

August 23, 1961

Baptist Leader Wants 'Good' Peace Corps Law

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist leader here urged Congress to exercise caution in making the Peace Corps law.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, issued his warnings in testimony to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The committee had full-scale hearings slated. But suddenly, "due to lack of time," the hearings were limited to one day and only two witnesses. They were Sargent Shriver, Peace Corps director, and Andrew J. Biemiller, director of the legislative department of AFL-CIO. Others who wished to testify had to submit written testimony to be printed in the committee's records.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations already has reported favorably on a bill to provide for a Peace Corps. Hearings there were held earlier in the year.

Carlson said that the current Peace Corps proposals both in the Senate and the House "are lacking in precision by neglecting to provide basic policy in a number of areas." He made suggestions for more precise legislation, for rules on church-state practice, for policy in relation to foreign missions and for the democratic process.

The Baptist executive pointed out that unless Congress is more "precise" in its Peace Corps law, it would:

1. "Open the doors to charges of discrimination, intervention, waste, and ulterior or partisan objectives;
2. "Leave the doors open to competition and friction among the institutional agencies on the American scene;
3. "Leave the course of Peace Corps policies to the determinations of future administrators who may or may not see the program in its present frame."

A number of church-state rules should "be firmly established by law so they can be seen and respected for the importance they hold," Carlson said. He suggested four ideas.

1. Projects that represent the Democratic process "should be favored over comparable projects which are paternalistic in nature."
2. No religious tests should be involved in any project.
3. No proselytizing activities should be accepted as Peace Corps projects, nor should volunteers be assigned to agencies under church auspices or for religious purposes.
4. No restraints on the personal freedom of religious practice and witness should be imposed on Peace Corps volunteers. Nor should they be sent to areas where this freedom is denied them.

Carlson urged the Peace Corps not be identified in any way with the foreign mission program of American churches. He made three suggestions to implement this precaution.

1. No contracts should be arranged with churches or their overseas agencies. Exceptions to this rule should be widely-discussed among all church groups to prevent the breakdown of church-state relations.
2. Exchange or loan of missionary personnel with Peace Corps personnel could confuse the images of both the missions and the Peace Corps.
3. Native Democratic institutions offer the best channels for the understanding of the principles of freedom.

Carlson further urged the legislators to set up a Peace Corps that would reflect the American concern for effective use of the democratic process. "As Americans we believe that the social and material needs of people can be met while giving full respect to all human beings. This requires effective free institutions."

Although Carlson recognized some of his suggestions have already been adopted as current administration policy, he emphasized that they should be written into the law. This would make the Peace Corps more stable and less easily affected by shifts in administration.

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676 Students Complete
Summer Mission Work

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ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists' largest group of student summer missionaries finished 10 weeks of work and capped 18 years of steady growth of the summer mission program.

The 676 students who served on mission fields in the United States this summer under the direction of the denomination's Home Mission Board were supported by the mission board, state Baptist Student Unions and one college.

This number is almost 10 times the 71 students appointed in 1944, the year the program began. More than 6300 students have been appointed for summer mission work in the 18 intervening years.

To gain appointment, students must be 18 years of age and have two years of college or one year of seminary. They are paid \$25 a week, with transportation and most expenses provided.

The young people have an opportunity for in-service mission training. Their work augments the work of regular mission forces.

Religious surveys, personal visitation, starting churches and missions, good will center work, vacation Bible schools, and other projects of mission and church work fill the 10 weeks the student corps spends on the mission field.

Miss Beverly Hammack, of Atlanta, said Carson-Newman College (Baptist) in Jefferson City, Tenn., had the greatest representation of missionaries of any college, with 28. Texas, with 105, held the position of top state, which it has occupied for 10 years.

Miss Hammack, secretary of special mission ministries for the mission board, is in charge of the summer mission program. She reported 607 of this year's student missionaries were supported by the Home Mission Board. Baptist Student Unions supported 67 and Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., supported two.

Requests for student mission appointment in 1962 are already coming in, according to Miss Hammack. She anticipates no difficulty in finding the 600 which the board plans to send out next summer.

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ED.D Move Makes
D.R.E. Becomes MRS.

(8-23-61)

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The Harwell family has been confused by degrees, but a solution has been reached.

Here's their problem.

Mr. John Earl Harwell has become Dr. Harwell and Dr. Helen Harwell has become simply Mrs. Harwell.

You see, Mr. Harwell, whose wife is Dr. Harwell, has been teaching this summer at the University of Mississippi and has been awarded the doctor of education degree

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by Ole Miss.

His wife holds the doctor of religious education degree and has been a member of the faculty of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for the past five years.

This obviously makes two doctors in one family and confuses the unsuspecting.

The Harwells were on their way to solving the problem when Dr. (Mr.) Harwell accepted a faculty position at Northeast State Teachers College, Kirksville, Mo.

Then the clincher came when Dr. (Mrs.) Harwell decided to "drop" the Dr. and teaching role and become just plain Mrs. Harwell, Missouri housewife.

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