

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Would Use Churches, Government For Peace

WASHINGTON (BP)-- An educational program using the resources of churches, government, schools and civic organizations is included in a proposal here to create a Department of Peace.

Rep. Harley O. Staggers (D., W. Va.) has proposed the Department of Peace with cabinet status. He has made the same proposal in previous Congresses, but no action has yet been taken on it.

The bill proposes a unique combination of church and government agencies to educate the public on matters pertaining to peace.

The basic objective of the proposed department would be to create educational programs to promote "better understanding of the peoples of the world."

The duty of the secretary of the department of peace would be to encourage "the interchange of ideas and persons between colleges, churches, civic organizations, and other institutions, organizations, and groups" both in the United States and in other countries.

The bill further would instruct the secretary to assist "educational institutions and religious organizations in the United States in formulating educational programs dealing with international relations, international cooperation, and the problems of peace."

Because the bill lacks Administration backing it has very little chance of becoming law. However, it illustrates a popular line of thinking that is incorporated in many bills in Congress that would align the churches and the government for the accomplishment of national objectives.

The bill is H. R. 9010. It was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations.

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Baptist College Gets Federal Housing Loan

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A Baptist college in Mississippi is one of nine private institutions recently granted loans by the Federal Government.

Mississippi College, Clinton, owned by Mississippi Baptists, was granted a college housing loan of \$435,000, according to the Housing and Home Finance Agency. The college reported that it plans to build a three-story men's dormitory, to house 190 students.

Other church-related schools receiving college housing loans are:

Westminster College, Fulton, Mo. (Presb.), \$185,000; Buena Vista College, Storm Lake, Iowa (Presb.), \$375,000; Marymount College, Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. (Roman Catholic), \$1,000,000; Yeshiva University, New York, N.Y. (Jewish), \$2,000,000; Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. (Presb.), \$450,000; and Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio (Cong. Christian), \$455,000.

Loans were also granted to Rose Polyt chinic Institute, a private college in Terre Haute, Ind., and to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Pastors Study Needs
In Nation's Capital

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Baptist ministers in the Nation's Capital plan a new type of pastors' conference for the fall, replacing the old plan of guest speakers.

The new program planned by the Baptist Ministers' Association, Washington, D. C., is designed to focus attention on the specific needs and the opportunities of Baptist witness in the Nation's Capital.

The pastors, meeting in regular weekly sessions, will be divided into six study groups, each to study intensively a particular problem. These groups will then report their findings and recommendations. The topics for study are:

- (1) Our Baptist witness on Capitol Hill.
- (2) Our Baptist Witness to Embassy Personnel.
- (3) Possible Ways to Improve Inter-racial Communication.
- (4) Baptist Strategy in the Changing Urban Situation.
- (5) Our Baptist witness to Foreign Students.
- (6) Our Baptist Concern with Prevalent Social Evils.

James O. Duncan, editor of Capital Baptist, said the study series "is going to focus attention upon some of the needs that the average minister never sees. The pastor becomes so wrapped up in his home parish and community that he never sees the total life of the needs of the city."

Referring to the specialized needs of the Nation's Capital, Duncan pointed out that (1) Washington has groups not to be found elsewhere; (2) no denomination has planned a particular program for Washington; (3) there are more foreign students in the Washington area than anywhere else in the United States.

An estimated 25,000 people are connected with the different embassies in Washington; Baptist congregations report contact with only four of these people. In addition, there are 15,000 people directly involved in operations on Capitol Hill, coming from the 50 states.

The conference study will be made on three levels--the place of work for the local church, the place where Baptist groups in the Nation's Capital may serve, and the responsibility of the denomination in planning an effective and adequate program.

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President Proclaims
Child Health Day

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A proclamation by President Kennedy designated Monday, Oct. 2, 1961, as Child Health Day.

In calling for the observance of the Child Health Day, the President said:

"I invite all persons and all agencies and organizations interested in the welfare of children to unite on that day in observances which will assure our children total concepts of health that will bolster their ability to discharge the responsibilities of leadership which will soon be theirs."

