

December 22, 1961

**3 Job Changes Made
In Florida Convention**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Charles E. Peterson of Jacksonville, associate secretary of Sunday school work for Florida Baptist Convention, has been elected the convention's director of public relations and promotion.

His election completes a job rearrangement involving three state Baptist workers.

Peterson succeeded Gus Johnson of Jacksonville in the public relations and promotion work. Johnson had taken office as executive secretary of Florida Baptist Foundation, succeeding G. A. Leichter of Plant City, who retired.

The effective dates of the retirement and two new appointments was to be Jan. 1.

Leichter has been with the foundation since 1953.

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The Bard Is At Work

'Twas the week before Christmas
And in Baptist Press land,
All (BP) elves were communicating
--one big happy band.

Each worker was sitting right
Straight in his chair,
While visions of H O L I D A Y S
Danced in the air.

When what to our wondering eyes should appear
But the jolly ole boss with this bright idea:

Merry Christmas to all;
And a Happy New Year!!!!

From all the (BP) gang everywhere.

(Composed by Lanell Coile)

**Peace Corps Bars
Church Contracts**

(12-22-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Peace Corps has again asserted it has no intention of entering the contracts with church-related agencies.

R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps, addressed a meeting of representatives of private voluntary agencies here. The meeting was called by the Peace Corps for briefing session.

"We have not signed, nor do we have plans to sign project agreements with the service arms of churches in the United States," Shriver said. He said he was aware these agencies are engaged in programs with the Agency for International Development, but he felt it would be a mistake for missionary or denominational groups to operate Peace Corps projects.

Noting the contracts of the private agencies with the Agency for International Development were for the distribution of surplus foods and other material, Shriver said "the Peace Corps provides people, not food, to voluntary agencies."

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And the Peace Corps, he continued, being a government agency, cannot restrict assignment to projects on the basis of religion. "Just because it is a difficult line to draw, we shouldn't stop trying to draw it," he said.

Shriver did say, however, the Peace Corps needs the assistance of the service arms of the churches in interesting the people in the churches in the possibility of Peace Corps service.

Several of the spokesmen of religious agencies protested in the meeting that the Peace Corps had ruled out contracts with church groups.

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Washington Paper Hits
Catholic Legal Study

(12-22-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Washington Post, daily newspaper here, editorially challenged the conclusion of the legal department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference that federal aid to parochial schools is constitutional.

The Post said the inclusion of church-related schools in any program of federal aid to education would impair both the independence of the church and of the state.

One of the major points by the Catholic agency's study is that secular instruction and religious instruction in parochial schools can be differentiated. Hence, it claimed that part which is secular is a public service which should be paid for by public funds.

The Post gave a short answer to that contention by saying the Catholic Church then should have no objection to its pupils getting their secular education in the public schools. Then in after school hours, either in a church or at a parochial school, they could get their instruction in religion.

"But in simple truth," the editorial continued, "one of the purposes of the parochial schools is to inform, or enlighten, secular teaching with religious doctrines or insights." What the National Catholic Welfare Conference calls "church-related" schools, the Post pointed out, are in reality "church schools."

In defending the principle of separation of church and state, the Post emphasized no hostility between the two is involved. Rather, it said the principle "is simply a recognition, born of bitter experience, that the state can function best when it is free from interference from the churches and that religion can best fulfill its unique role when it is free from political interference."

The Post pointed out another difference between church and public schools. Church schools are "operated, governed and taught by the disciples of a particular church," while the public schools "are operated, governed and taught by public servants responsible to the general public."

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Folks and Facts.....

(12-22-61)

.....Mrs. Dorothy (Jack M.) Wood, former editorial page assistant for the daily Wichita, Kan., Beacon, was to become managing editor of the Baptist Digest. The Digest is weekly publication of Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists at Wichita. F. Paul Allison of Wichita remains as editor and will continue to head the department of promotion for the convention. (BP)

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.....T. Sloane Guy Jr., executive secretary, Southern Baptist Hospitals, has a new official residence in New Orleans at 2929 Prytania St. It was provided by the Southern Baptist Convention agency. (BP)

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Missouri Praises State
Officials On Aid Stand

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board here commended Gov. John M. Dalton and other state officials for their recently declared position against use of public funds for parochial institutions.

The governor, State Atty. Gen. Thomas F. Eagleton and other officials also were praised for "the faithful performance of their duty in resisting the pressure of liquor interests to permit sale" of alcohol on holiday Sundays. The two Sundays were those of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Speaking of the parochial aid issue, the Executive Board observed the Missouri constitution prohibits use of public funds for sectarian schools.

The board regretted "there are people in Missouri who are so misguided in their thinking that they assume that the Missouri constitution would allow such a misappropriation of funds."

In personal religious preference, Dalton is a Presbyterian, the attorney general a Roman Catholic.

The Missouri board further voted to spend \$500,000 to enlarge the state Baptist assembly and \$750,000 to increase the capacity of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Kansas City. Windermere Assembly, located at Lake of the Ozarks, will receive more housing and the auditorium's size will be doubled.

Earl O. Harding of Jefferson City, Baptist executive secretary, announced Missouri receipts for the Cooperative Program for 11 months of 1961 were "substantially" greater than for 1960. They were up over \$100,000 and stood at \$2,305,000 for the year to date.