

August 11, 1961

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Texas Legislature Passes New Sunday Closing Laws

AUSTIN, Tex.--(BP)--The Texas Senate has given final approval to a new state Sunday closing law, sending the bill to the governor for his signature.

If Gov. Price Daniel signs the act as expected, the new law will go into effect in November.

The new law carries a \$100 fine for the first violation, with subsequent offenses punishable by \$500 fine and six months imprisonment.

Already approved by the House of Representatives, the Senate voted 22-8 to approve the measure.

Sponsors of the bill stated it was an economic rather than a religious measure. They accepted an amendment which allows merchants to close on either Saturday or Sunday, deleting all references to religious beliefs on Sunday sales.

The new bill will allow food stores, drug stores, filling stations and a few other such businesses to remain open on Sundays. An emergency provision will allow sale of articles necessary for protection of life.

Specific items prohibited from Sunday sale include clothing and accessories, furniture, kitchenware, tableware, home appliances, air conditioners, radio and television sets, hardware, cameras, jewelry, silverware, luggage, watches and clocks, musical instruments, recordings, toys (except novelties), linens, floor coverings, lamps, draperies, blinds and mirrors, lawn mowers, cloth piece goods, motor vehicles, and power tools.

A House amendment to prohibit Sunday sale of beer and wine was defeated 72-64. Present laws permit Sunday sale of beer and wine after 1:00 p. m. in areas where local option laws allow. Sunday sale of liquor is prohibited.

In debate over the amendment, Rep. Ray Bartram of New Braunfels, Tex., said the amendment would put legislators from "wet" areas on the spot. "In my district," he said, "even churches sometimes sell beer at Sunday bazaars."

Rep. George Hinson of Mineola, Tex., the amendment's sponsor, countered that he couldn't conceive of passing a bill which would outlaw other sales on Sunday and permit the sale of beer and wine. "Under this bill, you could buy beer on Sunday, but a lady couldn't buy a pair of hose," he said.

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Alert Member Revives Unconscious Pastor

DUNCAN, Okla.--(BP)--"The price of sin is death," the young preacher read. Then he faltered and collapsed as he turned from the pulpit.

Five minutes later he began to breathe again, thanks to the newly-learned knowledge of a man who had seen a movie on mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration.

Leading roles in the real-life drama of Plato Baptist Church in Duncan, were Bob Wharton, Fort Worth, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student who was filling the pulpit, and Henry Clay, member of the church.

Members of the congregation had noticed Wharton wasn't up to par soon after the service began. His voice didn't have its usual volume and clarity.

Then, during the Bible reading he hesitated, dropped his head and collapsed.

An alert song leader caught Wharton as he fell and Clay moved in quickly to administer the respiration. An ambulance was called by a registered nurse after she could not find Wharton's pulse.

"Bob was blue around the lips and his hands were as cold as a cucumber when Henry began working on him," another member of the congregation said.

In about five minutes, Wharton started breathing again and was removed to a hospital where he stayed several days.

Doctors were not certain about the cause for the collapse.

"I thank God this happened where someone knew what to do," said Wharton.

"I'm thankful I saw that film--and went to church Sunday," replied Clay.

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U.S. Submarines To Use Baptist Worship Films

FORT WORTH--(BP)--Motion pictures of modified worship services are being provided by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here for use in U. S. Navy Polaris submarines.

The Baptist Commission will provide the submarines with nine different programs originally used by the National Broadcasting Co.'s religious television program "Frontiers of Faith."

Each speaker on the programs is a Southern Baptist, with music provided by the Baptist Hour Choir or a choir from a Southern Baptist church.

The religious programs are part of a long-range effort designed to meet the unique needs of submarine crews on submerged patrol for long periods of time. The effort is the brainchild of Lt. Cmdr. Guy M. Leonard, the first chaplain with operating submarines in the Navy.

