

November 5, 1961

**Congressmen Vacation
But Aid Issue Goes On**

(October roundup)

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press Staff Writer

The Congressmen have gone home from Washington but the federal aid issue they left behind isn't taking any vacation. It, and companion church-state questions, continued to occupy the attention of Southern Baptist groups in October.

Seven Baptist colleges and hospitals replied to Sen. Barry Goldwater's charge they received federal "grants for facilities." The Arizona Republican issued his charge without giving any of the circumstances surrounding the "grants." The Baptist institutions gave a different picture.

The 1961 session of Missouri Baptist Convention reaffirmed its opposition to Baptist agencies getting financial aid from "questionable sources." This applied to federal aid as well as other income.

The yearly session of the Alaska Baptist Convention voted its opposition to public funds being used to erect hospitals in Alaska which will be operated by religious groups.

The Colorado Baptist General Convention in its 1961 meeting commended President John F. Kennedy for his stand on the federal aid to education bills in Congress.

Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, was named by Goldwater as receiving federal aid of \$1.8 million and 9.5 acres with 20 buildings. The property turned out to be a veterans hospital which was being abandoned.

The Memphis Baptist hospital applied for the site to use as a chronic disease hospital for the elderly. The hospital administration said the institution is setting aside money each month to buy the land, which "would be the only thing of real value ... received from the government."

The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas previously acted to stop its institutions from accepting the educational discount under the Surplus Property Act of 1944.

In DeLand, Fla., the president of Stetson University refuted Goldwater. J. Ollie Edmunds said the college "was given the right to acquire" buildings and property valued at \$218,116. "But this right was never exercised," he added. The government property Goldwater charged Stetson with receiving is now owned by the City of DeLand.

Colorado, Oregon-Washington, Missouri and Alaska Baptists met during October. Their 24 sister conventions in other states had November meetings. Church-state issues were not the only ones the four state conventions acted on in resolutions.

Colorado and Oregon-Washington adopted resolutions pertaining to Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Colorado praised officials of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for taking a doctrine poll on its campus. The poll was taken to rebuff a Redbook Magazine poll, in which Redbook claimed to have interviewed students at the Louisville school.

Redbook found ministerial students drifting to what Baptists consider liberal theology. Seminary President Duke K. McCall's poll indicated instead they would be preaching basic, Bible-centered doctrines of Baptists in their pulpits in the future.

Oregon-Washington urged seminaries to employ as faculty only persons who adhere to certain doctrines, specifically named, which are considered orthodox by most Baptists.

The cold war scare in Berlin and Southeast Asia resulted in reservists being called to active military duty in October. Chaplains were among them.

The chaplaincy office of the SBC Home Mission Board reported 21 Southern Baptist pastors had been called to active duty in the armed forces as chaplains.

In Corpus Christi, Tex., two Negro Baptist churches joined the fellowship of Corpus Christi Baptist Association. The association cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention. The two churches, however, will also retain their affiliation with the largest Negro Baptist body, the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc.

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Phelps Reconsiders,
Stays At Ouachita

(11-5-61)

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--The president of Ouachita Baptist College here, Ralph A. Phelps Jr., has reconsidered and now declined the offer to head a new Baptist college in Houston.

Phelps, although he had accepted the Texas invitation, had not left Ouachita yet.

In his statement of reconsideration, Phelps said:

"It is probably in the best interests of both institutions that I remain where I am.

"Ouachita is engaged in three important programs during the coming year: (1) accreditation for its teacher training, (2) accreditation for its graduate program and (3) an endowment campaign which I am to head.

"It would work a real hardship on Ouachita for me to leave. I do not feel my decision will work any hardship on the Houston college."

In Houston, W. E. Denham, pastor of River Oaks Baptist Church and chairman of the board of the school, said:

"While we are disappointed that Phelps is not coming, I have a basic conviction that there is no indispensable man in the work of God. If he is not the man for the position, we will find one. Sometimes the man picked as second choice stands out as the best."

Denham added Phelps' decision will not "fundamentally delay" the school's opening, set for September, 1963. "It might delay, however, opening on the campus site and completion of permanent-type buildings on the campus."

He said the Houston trustees will try to find another president within three months, in order to avoid these delays.

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Advice to Editors:

(11-5-61)

In the story moved earlier this week about Southern Baptist per capita giving, we have since found additional information which may be helpful. The department of stewardship and benevolences bases its membership figures for arriving at per capita amount on the persons 13 years of age and over belonging to churches.

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Attention non-Baptist Editors:

The Southern Baptist Education Commission released, in the last Baptist Press mailing, a story on enrolments in Southern Baptist colleges, Bible schools, and seminaries. The information included a comparison on enrolments at the seminaries.

At the request of H. Leo Eddleman, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the Education Commission now asks editors to withhold publication of the material indefinitely.

Baptist Press released the information just as supplied to us by the Education Commission, and made no errors in transmitting it. However, we are happy to pass along the request that the story be delayed in publication.

We will try to have some further word for you about this article as soon as possible. We are sorry for any inconvenience created.

Baptist Press, Nashville.

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Kansas To Operate
On \$376,000 Budget

(11-5-61)

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (BP)--Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists voted here to operate under a total 1962 budget of \$376,336. The Cooperative Program is expected to supply \$228,511 of this amount.

Kansas Baptists will share 22 per cent of Cooperative Program income with agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

They elected Garth L. Pybas, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Topeka, president. The 1962 session will meet in Wichita Nov. 13-15.

A resolution adopted by the convention called on Baptists to use Christian principles to fight communism.

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