

December 3, 1961

Caution Requested
In Naming Speaker

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--A Baptist board here requested "utmost caution" in the choice of a new speaker for the United States House of Representatives.

It asked California Democratic Congressmen to study the church-state and federal aid views of candidates, before electing a successor to the late Sam Rayburn of Texas.

A spokesman for the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California said fear Rep. John W. McCormack (D., Mass.) would be chosen caused the action.

It is well known on Capitol Hill that McCormack has frequently championed legislation favorable to the Roman Catholic Church.

Many political observers have recently commented on the problem of elevating McCormack to the House speakership because of his frequent efforts to win favors for his Church, and because both the present Senate majority leader, Michael J. Mansfield (D., Mont.) and the President of the United States are Roman Catholics.

The board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, meeting here, also urged a "militant Christian gospel" to cope with the "threat of communism." It commended a California community which refused to legalize draw poker, a form of gambling.

In other action, the board called three new state workers and accepted the resignation of another.

Richard Kay, education director of First Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., moves to Fresno Jan. 1 as an assistant executive secretary of the convention. He will also direct the division of church services.

Kay served on two church staffs--in Oklahoma City and Birmingham--with Grady C. Cothen, now the executive secretary of California convention.

Also due to report Jan. 1 as director of the new department of work with National (Negro) Baptists is Jack O'Neal, from Sunnyvale, Calif. His election was confirmed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for this jointly-sponsored position.

Frank Halbeck of Fresno resigned as director of Jewish work to accept a pastorate in Los Angeles.

Harold Irwin of Fresno, a layman, was picked as resident manager of the convention's Jenness Park Assembly.

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Cuban Work To Get
\$250,000 From Budget

(12-2-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention budgeted \$250,000 for 1962 to support the denomination's work in Cuba.

The action by the board at its annual meeting was taken after consideration of a written report submitted by Herbert Caudill of Havana, superintendent of work in Cuba.

Caudill reported the loss of a dozen national workers and indicated an additional six workers were preparing to leave the island.

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At the present time there are six American missionaries engaged in Southern Baptist work in Cuba, the largest Protestant group remaining.

One hundred forty national workers serve in the four western provinces of the country. The group hopes to recruit approximately 1000 lay workers to advance the work and to supplement the loss of the full-time workers.

Four schools operated by the Home Mission Board were "intervened" earlier this year. Two are now in use for church activities other than schooling; the other two are used by churches for week-end meetings. Four school buses taken are not expected to be returned.

The theological institute maintained by Southern Baptists in Havana enrolled 31 students for the fall term in September. Efforts are being made to establish greater contact with the 200 university and secondary students participating in the Baptist Student Union.

Caudill added the American Bible Society expects to distribute more than a million portions of scripture for the year 1961, indicating the great spiritual hunger and concern of the people in Cuba.

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States And Workers
Receive Recognition

(12-3-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--Pastors from the newer state Baptist conventions and workers with more than five years of service were recognized here by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The pastors came from Hawaii, Alaska, Colorado, Indiana and Oregon-Washington. These states do not have the required 25,000 membership to qualify them for membership on Convention boards, but representatives were invited this year as observers.

"We feel these states should be represented because they are substantial part of the home mission field," said Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board.

Hawaii, represented by Moriyoshi Hiratani of Pearl City, is undergoing a transition from foreign missions to home missions. Both agencies are helping support the work there.

The other states are a part of the pioneer mission effort of Southern Baptists and for years have had strong support from the Home Mission Board.

Glen Braswell of Englewood represented Colorado; E. M. Causey of Seattle represented Oregon-Washington; Walter R. Davis of Hammond represented Indiana and Felton Griffin of Anchorage represented Alaska.

Forty-five employees of the mission board were honored at a luncheon for service that represented a total of more than 500 years. Those serving 10 or more years received service pins, and those serving five years received certificates.

All of the workers are employed in offices in Dallas or Atlanta. Those with 20 or 25 years are:

Twenty-five years: Alfred Carpenter, Lewis W. Martin, Mrs. J. B. Lawrence.

Twenty years: J. B. Lawrence, Clovis A. Brantley, Loyd Corder, Mrs. Ercelle Driskell.

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-3-61)

.....Thirty journalists representing 15 Portuguese evangelical papers met at Third Baptist Church of Lisbon to organize the Portuguese Evangelical Press Association. The association chose Editor Antonio Dos Santos, of the Baptist journal Semeador Baptista, president. Other members represent Brethren, Presbyterian and Episcopal Church papers. (BP)

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