whether the federal interest rate on loans is equal to commercial loan charges. This has been the point around which debate among Baptists over government loans has been centered before.

Virginia Baptists last year declared that "to accept a federal loan at a low rate of interest, and with long terms for repayment is, in effect, to accept a subsidy from the public treasury."

One educator at the Nashville meeting told the Baptist Press, though he would not be quoted by name, "We think the action of the Texas board is wrong."

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Text of the resolution adopted by the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools:

1. "That we commend President John F. Kennedy for his courageous stand in support of the traditional American principle of the separation of church and state.
2. "That we express our own belief that this principle is not violated when the federal government makes loans to colleges and universities at the going rate of interest.
3. "That we express our hope that federal loans may also be made available to colleges and universities for the construction of academic facilities.
4. "That we urge our denominational press to help clarify any misapprehensions which may exist in the minds of our church leaders about this laudable federal governmental undertaking as a last best hope to avoid federal aid to education."

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