

February 28, 1962

**Stewardship Commission  
Considers Its Support**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention elected a new chairman here and discussed ways of financing its work.

Robert L. Lee of Alexandria, La., succeeded Harold G. Sanders of Middletown, Ky., as chairman. Lee is executive secretary, Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The commission for the third successive time urged Convention financial leaders to consider including the commission in the Cooperative Program distribution, now used to support all SDC agencies except the Stewardship Commission and the Sunday School Board.

The Stewardship Commission, by Convention action, has operated since its founding a year ago on income from sale of stewardship materials to Southern Baptist churches.

The commission feels the present means of financing its work is only temporary and that a transition should be made sooner or later to sharing in the Cooperative Program distribution.

The Executive Committee of the Convention has already adopted a 1963 budget to submit to the Convention, meaning any change probably could not come before 1964.

The commission and the Executive Committee, in a joint resolution, commended the service of Sanders as the first chairman of the new agency. Sanders, elected while a pastor in Tallahassee, Fla., will leave the agency in June since he has moved to Kentucky as executive secretary of Baptist convention work there.

Executive Director Merrill D. Moore said a Promotion Conference preceding the commission's meeting drew out the ideas of Baptist leaders from throughout the Convention on stewardship matters.

The result: A study of the biblical theology behind stewardship and such stewardship methods of the Convention as the Cooperative Program will be made. The study will be conducted before the next conference and will be the basis for further study by the group itself.

The conferees felt a failure to meet the SDC Cooperative Program budget in 1961 could be a symptom of the fact Baptist people do not understand the meaning of stewardship, Moore said. "We need to show them it is based on biblical theology."

The Cooperative Program, used to support state as well as nationwide Southern Baptist work, is considered the financial lifeline of the Convention. Churches provide a portion of their budgets to the Cooperative Program, generally about 10 to 20 percent of the total budget.

Lester Bell of Rio de Janeiro told the stewardship leaders how a modification of the Cooperative Program serves Brazilian Baptists, but that it has to overcome old financing methods to which the people had become accustomed.

Yet, he added, results through the plan "have been remarkable." He said it brought not only financial gains but also "untold spiritual values."

Bell, executive secretary of Brazilian work, said the adapted Forward Program of Church Finance has worked similar results in helping churches to pledge increased budgets. He cited a church in Sao Paulo which he said tripled its budget after one annual campaign, and six other churches which doubled theirs.

New Area Missionary  
Elected For Dakotas

COLORADO SPRINGS (BP)--The Executive Board of Colorado Baptist General Convention, meeting here, elected John Henry Allen of Rio Linda, Calif., area missionary for North and South Dakota.

He will reside at Pierre, capital of South Dakota.

Allen, a native of Fort Worth, Tex., is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He has been pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Rio Linda, since 1955.

There are nearly a million and a half people in the two Dakotas. Southern Baptists opened their work there in 1952. There are 10 churches and five missions in North Dakota, eight churches and four missions in South Dakota.

Work in the Dakotas as well as Montana and Wyoming is related to the Colorado convention. Allen is supported jointly by the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board and the Colorado convention.

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1964 Birthday Year  
For Italian Baptists

(2-28-62)

MILAN, Italy (BP)--Baptists in Italy are celebrating a birthday in 1964, too.

The Italian Baptist Union has named a five-member committee to plan activities for 1964 in celebration of the centenary of Baptist work in this country. Carmelo Inguanti, Milan pastor, is chairman.

Baptist beginnings in Italy resulted from work by missionaries from Great Britain. The Southern Baptist Convention sent missionaries later, but in 1923 its mission was asked to assume full responsibility.

There are about 5000 Baptists in Italy.

Baptists in North America mark 1964 as the 150th anniversary of organized Baptist work on a national scale and plan a jubilee celebration.

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Folks and Facts.....

(2-28-62)

.....The Muehlebach Hotel has been designated headquarters hotel for the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo. The hotel, only a block from the auditorium, served as headquarters hotel also in 1956 when the Convention last met in Kansas City. (BP)

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February 28, 1962

Air Force Clamps Down  
On School Bus Rides

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Air Force has issued a new regulation governing the transportation of dependent children to public and private schools.

The new rule (AFR 214-13) authorizes transportation at Air Force expense for dependent children to attend the nearest private school under certain conditions. The old regulation did the same thing, but the new one sets up more rigid conditions.

It is the viewpoint of the Air Force that military life makes demands on families that would not be made in normal life. Hence, the effort is made to provide as nearly as possible the same educational opportunities for their children as they had before being required to move around by the military.

The new regulation prohibits transportation at Air Force expense to private schools beyond 20 miles or within one mile of the installation.

Likewise such transportation is prohibited unless the school offers instruction in the faith of the parent and unless it provides equal or better education than the public school.