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Baylor to Offer Course In Religious Journalism

WACO, Tex.--(BP)--Baylor University here will inaugurate this fall a course in Christian communications designed especially for students interested in religious writing and editing denominational publications.

The course will be taught by Dave Cheavens, visiting professor of journalism on leave of absence as chief of the Associated Press news bureau in Austin, Tex.

Baylor President Abner McCall said the course is the first phase of a school of communications emphasizing religious journalism that the Baptist college hopes to greatly enlarge in the near future.

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Folks and Facts.....

.....Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., will bestow the doctor of laws degree upon Alton B. Lee, registrar and director of admissions for Baylor University in Waco, Tex., during summer commencement exercises at Hardin-Simmons. Lee is a graduate of North Texas State College, Denton, Tex., and the University of Texas, Austin. (BP)

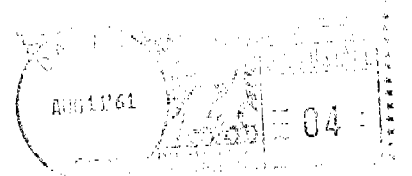
.....Howard Payne College (Baptist) in Brownwood, Tex., will award an honorary doctor of divinity degree to Leon P. Woods, pastor of the Grandview Baptist Church in El Paso, Tex., during summer commencement exercises in Brownwood. Woods, a graduate of Howard Payne College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, has pastored Baptist churches in Saginaw, San Angelo, and Midland, all in Texas. He is a member of the Howard Payne board of trustees. (BP)

.....Baylor University, Waco, Tex., will award honorary doctor of law degrees to the commander of NATO army forces in Europe, and to a Baptist layman from Round Rock, Tex., during summer commencement exercises. Gen. Bruce C. Clarke, commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Europe for the past year, will bring the commencement address during the services slated at Seventh and James Baptist Church near the campus of the world's largest Southern Baptist college. An honorary doctorate will also go to Louis M. Henna of Round Rock, who helped found the Texas Baptist Children's Home in that city in 1950. (BP)

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August 11, 1961

Cites Federal Aid
To Church Schools

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.) claims that the Federal Government has aided parochial schools "for a good many years" and that the activity is not confined to one church group.

The Arizona Senator dug up a list of 79 church schools that have received land and buildings from the Government under the Surplus Property Act of 1944. He reported his finding to the Senate and inserted the list in the Congressional Record.

Goldwater has declared himself in favor of Federal aid to parochial schools if such legislation is passed by Congress. He cites such precedents as the above to reinforce his position.

Goldwater said that his report is incomplete, but that before the debate on the National Defense Education Act he will offer a complete list to the Senate. He said that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has compiled a list of 299 cases of property released to church schools.

The cases reported by HEW, according to Goldwater, are broken down as follows: Catholic, 140; Seventh-day Adventist, 54; Baptist, 26; Methodist, 20; and others, 59.

There were 44 Roman Catholic schools in Goldwater's list of 79. Only four Baptist schools were included in the list printed in the Congressional Record, as follows:

(1) Southern Baptist College, Arkansas; Walnut Ridge Air Base; cost \$1,493,552; fair value of \$436,351; discounted 100 per cent to the school;

(2) John B. Stetson University, Florida; Deland Naval Air Station; cost \$704,501; fair value of \$218,116; discounted 100 per cent to the school;

(3) Howard Payne Baptist College, Texas; Camp Bowie properties; cost \$180,176; fair value of \$61,760; discounted 100 per cent to the school;

(4) Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Texas; Carswell Air Force Base; cost \$147,538; fair value of \$3400; released to the school for \$170.

In his statement to the Senate, Goldwater said "this Government has for many years been giving property to parochial schools and up to this time no one has raised the constitutional issue over these actions."

Parochial School Aid
Issue Isn't Dead Yet

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Senate may vote soon on the question of loans to parochial schools.

The new Senate bill on the National Defense Education Act has now been placed on the calendar of the Senate and can be brought to the floor for action at any time.

