

May 1, 1959

LOUISVILLE; Kentucky---From 12,000 to 15,000 Baptists from coast to coast, as well as from Alaska and Hawaii, are expected to converge on Louisville May 18 for the week of meetings related to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention. Freedom Hall at the huge Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center will be the meeting place. The Convention is helping Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville commemorate its centennial year.

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Raleigh, North Carolina---North Carolina Baptists were to meet in Raleigh for a special session of their state convention May 5-6 at which two important matters of business would be taken up. One is that of finding a successor to General Secretary M. A. Huggins, who retires from office this summer. Douglas M. Branch of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, has been nominated but is subject to election at the convention. The second item is a report of the committee which has been surveying Baptist work in the state. It will have lengthy and debated statements to propose concerning the future of Baptist work in the state.

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Washington---Former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays, serving as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has been nominated by President Eisenhower as one of three directors of the vast Tennessee Valley Authority in southeastern United States. The U. S. Senate is expected to confirm the nomination for the interim post, lasting one year. TVA operates many dams for flood control and hydroelectric power and navigation along the Tennessee River and its tributaries.

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Nashville, Tennessee---W. C. Fields of Jackson, Miss., has been elected public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. Fields, now editor of the Baptist Record, will enter his new position July 15. He succeeds Albert McClellan of Nashville who remains with the Executive Committee, but in a new and different position.

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Waco, Texas---Trustees of Baylor University, largest of Southern Baptists' colleges, are searching for a president to succeed W. R. White. White will become chancellor, a new position in the university.

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Louisville, Kentucky---Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary have agreed to withdraw dismissals (instituted last year) against 12 theology professors, and the professors have agreed to submit resignations from the faculty. Each of the former professors has accepted a new work or is engaged in graduate study this year.

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Birmingham, Alabama---The director of Christian extension education at Howard College has been elected new executive secretary of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He is Davis C. Woolley, who will move to Nashville, Tennessee, to assume the new post Sept. 1. Dr. Norman W. Cox, present executive secretary, is retiring.

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Plans for two new Baptist colleges have received approval. One will be established at Dallas, Texas, and the other at Louisville, Kentucky. Each will be controlled by Baptists of the respective states but will be independent of any other Baptist college in the same state.

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Spright Dowell Named
Acting Mercer Head

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Dr. Spright Dowell, president emeritus of Mercer University here, has been named acting president of the university.

Dr. Dowell was president of the Baptist institution from 1928 to 1953, when he was succeeded by Dr. George B. Connell. Dr. Connell died unexpectedly Apr. 21.

Dr. Dowell who has written a history of Mercer since his retirement, is now working on a life of Jesse Mercer.

Dr. Connell suffered a heart attack in his automobile as he and Mrs. Connell were leaving Macon for St. Petersburg, Fla., where he was to attend the Southern Universities Conference. Mrs. Connell was driving. He was taken immediately to a nearby physician's office, but was dead on arrival.

During his 5½ years as president, Mercer had entered into an extensive building and renovating program. Under his leadership a new student center, costing more than \$1 million, a new humanities building and a new physics building were constructed, and three dormitories were enlarged or renovated.

Dr. Connell was instrumental in raising the level of teacher pay, and under his administration the endowment was increased from \$3 million to more than \$5 million.

Dr. Connell was in his office for several hours Tuesday morning, and appeared well when he left about noon to go on the trip. He had been hospitalized last summer with a heart deficiency, and had worked on a reduced schedule for some time last fall.

However he had resumed an almost full-time schedule and most of his usual activities several weeks before his death.

Dr. Connell's funeral was held in Mercer University's Willingham Chapel Apr. 23, and he was buried in Penfield Cemetery, just a few hundred yards from the site where Mercer was founded in 1833. His grave is near those of Jesse Mercer, founder of the institution, and Billington Sanders, first president of Mercer.

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National Convention
Appoints C. L. Dinkins

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Charles L. Dinkins of Nashville has been named temporary executive secretary of the Sunday School Publishing Board. The agency publishes literature for the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc.