The new rule requires the base commander to keep transportation of children to school at Air Force expense at an absolute minimum. The Air Force will not furnish transportation either to public or private schools until it has been determined in writing that such rides are not available at the expense of the local educational agencies or through the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Wherever possible the Air Force is directed to seek reimbursement from the local public or private school or from the U. S. Commissioner of Education for expenses incurred in providing school rides.

The Air Force is not to furnish the bus rides if the school "is readily accessible by regular means of public transportation."

The new regulation has been issued after several years of discussion both by the Air Force and in civilian circles concerning the propriety of rides to parochial schools at Air Force expense. The result has been a tightening up of the rules on transportation of children to both public and private schools.

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New Education Plan  
Cuts Federal Control

(2-28-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Federal support for public school education without federal control got a new boost here at hearings before the General Education Subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Rep. Cleveland M. Bailey (D., W. Va.) is chairman of the subcommittee.

The executive secretary of the Council of Chief State School Officers along with two state superintendents of public instruction and a big city school superintendent testified in favor of the "new approach" to education known as the Bailey plan.

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An organization, Citizens for Educational Freedom, composed of champions of the private and parochial school interests, appeared against the bill, because it provides aid for public schools only.

Historically, Baptists helped to develop the public school system. In recent years several Baptist conventions and many Baptist associations have passed strong resolutions urging continued support and development of the public schools.

The Bailey plan (H.R. 10180) would provide for a federal contribution to the states of two per cent of the state's public school expenditures. An equalization formula is built into the plan to increase the allocation to states with a lower than national average personal income. A reduced allocation would be forthcoming for states that lowered their public school expenditures in hope of federal contributions.

Protection of the states against federal control of education is a vital part of the Bailey plan. The federal contributions would be made directly to the state departments of education and the funds would then be used according to the state's plan of distribution of state aid for public schools.

The new approach to aid to education would allocate about \$487 million to states each year for three years. All but \$50 million would be distributed through state aid systems. Public schools in urban areas would receive the \$50 million for special educational needs.

Edgar Fuller, executive secretary of the Council of Chief State School Officers, submitted 380 pages of testimony in favor of the bill. The Council is composed of the superintendents of public instruction in each of the states.

Fuller restated the position of the public school administrators on the issue of public aid to parochial schools. This policy calls for "private financing of private schools and public financing of public schools."

"Basic to the policy is the belief that this principle is in the national interest and best in the long run both for private schools and for public schools," Fuller said.

Incorporated in Fuller's testimony was a document citing the constitutional provisions of the states relating to public aid to private or church-related schools. All but nine of the states constitutionally prohibit the use of public funds for nonpublic schools. These nine by public law or by public policy essentially practice the same thing.

Fuller pointed out that Federal aid to parochial schools would be an impingement on policies in education that have been established under state laws and state constitutions. He said it would be a violation of state and local autonomy in education for the federal government to provide aid to parochial schools.

He testified that state policies in public education would not be affected by the enactment of the Bailey plan and that it would leave the decision about parochial schools in the hands of the states where it should remain.

On the subject of federal control of education Fuller said that it was a "widely misunderstood" concept. He said that the Council of Chief State School Officers looked at federal control as "federally defined changes in the teaching content or process in the local school." The possibility of such control is entirely eliminated by the Bailey plan, Fuller indicated.

He further testified that this is the first Federal aid to education bill that has received the full endorsement of the members of the Council of Chief State School Officers. The state legislature of Georgia last year passed a resolution asking for federal aid to education. The State Education Association of Kansas also has endorsed the plan.

Although observers in Washington continue to predict that a bill for aid to elementary and secondary education has little chance in Congress this year, the proponents of the Bailey plan have not given up. Even if the measure is not passed this year, it is the hope that enough interest will be generated to produce bi-partisan support next year and that after the elections this fall a good public school bill can be enacted by the next Congress.

Others who testified before the Bailey subcommittee were Samuel Miller Brownell, Superintendent of Schools, Detroit, Mich.; Claude L. Purcell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Georgia; and Adel F. Throckmorton, Kansas State Superintendent of Schools.

Landon Gerald Dowdey, a Washington, D.C. attorney, presented the testimony for Citizens for Educational Freedom.

President Sends Health  
Message To Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Public health, a concern dear to the heart of Baptists as evidenced by their many hospitals, got a shot in the arm by President Kennedy's health message to Congress.

The President's proposed programs ranged all the way from infancy to old age and from whooping cough to mental illness. Very little of the nation's health needs was omitted in the President's sweeping recommendations.

In his conclusion the President said, "Whenever the miracles of modern medicine are beyond the reach of any group of Americans, for whatever reason--economic, geographic, occupational or other--we must find a way to meet their needs and fulfill their hopes."

Chief among the 20 divisions of the President's message were his recommendations on medical care for the aged and assistance to education for the health professions.

Kennedy served notice on Congress that he would push ahead on his proposal to incorporate medical care for the aged into the Social Security System.

This program would be accomplished by raising the worker's contribution by one quarter of one per cent, as well as the employer's contribution. The maximum earnings base would be increased from the present \$4800 to \$5200 a year.