In a communication to Baptist executives, editors and public affairs committees, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, pointed out a parliamentary maneuver that might be attempted in the Senate. The purpose of the maneuver would be to get certain Senators "off the hook" with their constituents and at the same time pass the NDEA with the inclusion of parochial school loans.

Carlson said, "My best guess is that a motion will be made to strike out the new parochial loan features. That motion, however, could be defeated by a combination of Republicans who oppose the total bill and Democrats who have sizable Roman Catholic constituencies. A 'record vote' can establish the opposition of those who find these provisions hard to live with."

The bill as a whole could then be approved by the Senate by voting largely along party lines, he concluded.

Carlson took the position that "no bill is better than a bad bill." He pointed out that the present NDEA does not expire until 1962, indicating that it does not have to be renewed at this time.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has contended that measures to aid public schools and those to aid parochial schools should be handled separately and on their own merits. This has been done only partially in the bills now pending before Congress.

The Senate has already passed a general Federal aid to education bill which includes only the public schools. The new NDEA is the Senate's gesture toward the Roman Catholic bishops as a compromise measure for their demand for parochial schools to be included in Federal aid to education.

The three Administration education bills (higher education, general education and NDEA) were killed in the House of Representatives by the Rules Committee which has voted to table their consideration for this session of Congress. However, indications are that attempts will be made to revive the education bills in the House, probably by introducing a new and amended "impacted areas" bill. Some action is anticipated before Congress adjourns.

The new NDEA bills in both Houses of Congress would provide \$375 million over a period of three years in loans for parochial schools to build facilities to teach science, mathematics, foreign languages and physical fitness. The loans would be for 40 years at approximately 3 1/8 per cent interest.

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Eastern Orthodox Asks
Official Recognition

(8-11-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The Eastern Orthodox Church is pushing for official "recognition" as a major faith in the United States.

It is reported that already more than half of the states in the United States through their legislatures have "recognized" the Eastern Orthodox faith. The latest is Wisconsin.

For this purpose a resolution is pending in the U.S. Senate declaring that "the Eastern Orthodox Church is a major faith in this country." The resolution asks that "all references by Federal agencies to major faiths now limited to Protestants, Catholics and Jews include the Eastern Orthodox Church."

The resolution is sponsored by Senators Clifford P. Case (R., N.J.), Kenneth B. Keating (R., N.Y.) and Claiborne E. Pell (D., R.I.).

Sen. Alexander Wiley (R., Wis.) recently urged the Senate to pass the resolution. He inserted into the Congressional Record a letter from a Milwaukee Greek Orthodox pastor and the resolution of the Wisconsin legislature.

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The Wisconsin pastor stated that there are 12 Eastern Orthodox churches in the state with a combined membership of 50,000 communicants. (This would average 4,166 members for each congregation.)

The Senate resolution states that there are several million Eastern Orthodox communicants in the United States, but no specific number was given.

The resolution says that omission of the Eastern Orthodox Church in references to the major faiths makes a religious distinction. This, it continues, "is contrary to the prevailing principle of democracy and freedom of religion in this country." There is no indication, however, in the resolution as to how the Eastern Orthodox religious liberty is violated.

Although it is common practice throughout the Nation to refer to the major faiths as Catholic, Protestant and Jew, there has been no official "recognition" of any of them.

Observers in Washington say that there is little chance that the Eastern Orthodox resolution will be approved by the Senate. Even if it does pass, it will not have the force of law. It would only express the sentiment of the Senate. Governmental agencies could carry out the wishes of the Senate, or ignore them, as they chose.

For purposes of chaplaincy services the armed forces have already designated the Eastern Orthodox as a separate religious faith.

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Prayer Included In
New Military Oath

(8-11-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Enlistees in the armed forces will be required to call on God for help to carry out their oath and to swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, if a bill before the House of Representatives becomes law.

