

October 29, 1959

Carolina Baptists Study
Church-State Problems

GREENSBORO, N. C.--(BP)--The independence of the church and its institutions from governmental control, and the concern not to use public funds for sectarian purposes is contained in a report to the North Carolina Baptist State Convention by its public affairs committee.

Herbert W. Baucom, Jr., of Oxford, is the chairman. The convention meets here Nov. 10-12.

Last year the convention adopted a position that there can no longer be absolute or complete separation of church and state since the state has moved into areas of ministry formerly the sole concern of the church. The report this year is an attempt to answer many questions and to clarify some of the problems raised by last year's action.

Recognizing there are areas in which the church and the state may co-operate, the committee calls upon North Carolina Baptists to emphasize that the church and the state are separate and independent institutions in society.

"We must make sure," the committee said, "that at each point in any co-operative undertaking in which the church and the state are engaged our judgments and actions are measured by the principle itself."

Within the framework of "separation" and "independence" three possible areas of cooperation between church and state are pointed out by the Committee. They are (1) aid to the needy, both young and old, (2) higher education, and (3) medical and scientific research.

In entering business arrangements with the state, the committee emphasizes "the importance of our remaining on the alert lest we gain advantage for our sectarian interests or, on the other hand, lest we surrender the independence and control of Baptist agencies or institutions to the state."

Expressing faith in the principle of public education, the committee states that the place of religion in society is a legitimate subject in public schools but that religion as such should not be taught.

In order to recognize the place of religion in education, and to avoid the use of public funds for sectarian instruction, the committee strongly recommended a program of released time religious education in which the churches and the schools co-operate. Such instruction would take place in church buildings by qualified teachers, without the aid of tax money.

Looking toward the future effectiveness of the North Carolina public affairs committee, the convention is being asked to set up the committee on a rotating basis and to make financial provision for its activity.

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Brotherhood Secretary
Speaking At Chicago

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, will deliver the principal address at a kickoff dinner of the annual conference of men's work secretaries and board of managers of United Church Men, Nov. 5, at Chicago.

Topic of Schroeder's address will be "Basic Principles of Men's Work."

Schroeder will suggest that the men evaluate manpower possibilities, organize for enlistment, train their leadership, plan their activities, challenge men to action, and recognize good work.

Also attending the sessions will be James M. Sapp, promotions director for the Brotherhood Commission.

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Asks Virginia Baptists
To Practice Separation

RICHMOND, Va.--(BP)--Virginia Baptists are again being asked to withdraw from programs of Bible teaching in the public schools.

The recommendation is being made by the religious liberty study committee in its report to the Baptist General Association of Virginia in annual session here, Nov. 10-12. R. E. Booker is chairman of the committee.

The report, printed in the Religious Herald, Virginia Baptist paper, lists 28 counties and one town in Virginia where some type of Bible teaching in the public schools takes place. A number of Baptists, individuals and churches, the report says, continue to support the program.

The committee points out that, although the general association for three years has discouraged Baptist participation in programs of teaching the Bible in public schools, very few have responded to the appeal.

The report continues, "It seems the most effective way to get the counties and cities to give up such activity is to have the Roman Catholic Church ask for the same privilege. In no instance where that has occurred has the Bible school teaching been continued."

The problem of churches and taxes and "the lengths to which the Baptists should go in seeking to exempt the taxation of church-owned property" is also raised by the committee. The report said, "We cannot escape the conclusion that Baptist property that is not used for religious purposes and property which is income-producing should be taxed."

Other recommendations of the committee asked district associations of churches to provide place on their programs for discussion of separation of church and state, and asked for an appropriation so the committee could award scholarships to high school seniors writing the best essays on separation of church and state.

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Dry Baptist Group
Likes Tom Collins

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--Florida Baptists are the most outstanding group in the state in opposition to any increase in legalizing the sale of intoxicating beverages.

Yet, when the Florida Baptist Convention meets in Tallahassee Nov. 10-12, the program chairman will be Tom Collins! Collins is pastor at De Funiak Springs.

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\$10,000 Scholarship
Left In Florida Will

DE LAND, Fla.--(BP)--Stetson University here has received \$10,000 to establish the Dr. and Mrs. George W. Fisher Scholarships.

By terms of the will of George W. Fisher of DeLand, the scholarship fund was established at the death, on Aug. 12, of his widow, Mrs. Gertrude Fisher.

The will provided that income from the fund be divided into equal parts to assist two worthy students in paying or aiding to pay their expenses in attending the University.

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