Dinkins, who succeeds the late A. M. Townsend, participated in a recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Advisory Council on Work with National Baptists here. He presented a report on his denomination.

The Sunday School Publishing Board will elect a permanent successor, probably in September. Dinkins was assistant to Townsend, who died here recently after heading the agency for more than 39 years.

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Folks & facts . . .

.....Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will preach the baccalaureate sermon for the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy, Denver, Colo., May 31.

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.....The Methodist Church will need to have a net increase of 2 million members in the next decade to keep pace with U. S. population increase, according to Harry Denman, Nashville, executive head of the General Board of Evangelism of that denomination. Present membership is 9,691,916.

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APRIL NEWS SUMMARY

By the Baptist Press

EDUCATION: Carver School of Missions and Social Work and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, occupying side-by-side campuses at Louisville, Ky., agree on joint use of fast-abuilding, \$1-3/4 million James P. Boyce Centennial Library at seminary.

Largest Southern Baptist school, Baylor University of Waco, Tex., seeks new president. W. R. White slated to move up to post of chancellor. Herbert C. Gabhart to succeed President R. Kelly White at Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn.

12 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors agree to resign, seminary trustees agree to rescind dismissal of the 12 (effective last year) after lengthy conference.

FOLKS: Douglas M. Branch, known as well outside North Carolina as inside it (where he pastors First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount), to be nominated as next general secretary, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. If elected at special convention session, he'll succeed retiring Dr. M. A. Huggins. Dr. L. L. Carpenter, editor of Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptist weekly paper, to retire at year's end.

Historical Commission elects Davis C. Woolley, noted Baptist educator and historian on staff of Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., to take over as executive secretary Sept. 1. Dr. Norman W. Cox is retiring.

Looking to Mississippi, SBC Executive Committee chose W. C. Fields, editor of Baptist Record there, to be its public relations secretary. Former secretary Albert McClellan staying with committee, but in new post of program planning secretary.

SBC President Brooks Hays to be nominated for year's unexpired term as one of three directors of vast Tennessee Valley Authority electrical, flood control, navigation operation in Tennessee-North Carolina-Georgia-Alabama-Kentucky area. President Eisenhower makes nomination; Senate must confirm it.

FUTURE WORK: Committee on World Peace, SBC, calls for UN observer.

Go-ahead received for Louisville, Ky., Baptist college, but as independent rather than under wing of Baptists' Georgetown College nearby. Baptist college for Dallas, Tex., also sheds proposed alignment with Baylor University, will proceed with plans to open as independent institution of state Baptists.

PROPERTY: Foreign Mission Board dedicates new Richmond, Va., office building. Miami, Fla., churches launch \$5½ million hospital construction project.

DOUSED: Baptists of Oklahoma, in league with like-minded Christians of several other faiths, fought strong but losing battle to retain liquor prohibition in the Sooner State. Wet margin was over 80,000 out of about 700,000 votes cast.

SPACE: Travis Ave. Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex., claims its new \$1.6 million auditorium, with more than a mile of pews and seating room for 3300, is largest of any Southern Baptist-affiliated church.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: Brooks Hays and wife returned from tour of SBC mission points in South America. Convention president saw "encouraging signs and assurances" of religious liberty though the effort is not completely successful.

More state legislatures deal with bills introduced to grant immunity to ministers from testifying in court about confidences received.

St. Amant Elected
Dean At Southern

LOUISVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--Clyde Penrose St. Amant of New Orleans will become dean of the school of theology of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here on June 1, Seminary President Duke K. McCall announced.

The new dean is currently professor of church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. St. Amant has taught there since 1943, when McCall was president of that institution. He also served as professor of religion at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri for one year before going to New Orleans.

St. Amant, whose election received the unanimous endorsement of the seminary faculty, has a bachelor of arts degree from Louisiana College, Pineville, La., and a master's degree from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He was granted master and doctor of theology degrees by New Orleans Seminary.