The present oath requires the enlistee to swear that he will "bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America," and that he "will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whatsoever." Both the new and the old oaths require the enlistee to obey the orders of the President and of his military superiors.

The new requirements in the proposed oath are (1) to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies," and (2) to pray, "So help me God." The oath does not specify whose interpretation of the Constitution the enlistee is swearing to defend.

In making its report on the bill, the House Armed Services Committee asserted that the addition of the words, "So help me God," is in no way "contrary to the provisions of the first amendment to the Constitution."

The committee argued that "our American Government is founded on the principle of the individuality and the dignity of the human being." This is so, the committee said, because man is created by God and is endowed with certain inalienable rights.

The committee said that there is a distinction between "the existence of religion as an institution and a belief in the sovereignty of God." It reported that the Supreme Court has said that the references to the Almighty "which run through our laws, our public rituals, and our ceremonies do not violate the first amendment."

Neither does the required oath run contrary to the recent decision of the Supreme Court (Torcaso vs. Watkins) that Maryland could not constitutionally require holders of public office to be believers in God, according to the committee's report.

On the one hand the committee's report said that such an oath would assist enlistees in the armed forces "in rendering faithful service and allegiance in the defense of the United States against enemies who threaten these basic concepts of individual dignity to which our country is devoted."

On the other hand, the committee acknowledged "that the recitation required by the oath may for some individuals have little or no meaning, and therefore add nothing to the degree of solemnity with which they make their affirmation of allegiance."

The Presidential oath, as prescribed by the Constitution, does not include the phrase, "So help me God." Presidents have included the vow to Deity, following the example of George Washington. All other Federal office-holders must use the words in their oaths.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: After the above story concerning the military oath was written, the House of Representatives passed the bill (H.R. 218). It is now in the Senate.

No Solution In Sight
For Education Impasse

WASHINGTON (BP)-- There is no solution in sight for the bogged-down legislative program for Federal aid to education, according to Abraham Ribicoff, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

"I am disappointed, but I am not discouraged, and we will keep on trying up until the last day of Congress," the HEW secretary reports.

After spending a day with both Congressmen and Senators seeking a solution to the bogged-down program of education legislation, Ribicoff stated that he could find no combination of education proposals that could get enough support to pass both Houses of Congress and that would be acceptable to the Administration.

Veteran legislative generals report that in all of their years of getting bills through Congress, the snarl they have encountered on the education proposals is the toughest they have ever encountered.

The Administration's education program slowed down to a halt when the House Rules Committee voted 8-7 to table the three education bills that were reported out of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The three bills were (1) to aid higher education by grants and loans both to public and private colleges, (2) to aid public schools, including construction grants and help on teachers' salaries, and (3) amendment and extension of the National Defense Education Act, including loans to parochial schools for construction of facilities to teach science, mathematics, foreign language and physical fitness.

Although Ribicoff did not directly identify Federal aid to parochial schools as the bottleneck, informed sources know that this problem has been a major hindrance to education legislation.

Aid to education is stymied by many complex factors. Some oppose the whole idea of Federal aid to education. Others want aid for construction only. Some want aid for both construction and teachers salaries. Some want aid to public schools only. Others insist that private and parochial schools be included. Some want only aid to higher education. Others want only the National Defense Education Act.

The reluctance of the many diverse elements to compromise has led to the stalemate. The opponents of Federal aid to parochial schools will not accept any school bill as long as the private schools are included. The advocates of aid to parochial schools will not accept a bill that does not include the private schools.

No one knows at this stage of the game what compromises, if any, can be worked out before the end of this first session of the 87th Congress. However, the Secretary reported strong pressure for continued assistance to federally impacted areas. Since this program expired this year, it is fully expected that there will be some kind of education bill before the adjournment of Congress.