The proclamation further declared the day as an appropriate time to observe a "Universal Childrens Day," and to salute the work of the United Nations, through its specialized agencies, and the United Nations Children's Fund, to build better health for children around the world.

A proclamation designating the first Monday in October as Child Health Day is issued each year at the request of Congress in a joint resolution first approved in 1928.

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Says Government Aided
19 Baptist Institutions

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Thirty-five denominations, including Baptist, received Federal Government "grants for educational facilities," according to a report placed in the Congressional Record by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.).

The report, prepared by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is a tabulation of church-affiliated institutions granted land and buildings under the Surplus Property Act of 1944. The Senator made no explanation of the circumstances under which any of the transfers were made.

Earlier this year Goldwater presented to the Senate a partial listing of such grants as supporting his stand for Federal aid to parochial schools. He promised the complete list as soon as it became available.

Following Goldwater's earlier report Southwestern Baptist Seminary explained the circumstances under which it bought surplus buildings. The school paid full price for value received. Other Baptist schools may have similar explanations.

The Senator's presentation in tabular form and without explanations is an obvious misuse of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 as a precedent for federal aid to parochial schools. What the Department of Health, Education and Welfare calls "transfers of real property" Goldwater calls "grants for educational facilities."

In the full HEW listing which Goldwater presented, 35 denominations are represented by a total of 488 institutions receiving grants. Of these cases, 185 are Catholic; 120 Seventh-day Adventist; 31 Baptist; 26 Methodist.

The actual tabulation gives only 19 different Baptist institutions. However, several of these received grants more than once, making a total of 31 grants to Baptist institutions. These 19 are:

Grand Canyon College, Ariz.; Central Baptist College, Ark.; Southern Baptist College, Ark.; Stoddard Baptist Home, D. C.; John B. Stetson University, Fla.;

Georgetown College, Ky.; Campbellsville College, Ky.; Missouri Baptist Hospital, Mo.; Cedarville College, Ohio; Baptist Memorial Hospital, Tenn.;

University of Corpus Christi, Howard Payne College, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wayland Baptist College, Baptist Memorial Hospital, Baylor University, Baptist Bible Seminary, and Mary Hardin-Baylor College, all in Texas; and

Colegio Bautista de Cardina, Puerto Rico.

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Baptist Pastors Preach
In Air Force Missions

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Four Baptist ministers are among 12 Protestant clergymen selected to participate in the 12th annual overseas Religious Missions and Torah Convocations for Air Force personnel and their families.

The Baptist ministers who will conduct the Missions are:

R. Paul Caudill, First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn. (Germany, the Netherlands, France); Harold E. Lindsey, First Baptist Church, Waco, Tex. (England); Harry A. McKnight, Jr., Briggs Baptist Church, Washington, D. C. (Turkey); and I. W. Oliver, Highland Park Baptist Church, Austin, Tex. (Germany, France).

The missions are a projection of the spiritual life program of the Air Force and are under supervision of the base chaplains. In common church language, a "Mission" is a revival meeting at a military installation.

Each of the 12 Protestant clergymen will conduct at least five Missions at Air Force installations between October 15 and November 12.

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Treaties Guarantee
Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Religious liberty is included in two treaties under consideration by the United States Senate.

The treaties are for friendship and the establishment of navigation between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Belgium, and for amity and economic relations between the U. S. A. and the Republic of Vietnam.

The treaties agree that freedom of conscience and of worship shall be granted to Nationals of either Party while in the territory of the other Party.

They further agree that freedom of communication within the countries of both Parties shall be guaranteed to the Nationals of each. Both educational and philanthropic activities can be engaged in by the Nationals of each Party within the countries of each.

The treaty with Belgium states that the Nationals of each can hold worship services either public or private at suitable places of their choice. The treaty with Vietnam goes further and says that the Nationals of each shall have the right to engage in religious activities generally.

The two treaties have proceeded through the parliamentary stages in the Senate, but final action will be taken at a later date.