In addition, he earned the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1952.

St. Amant is author of A Short History of Louisiana Baptists; A Historical Sketch of the Louisiana Baptist Student Union; several articles in the Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists. At the present time he is completing the manuscript of A History of the Presbyterian Church in Louisiana.

Henlee H. Barnette, professor of Christian Ethics at Southern Seminary, served as acting dean from 1956 to 1958. President McCall was re-elected dean on May 23, 1958, with the understanding that he would serve until the election of a permanent dean. The faculty and McCall reported to the trustees in March that they had worked "in close harmony in a diligent search for the proper man to accept this position."

It also was reported at the annual meeting that they believed St. Amant was the "proper man." St. Amant was elected by the board, and a committee headed by Howard E. Spell, dean of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., and chairman of the board's committee on the school of theology, was named to confer with St. Amant.

A special committee, of which Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., chairman-elect of Southern's board of trustees, was made head, is to work out a detailed definition of the role of the dean in the life of the seminary.

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May 1, 1959

House Committee Kills Parochial Fare Grants

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Action that would have set a national precedent for parochial school transportation out of public funds has been tentatively deferred by a House District subcommittee here.

Two bills that would have provided subsidized bus fares for all school children in the District of Columbia have been under consideration. Chairman D. R. Matthews (D., Fla.) said the subcommittee voted unanimously to table the measures.

On the other hand, Roy O. Chalk, president of the D. C. Transit, has not given up and expressed the opinion that the measures would be called up again and "after being argued loud and long" would be passed.

At the present time the D. C. Transit, as a part of its franchise, carries all school children at half fare. Chalk contends that the company is losing money with this arrangement and he is asking for a governmental subsidy to make up the difference between school fare and regular fare.

There is no public school transportation system in the District of Columbia. Many private schools provide their own buses, but many parochial schools use the D. C. Transit on the same basis as pupils in the public schools.

Religious groups, including Melvin Adams, associate secretary of the Seventh Day Adventist Religious Liberty Association, and C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, opposed the bills on the ground of violation of separation of church and state.

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Baptist Leader Proposes DC School Bus Solution

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- A solution to the District of Columbia school transportation problem that will preserve the principle of separation of church and state has been offered by a Baptist leader here.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in a letter to the chairman of a House District subcommittee spoke against two bills in Congress that would use tax funds for the transportation of parochial as well as public school pupils. He also offered a simple solution to the problem, which, if followed, would eliminate the church-state problem involved.

The proposed bills would subsidize the D. C. Transit company for carrying all school children. At present the D. C. Transit carries school children at half fare. The company wants Congress to pay the other half.

Carlson proposed that Congress appropriate additional funds to the public school budget of the District of Columbia, that the public schools could then issue bus transportation cards to its pupils, and that the public schools could make arrangements with the D. C. Transit to pay the difference between school and regular fares.

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In his opposition to the school transportation bills Carlson pointed out: (1) the measures would involve the expenditure of tax funds for agencies not under public control; (2) a pupil's travel to a religious school is a religious activity; (3) use of tax money for such purposes is a form of coerced religious participation by the taxpayer; and (4) such action on the part of Congress for the District of Columbia would no doubt be used as a precedent for similar provisions throughout the United States.

The D. C. school transportation bills have been tentatively laid on the table by the subcommittee, but some sources predict that the matter will be reconsidered.

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Taxpayers Have Rights Of Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Basic religious liberty rights of the American taxpayer are pointed out by a recent issue of the Report From The Capital, monthly newsletter from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Reflecting on the national parade to the mailbox to make the annual income tax report, the Report said, "Without rights and freedom the citizen becomes chattel for government, a more intelligent kind of workhorse for a ruling group or class."

These basic rights of the taxpayer were then elaborated:

1. The taxpayer has a right to know that his money will be handled and spent under the authority of elected representatives of the people. Institutions that seek tax support must also expect to accept public control.
2. Taxes shall be collected only for public purposes. Tax funds must not be available for private purposes.
3. Taxpayers have a right to know that their funds are used for the common good. Failure to keep the public informed produces misgivings and a reluctant citizenship.