In order to improve education in the medical fields the President proposed a 10-year program of federal grants to plan and construct the professional schools needed to provide an adequate supply of doctors and dentists. Along with that he recommended a program of federal scholarships for talented students plus cost of education payments to the schools.

In other proposals the President recommended:

\* A program to assist states and local communities to immunize the nation's children against polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus;

\* Further development of health research by an expanded program through the National Institutes of Health, including more matching grants for construction of health research facilities;

\* Increased funds for current programs of mental health and a review of the recommendations of the Joint Commission on Mental Illness and Health to determine areas of aid through federal, state and local agencies as well as through private groups;

\* A Panel on Mental Retardation to appraise the adequacies of existing programs and the possibilities of greater utilization of current knowledge;

\* An extensive program to protect the nation against the increasing dangers of air and water pollution;

\* Assistance to the states to encourage the provision of health facilities and services for migrant workers;

\* Reorganization of the Public Health Service in order to enable it to carry out its responsibilities to the nation more effectively.

Among the President's specific recommendations was a five-year loan program for the construction and equipment of group-practice medical and dental facilities in smaller communities, and to those sponsored by nonprofit or cooperative organizations.

The President's plan of medical care for the aged has bogged down in one of the hottest political issues of the year. Fluctuating predictions of the prospects for such legislation periodically emerge from Administration leaders. Sometimes they are hopeful and other times they say there is no chance this year. It will certainly become a campaign issue in the elections this fall.

Some phases of the President's health program have already been formally introduced as separate bills in the Congress. Others are in the process of formulation and will be introduced later.

In it all no clear lines have been drawn concerning the church-state problems involved in public aid to church-related hospitals, medical schools, research centers, and other health provisions offered by church institutions.

Supreme Court To Hear  
Prayer Case Arguments

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs will be submitted to the Supreme Court by major national Jewish organizations who are challenging the constitutionality of prayer in public schools.

The Court agreed to admit argument by the Synagogue Council of America and the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Another brief will be filed on behalf of the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Also to submit a brief will be the American Ethical Union.

Although no date has been set, the Court has agreed to hear arguments this spring against the use of a one-sentence nonsectarian prayer approved by the Board of Regents of the public schools of New Hyde Park, N. Y.

The suit was filed by parents of seven children in the school. Two of the parents are Jewish and one is a member of the Society for Ethical Culture.

The New York state court upheld the prayer as constitutional.

The wording of the prayer required by the New York school board is as follows: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our Country."

Some observers of the Supreme Court are of the opinion that the admission of the "friend of the court" briefs indicates that a major decision is in the making. This decision may have far-reaching significance in other cases now rising in the nation on religious observances, Bible reading and other practices in the public schools.

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(EDITORS: Please note the future tense in the above story, and do not use it after early spring of this year. Other stories will follow as these briefs are filed with the Court and as the case is argued.)

Court Rejects Appeal  
Of Scripture Press

(2-28-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Supreme Court has refused to rule that the Scripture Press Foundation of Wheaton, Ill., is entitled to tax exemption.

The Court made no comment in rejecting the appeal of Scripture Press which it held under consideration for more than three months.

Attorneys for Scripture Press argued that the decision would affect the tax-exempt status of many denominationally-owned publishing houses. Whether it will or not must await further rulings by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Scripture Press, an independent foundation, publishes nearly \$2,000,000 a year worth of educational materials for churches, many of which are affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue in 1953 revoked Scripture Press tax exemption because the manufacture and sale of its materials is a business of a kind generally carried on for profit. The nature of the materials and the religious function of the churches using them did not affect the opinion of the Court nor of the commissioner.

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Would Include Camps  
In School Lunch Aid

(2-28-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A bill to include church-sponsored summer camps for children in the National School Lunch program has been introduced in the U. S. Senate.

Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R., N.Y.) introduced a bill (S. 2991) to amend the National School Lunch Act to extend its provisions to nonprofit summer camps for children. It was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of which Sen. Allan J. Ellender (D., La.) is chairman.

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The school lunch program has served to help dispose of surplus agricultural products as well as to provide a balanced diet at low cost to the nation's school children. The program operates in both public and private schools.

The summer camps already have available to them certain agricultural surpluses under programs of the Department of Agriculture. This new program would give more extensive aid than is presently allowed.

Colleges Ask Loans  
From Federal Agency

(2-28-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Thirty-six colleges and universities and one hospital made application for College Housing loans totaling \$33,613,960 during the month of January, according to the Housing and Home Finance Agency of the Community Facilities Administration.

Of the total amount, private and sectarian colleges requested \$4,685,000 in loans. The private and sectarian schools include: 6 private, 2 Methodist, and 1 Presbyterian. There were no Baptist schools applying for loans.

There is no assurance that the loans will be approved, according to the Housing and Home Finance Agency, but the applications are made public to allow private lenders to negotiate with the institutions if they wish to make the loans.

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