

December 2, 1961

**Displaced Latins Draw
Baptists' Attention**

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists will intensify efforts to give relief and resettlement to the more than 100,000 Latin American refugees in Miami who have fled unsettled conditions at home.

The Convention's Home Mission Board, meeting in its annual session here, voted additional funds and extra personnel and established a standing committee to deal with the problem.

"Latin Americans, mostly from Cuba, are entering Miami at the rate of 2000 a week," Missionary Milton S. Leach Jr. of Miami told the mission board. "Only about 450 are moved out each week, and the unemployment and consequent need are staggering."

Last year the Home Mission Board gave \$10,000 for relief, which supplemented aid of churches and others in the Miami area.

Again \$10,000 was allotted, and the denomination will be asked to raise \$50,000 more as part of the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions in March, sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary.

Also all undesignated gifts beyond the offering's goal of \$2,910,000 will be divided equally between the church site fund and refugee relief.

An assistant to Leach will be appointed and will serve "full time in the field of refugee relief and resettlement." A field worker will be assigned to the problem of "promoting an effective resettlement ministry among Southern Baptists."

A Latin American Refugee Relief Committee was appointed by the board to secure help from churches, associations and state conventions in seeking to resettle, in cooperation with the relief department of the Baptist World Alliance, the refugee families and individuals.

This committee will ask state conventions to name committees on resettlement and relief for their areas.

Southern Baptist efforts will be made, according to the committee making the report to the board, with "continued emphasis on evangelism, Christian development and church extension."

Reports from other denominations engaged in like efforts show that the Cuban refugee problem is increasing rather than decreasing. Fifty-five per cent of the Cuban refugees in Miami are on relief.

Many unaccompanied children have been sent to the city, with the parents simply placing them on planes, knowing no one in the United States and having no one to meet the children when they arrive.

"We have had thrust upon us an opportunity to do foreign mission work at home, for as these people return to their countries they can evangelize Latin America if we win them and help them now," Leach said.

The committee report read, "This movement of refugees from Latin American countries presents a burden which must be shared by others throughout our land."

Brooks Hays Put On
White House Staff

WASHINGTON (BP)--Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been shifted by President John F. Kennedy from assistant secretary of state to be a special assistant to the President.

The change came in the major shake-up of the Department of State in which Undersecretary of State Chester Bowles, the number two man in the department, was given the status of ambassador with advisory duties in matters relating to Asia, Africa and the Near East. Other changes in State Department personnel were made at the same time to "improve" the efficiency of the organization.

Commenting on his removal from the State Department to a position in the White House, Hays said he felt he had been promoted. Some observers pointed out that in his new position Hays would be much closer to the President than formerly. They speculated that he would be much more effective than formerly in helping the administration formulate its policies.

President Kennedy has not yet announced what specific duties he will assign to Hays in his new capacity. As assistant secretary of state, Hays had special duties in Congressional relations for the State Department.

Hays served in the House of Representatives (from Arkansas) from 1942 to 1958 when he was defeated because of his liberal views on race relations. President Eisenhower then nominated him as a director of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which position he resigned to become assistant secretary of state under the new administration.

Pierre Salinger, White House press secretary, has indicated that Hays will be valuable to the President in the fields of foreign affairs, education and public relations.

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Editors note: This is the fourteenth in the Series on SBC agencies and groups.

Echo I Satellite Gives
Problem-Solvers A Job

By Leonard E. Hill
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Imagine attending a Southern Baptist Convention that lasted an entire year! Not only would the seating situation become unbearable--but you would soon lose your job, your family back home would go hungry and rent on the Convention meeting hall would soon eat up all mission funds.

Fortunately, the Southern Baptist Convention does not have to meet continually. But, between sessions, someone has to look after the countless details and decisions to be found in a multi-million dollar, worldwide business of witnessing for Christ.

Of course each agency is expected to look after its own part of the work. But there are some areas of Southern Baptist work that cannot be looked after by an individual agency.

That is why there is an Executive Committee. This is a 49-member group elected by the Convention. Its members come from all parts of the Convention. If you are like many Southern Baptists, you may wonder what the Executive Committee does.

It will probably surprise you to learn that Echo I satellite gave the Executive Committee one job.

In the summer of 1960, an American rocket planted this gigantic balloon in orbit around the earth. Scientists revealed that it was possible to bounce radio and television beams off such man-made satellites. They said it was possible to broadcast anywhere in the world from the United States.

Immediately the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention realized they could "bounce" broadcasts to foreign countries. It was an opportunity to enlarge their witness for Christ.

But it created a problem.

Bounce broadcasts would go into countries where missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board were already at work. Unless the broadcasts were tied in closely with what the missionaries were doing, they might do more harm than good.

Whenever two or more agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention have a common problem, the Executive Committee has a job to do. The Convention has given to the Committee the task of helping work out these problems.

Leaders of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and Radio-TV Commission sat down with Executive Committee members. They developed a plan which allows Baptists to get the greatest benefits out of space age communication advances as they witness for Christ in other countries. The suggested plan was voted into effect by the Convention at St. Louis last May.

Another important job of the Executive Committee is looking after all money given to SBC causes. When you give money through the Cooperative Program, the Executive Committee divides the Southern Baptist Convention's share among the SBC agencies according to the budget adopted by the Convention.

The Executive Committee studies business procedures to see that they are consistent with SBC policy.

If you send a designated gift to a SBC cause, the Committee makes sure it goes exactly as you designated.

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The Executive Committee is the group which has to estimate in advance how much money will come for SBC use during the coming year. It then recommends a budget to be voted on by the Convention. Baptist giving is affected both by the economy of the nation, the division of funds by the churches and the states and the spiritual depth of the givers. Forecasting Southern Baptist mission giving can be difficult.

One of the biggest tasks of the Executive Committee at the moment is drawing up written descriptions of what each agency is expected to do--its program of work. These "job descriptions" are voted on by the Convention on report from the Executive Committee before they go into effect. This is done so that two or more agencies will not waste time or money by unnecessary duplication of work. It also makes certain that no important area of work is overlooked.

The Executive Committee does most of its work behind the scenes. It has no program of its own to attract attention to itself.

The Executive Committee is sometimes confused with the Baptist Sunday School Board. This happens because both agencies have their offices in Nashville. In fact, both have offices in the same building. (However the Executive Committee is soon to move to a new location in Nashville separate from the board.)

Another error is made when Baptists compare the Executive Committee of the SBC with the executive board or directors of their state Baptist conventions. There is a major difference. In most state conventions the executive board directs or oversees the work of the various state departments--Sunday school, Training Union, stewardship, hospitals, etc.

The SBC Executive Committee has no such function or power. It has no authority over the various SBC agencies. Each SBC agency is on the same level--all receive their instructions directly from the Southern Baptist Convention. The Executive Committee can only recommend action, it cannot command action.

Laymen have played a prominent part in Executive Committee life. Farmers and stockmen, lawyers and judges, bankers, grocerymen, contractors--all have served on the Committee. Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer, is a layman.

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Cutline:

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Art work to accompany this feature is a chart showing the organizational framework of the SBC.

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