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BAPTIST PRESS

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Baptist Leader Honored
By Churchman Award

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, paid high tribute to his parents as he received the award for the lay churchman of the year from Religious Heritage of America at the 1959 Churchman Awards Dinner here.

"My father and mother exposed me to the good influences of life from my earliest days," Hays said, as he reminisced over the spiritual contributions to his life. He also expressed appreciation for his consecrated wife, for his Christian teachers and others who had contributed to his religious faith.

In accepting the award Hays said, "I am glad that we have come to the place in America where we can reach across the lines of faith and be friends."

Religious Heritage of America is an inter-faith organization that is dedicated to the recognition of religious contributions to the life of America. Its slogan, "This Nation Under God," is designed to remind people that the foundations of America were laid by men and women who believed in God and his influence in human affairs, and that religious influences and spiritual aspirations continue to be the vital force in the American way of life.

The clergy churchman award of the year went to Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel, wife of the Canon of the Washington Cathedral in Washington, D. C., was named church woman of the year, and Willmar L. Thorkelson, religion editor for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, received the faith and fr edom award in journalism.

Eisendrath appealed for the religious people throughout the world to make religion relevant to the problems of the day. "Peace is the over-arching and testing challenge to all religions today," he said. "The word of God must rise above political ideologies, above national patriotisms, and divisions of mankind, and speak to all the children of God."

Calling for a summit conference of the world's great religionists, Eisendrath said that the "population explosion" is one of the most serious problems the world faces. World population will triple to six billion in 40 years he said.

The Rabbi called for "a crash program for the razing of all racial barriers." He said that "the emerging world is not white, and the white man cannot stop the dawn. We must get over the colossal egocentricism which blinds us from the realities of mankind's aspirations, the revolution sweeping the world, and the terrible price we pay for racial pride and arrogance."

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Expanded Medical
Facilities Proposed

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Medical, dental or public health schools operated either by the public or sectarian groups would be eligible for Federal grants, if legislation proposed in Congress becomes law.

Sen. Richard L. Neuberger (D., Ore.) and Rep. John E. Fogarty (D., R. I.) have introduced the Health Educational Facilities Construction Act of 1959 (S. 2170 and H.R. 6906) to authorize a 10-year program of grants for construction and expansion of medical, dental, and public health educational facilities to produce an adequate supply of physicians, dentists, teachers and scientists to help care for the health of the nation.

The $350 million program would provide for expansion, improvement and modernization of schools already in existence and for the creation of new schools. Grants would be made for 50 per centum of construction costs, except that new schools could receive 66 2/3 per centum, and schools expanding for freshman enrollment could qualify for 66 2/3 per centum of construction costs.

Existing medical schools could not receive grants to exceed $3 million and dental or public health schools would be limited to $1 million.

Reasons given for these proposals are that existing medical, dental and public health schools are not producing enough graduates to care for the expanding population. Presently there is one doctor for every 750 people in the United States. In order to maintain this ratio the output of doctors will have to reach 8,700 by 1970, which would mean an increase of 1,900 over the present annual graduation rate.

If passed, this bill would constitute an invitation for private and church bodies to re-enter the field of medical education, an area which has been largely relinquished because of the high costs involved. The re-entry would now be made by the use of tax funds.

Maintenance of the public health is of high importance to the Government, but one question to be asked is, Should the Government use the churches and church institutions through construction and equipment grants to accomplish its objectives? Would it be better to do this through public institutions?

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2,350,000 Refugees
Get World Attention

WASHINGTON--(BP)--World Refugee Year begins July 1. The "year" was created by a resolution in the United Nations last year, in an effort to make a concentrated and concerted effort to solve the problem of 2,350,000 refugees.

Fifty-eight nations in the UN have voted to support the World Refugee Year, and 40 have national committees at work on the problem. President Eisenhower has designated the year beginning July 1 as World Refugee Year in the United States.

In a speech to the Senate recently Hubert H. Humphrey (D., Minn.) said, "The plight of the refugees constitutes a formidable challenge to Americans and to the entire free world, and this challenge, this blot on our conscience must be met with forthrightness and with vigor."

There are six critical areas in the world where refugees are concentrated. Austria, Germany, Greece and Italy have 30,000 refugees still living in camps. There are 100,000 unsettled refugees in these four countries living outside camps, plus Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Turkey.

A million Arab refugees are in the United Arab Republic, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Tunisia and Morocco have 170,000 Algerian refugees, mostly children, the rest women and old people, living under extremely primitive conditions and in need of medical supplies and food.