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Churches Must Exercise Influence Properly

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Ecclesiastical control of a voter's right of choice of political candidates for public office was scored by the Report From The Capital, monthly newsletter of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Occasion for the observation was the recent Vatican decree forbidding Roman Catholics from voting for candidates who even indirectly support the communist cause. Penalty for the commission of this "sin" is a withdrawal of the means of grace from the communicant, an extremely severe punishment for a Roman Catholic.

"If a political authority restricts the religious participation of a person," the Report said, "that person has suffered loss of religious liberty. Does it follow that if a church authority restricts the political participation of a person, he has suffered the loss of political freedom?"

"The churches should have political influence by means of a prophetic ministry," the Report concluded, "but this calls for mature caution lest freedom be compromised in the pursuit of good."

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Baptists Serve House
As Acting Chaplains

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Two Baptist ministers have served as acting chaplain in the House of Representatives recently. In the absence due to illness of House Chaplain Bernard Braskamp, the pastor of the Fountain Memorial Baptist church of Washington, Charles W. Holland, Jr., has served as acting chaplain the past three months.

For a week recently, James P. Wesberry, pastor of the Morningside Baptist church, Atlanta, Ga., served as acting chaplain. In 1949 Wesberry was acting chaplain for six weeks. Prominent public officials in Georgia and in the Congress have been members of Wesberry's church. He has been chairman of the Georgia Commission on Literature the past several years.

Duties of the House Chaplain include the leading of the opening prayer each day when the House meets and ministering to the spiritual needs of the members of the House and of their families when they are ill or when they desire conference with a minister.

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Baptist Youth Retreat
Hears Washington Pastor

BERCHTESGADEN, Germany --(BP)-- Baptist service men from America stationed in Europe, North Africa and the Near East heard Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor of the First Baptist church, Washington, D. C., as special lecturer at their annual retreat here.

The European Armed Services Association of Baptists, composed of American service men and their families, sponsor an annual religious retreat at the Hotel General Walker within sight of Hitler's former summer home. A prominent Baptist minister from America is invited to speak each year. Last year Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of Washington, D. C. was the speaker.

Pruden, accompanied by his wife, will tour points of interest in England, France, Germany and Switzerland before returning to the States May 15. He is a former president of the American Baptist Convention, former member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, and currently a member of the board of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies.

There were 800 present at the retreat last year.

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Church Colleges Would
Get Science Buildings

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Church colleges as well as other private and public institutions of higher education would be given science buildings and related equipment and facilities by the Federal government, if legislation introduced by Rep. Overton Brooks (D., La.) becomes law.

H.R. 6388 would make Federal funds available to "any institution of higher education" which makes application and qualifies for the grants.

Only two requirements are set forth for qualification for approval by the National Science Foundation: (1) the program must advance the progress and development of science and engineering or the national security, and (2) if the institution could not carry out the program without the assistance provided by this Act.

The proposal has been referred to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics of which Mr. Brooks himself is chairman.

The bill is one of many now pending in Congress that ignores separation of church and state by making public funds available to private and religious schools on the same basis as to public institutions.

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Baptist Press

Hearings Scheduled on
Liquor In Aircraft

WASHINGTON --(BP)-- Hearings on bills relating to the prohibition of serving alcoholic beverages to passengers on aircraft in flight are scheduled for May 14, 15. The subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives will conduct the hearings.

The bills to be considered are H.R. 169, 1075 and 3716.

The bills would provide that "no air carrier shall sell or otherwise furnish to its passengers any alcoholic beverage (including beer and wine) for consumption while in flight within the United States."

Rep. Oren Harris (D., Ark.) is chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, and Rep. John Bell Williams (D., Miss.) is the chairman of the subcommittee on Transportation and Aeronautics. Williams is the author of one of the bills on which hearings are to be held.



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