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Baptist Institutions
Get Federal Loans

(8-11-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Two Baptist institutions have been approved for College Housing loans totaling \$1,335,000, according to Commissioner Sidney H. Woolner of the Community Facilities Administration here.

Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., has been approved for a loan of \$1,110,000 to construct housing for 120 men and a college union with dining facilities. The school will use \$250,000 of its own funds.

Baptist Memorial Hospital, Oklahoma City, Okla., has been awarded a \$225,000 loan to build housing for 56 student nurses.

Hardin-Simmons University is operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Evan Allard Reiff is president. The Oklahoma hospital is owned by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. James L. Henry is the acting administrator.

The announcement of the loan to the Texas Baptist school came two months after the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas voted opposition to Government loans for Baptist institutions. Final action on the board's recommendation will be taken by the Texas Baptist Convention in the fall.

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The Texas executive board had approved, however, Hardin-Simmons' request to apply for the Government loan only three months before the board passed its resolution asking Texas Baptist institutions to stop borrowing money from the Government. The resolution was not retroactive.

The University plans to build:

(1) A three-story College Union building containing dining facilities, recreation and several service areas;

(2) A three-story men's dormitory with space for 120 students, a lounge and service areas.

Baptist Memorial Hospital proposes to construct a three-story building to accommodate 56 student nurses and 1 supervisor. It will include recreation space, a lounge and a library. The hospital has no housing facilities for student nurses at present.

The Oklahoma convention transferred the school of nursing from the Baptist Hospital in Muskogee, Okla., to the larger hospital at Oklahoma City.

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Congressman Urges Aid
To Parochial Schools

(8-11-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A Catholic Congressman has attacked the American principle of separation of church and state as being irrelevant to the controversy over public aid to parochial schools.

Rep. James J. Delaney (D., N.Y.) issued a statement to explain why he voted to kill education legislation unless it included parochial schools. Delaney's was the deciding vote in the House Rules Committee to table the education bills for this session of Congress.

In his statement in the Congressional Record Delaney described separation of church and state as a shibboleth and an unconstitutional slogan that had "no relation to the real issue at hand."

Delaney charged that the omission of private schools from Federal aid to education is discrimination. And he said, "I shall not vote to legislate discrimination."

Ignoring the many differences between the public and the parochial schools, Delaney said, "If we are to give aid only to children who attend public schools, and exclude all others who also contribute to the making of our national life, we shall be taking the first long step in the direction of rigid uniformity, which is the thing we are striving to avoid."

Delaney's arguments can be summarized as follows:

(1) American society is pluralistic, thus allowing for both public and private schools. Any Federal aid that goes to public schools should also go to private schools in order to preserve the pluralistic principle.

(2) It is discrimination to count all school pupils in a state to determine the Federal allocation to that state, unless part of the funds are given to the private schools. (Note: In the school bill of last year the parochial pupils were not counted, but the same charge of "discrimination" was made then.)

(3) A system of Federal aid to education that helps only public schools leads to the development of a totalitarian system.

(4) Since neither education nor public schools are mentioned in the Constitution, there are no constitutional principles that apply to the controversy of aid to private schools.

In addition to his position on Federal aid to private schools, Delaney charged that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is projecting a plan for Federal control of education. He said the plan is found in a brochure published by HEW under the title "A Federal Education Agency for the Future."

This plan, if put into effect, according to Delaney, "would have the Federal Government reach into every public school classroom in the country, dominate the teachers, establish required teaching techniques, and dictate the curricula."

All of the education bills that have been approved by committees in the Congress have specific provisions in them that forbid the Federal Government from doing what Delaney suggests.

Political observers in Washington have raised the question as to whether Delaney is really a champion of Federal aid to parochial schools or is only using this gimmick to prevent all legislation on Federal aid to education.

Regardless of the reasons for his actions and again ignoring the fact that public schools are for all school children, Delaney plugs for parochial schools by saying "if Federal aid is to be granted, then it should be made available to all students."

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