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Hong Kong is overcrowded with a million refugees from Communist China pouring in upon an already crowded city of three million. Nepal and India have over 10,000 Tibetan refugees, and the Chinese refugees in Macao, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos need assistance.

There are 9,500 European refugees still in China, who need to be resettled while it is possible for them to leave.

Objectives of the World Refugee Year will be: (1) to focus international interest on the refugee problem; (2) to encourage financial contributions from governments, volunteer agencies, and the general public; and (3) to encourage further cooperation for permanent refugee solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or integration, on a humanitarian basis.

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Wants War Of Ideas
Against Communism

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The war of ideas between American freedom and Soviet Communism needs to be stepped up, according to Sen. Alexander Wiley (R., Wis.), in a speech before the Senate here.

"On the ideological front, the Red efforts at selling communism outdo us at about 10 to 1 to 20 to 1 ratio in comparison with our own efforts for spreading the freedom word," the Senator declared. "The war of ideas may well determine the winner of the conflict between communism and freedom."

Wiley then introduced a bill (S. 2188) in which he proposed a Citizens' Council for the Advocacy of Freedom, the purpose of which would be to study the communist global ideological challenge and to launch a larger counter-offensive to show the world the advantages of the American system.

The Citizens' Freedom Council would be composed of 15 members, both from public and private life. It would be the duty of this Council to recommend a program to present abroad in a realistic way the American way of life and to counteract the communistic offensive.

The Council would also be charged with the duty of finding out why Western propaganda falls short of the U.S.S.R. effectiveness.

"We have the best story to tell," Wiley said. "The American system provides: freedom for which all men yearn, respect for human dignity, opportunity to attain personal goals, minimum control by government, cultivation and respect for family and human relations, opportunity to improve economic status, protection of religious, speech and press liberties."

Wiley's bill is one of other proposals pending in Congress for the United States to launch a strong counter-offensive against communistic ideas.

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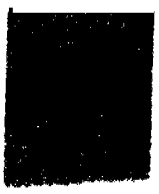

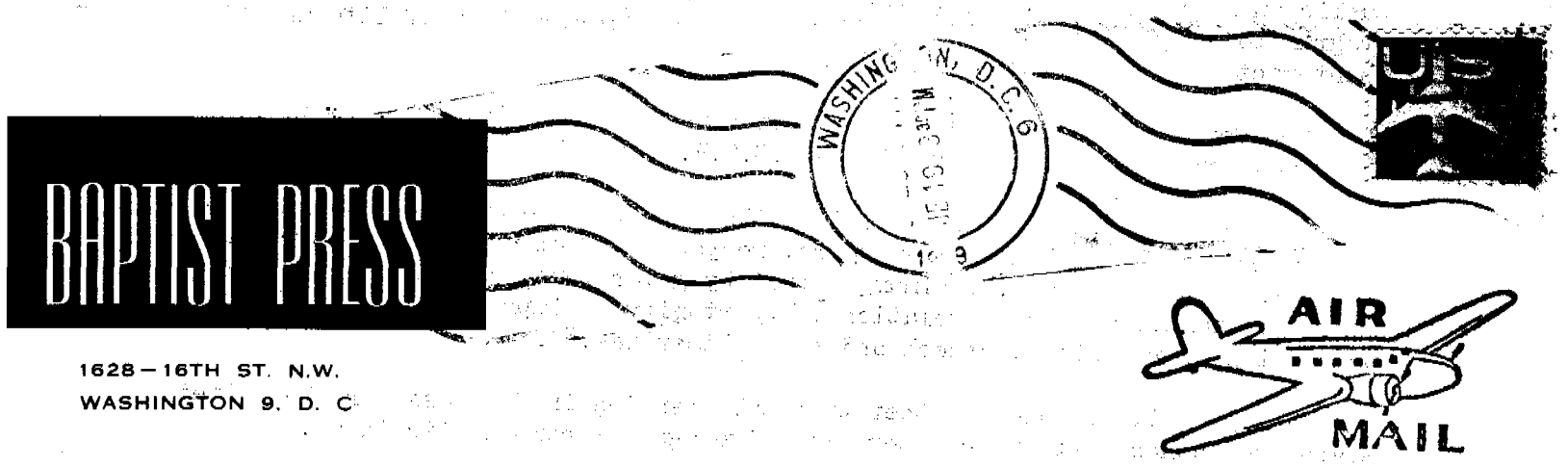

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