

June 25, 1959

Alabama Won't Permit
Immunity For Clergy

MONTGOMERY, Ala.--(BP)--A bill to provide court immunity for ministers having received confidences in spiritual counseling has failed to make the grade in the Alabama legislature here.

One of the sponsors, State Rep. Buford L. Copeland of Gadsden, Ala., said the bill was defeated by a vote of 48 to 46 "on a motion to indefinitely postpone, when the race question was injected into it."

He indicated he would support the measure in 1961 when the Alabama legislature meets again.

The bill protected ministers on the witness stand from revealing confidences unless the persons who gave them the information in confidence called the ministers to testify.

It allowed the presiding judge at the trial to determine whether the information acutally was privileged, or subject to secrecy provided for in the bill.

-30-

E. N. Patterson Named
Grand Canyon President

PHOENIX, Ariz.--(BP)--Eugene N. Patterson, professor of homiletics at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected president of Grand Canyon College here.

He will succeed Loyed R. Simmons who resigned last year to accept presidency of California Baptist College. Glenn Eason, dean, has been acting president.

Patterson will assume administrative duties Sept. 1. Grand Canyon College is owned by the Baptist General Convention of Arizona and is the state's only church-related college.

Patterson, a graduate of Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., holds the Th.D. degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has been professor at the Louisiana seminary since 1945.

The president-elect has studied at Union Theological Seminary, New York, and at Oxford University in England. He has been pastor of churches in Alabama and Mississippi.

-30-

3 Southern Baptists
On Air Force Program

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Three Southern Baptist ministers will take part in Spiritual Life Conferences sponsored this summer for Protestant personnel and their families, the U. S. Air Force chaplains' office here announced.

William E. Denham, Jr., pastor, River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., will participate in two conferences at Estes Park, Colo. The first is scheduled July 5-9 and the second for July 10-14.

Ray Summers, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., will be among conference leaders at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Calif., Aug. 5-9.

The final conference of the season will be held at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, N. C., Aug. 28-Sept. 1 with Carlyle Marney, pastor, Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., among leaders.

In previous years, the Air Force chaplains' office has sponsored only two conferences, one at Estes Park and one at Ridgecrest. Two more conferences were added this year to meet the response of Protestant personnel and their families, chaplaincy offices said.

-more-

Theme for the four 1959 conferences is "Spiritual Adequacy in a Scientific Age." According to the announcement, "The programs at each will be centered on the development of dedicating one's life to Christian living through achieving patience and calmness in the face of danger, monotony, and duty."

Special panels and discussions will be held on "Emotions and the Pattern of Life", "Methods of Meeting Conflict", "The Greatest Power in the World", and on studies from the Book of Ephesians.

Chaplain (Maj.) Carl W. McGeehon of the office, chief of Air Force chaplains is director of the conference schedule. Chaplains (Lt.-Col.) Samuel M. Bays and (Lt.-Col.) Roy M. Terry, also of the chief's office, will participate in the programs.

-30-

Former Mississippi
Leader, McCall, Dead

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Funeral services for Dr. D. A. "Scotchie" McCall, 63, well-known Mississippi Baptist preacher, and former executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, were held June 19 at Northside Baptist Church in Jackson.

At the time of his death Dr. McCall was pastor of Kostner Ave. Baptist Church in Chicago, where he had served for a little more than a year.

In charge of the funeral was Henry Crouch, pastor of Northside Church. He was assisted by S. W. Valentine, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Jackson, and Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, and nephew of the deceased.

The Baptist Building in Jackson was closed Friday morning. Chester L. Quarles, present executive secretary, who is in Europe on a preaching mission, was advised of the death by trans-Atlantic telephone and sent the "deepest sympathy" of his entire party of 38 to members of the McCall family.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Margie Parks McCall, Chicago; a son, D. A. McCall, Jr., minister at Fredericksburg, Va.; three brothers, Judge John W. McCall, Memphis; E. F. McCall, Oxford, Miss.; and Clyde V. McCall, New Orleans; three sisters, Mrs. John C. Halbrook, Belzoni; and Mrs. S. A. Jones and Miss Geraldine McCall, both of Jackson.

Dr. McCall's death came suddenly on Tuesday night, June 16. A revival was in progress at Kostner Ave. Church where he was pastor.

Shortly after the service began Dr. McCall left the auditorium and went out to the front of the church to speak to some young men. It was then that he collapsed.

Announcement was made to the congregation as to what had happened. The service continued, the visiting evangelist preached and at the close 30 people came forward, either for conversion or church membership.

Druie Anselm McCall was born in Star, Miss., Aug. 8, 1895.

He attended Mississippi College for two years but transferred to the University of Mississippi where he received his degree.

After graduating from Ole Miss, he graduated from Southern Seminary.

In February, 1939, Dr. McCall became executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, a position he held until February, 1950 when he resigned to become pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Chicago.

-30-

South Carolina Enacts
Ministers' Immunity

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--South Carolina has joined the states having a law protecting the confidences of the pastor's study and the confessional.

An act providing a "privileged" status for communications made to ministers, priests and rabbis was passed by the state legislature here after being held up for several weeks in a committee for clarification.

Such confidences will now be protected so that no court, commission, or investigating committee can require that they be disclosed--unless the party in whose favor the protection is granted waives his rights.

The words "regular or duly ordained" were put into the act to define those ministers, priests, and rabbis who are covered by the law, thus seeking to exclude self-appointed or irregular ministers.

The act comes close to being a model piece of legislation, particularly with its inclusion of quasi-legal hearings or proceedings. It also omits any provision for a penalty, thus emphasizing that it is simply a protective law, not punitive legislation.

It protects conscientious religious advisers from being ordered to disclose confidences, at a divorce hearing for example; and it prevents them from being held in contempt of court if they refuse to testify. Thus, indirectly, it protects those who confide in spiritual counselors from having these confidences used against them in legal proceedings.

But it also provides for a waiver of the rights involved and permits spiritual advisers to testify when they think they should or when the person most intimately involved has no objection.

Baptists played a major role in passage of the legislation. It was requested by the Baptist State Convention and a committee appointed by the convention president actively sought it. Chairmen of the judiciary committees of both houses of the legislature, where the bill was framed, are Baptists. But an Episcopalian attorney did the final drafting job on the bill.

Text of the act is as follows: "In any legal or quasi-legal trial, hearing or proceeding before any court, commission, or committee no regular or duly ordained minister, priest, or rabbi shall be required, in giving testimony, to disclose any confidential communication properly entrusted to him in his professional capacity and necessary and proper to enable him to discharge the functions of his office according to the usual course of practice or discipline or his church or religious body. This prohibition shall not apply to cases where the party in whose favor the same is made waives the rights conferred."

-30-

Folks & facts.....

.....Robert A. Dyer, assistant professor of religion at Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C., has been appointed an assistant dean of the college. Dyer, who will continue to teach one course in religion each semester, will work primarily in the area of counseling students on academic problems.

-0-

.....First Baptist Church of DeLand, Fla. will borrow \$300,000 toward the construction of a modern church plant on a five-acre tract adjacent to the campus of Baptist-related Stetson University.

-0-

.....Claybron Deering, who would have observed his 10th anniversary as pastor of Exchange Ave. Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., on Dec. 6, has resigned to direct an Oklahoma City firm which specializes in financing church buildings.

-30-