

November 8, 1959

Texans Won't Lease
Texarkana Hospital

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex.--(BP)--Directors of the controversial Texarkana Wadley Hospital withdrew their offer to lease the \$3½ million institution to Texas Baptists the day before messengers to the 74th annual convention here were slated to vote on the proposed lease agreement.

But the withdrawal offer came too late to keep the issue off the convention floor.

The board debated for two hours after the withdrawal letter was presented whether to rescind its previous action approving the lease agreement. The purpose of the motion to rescind was "to let the world know that Texas Baptists oppose accepting federal funds" in any manner toward institutional programs.

The motion was defeated by 1-2/3 vote margin. The vote, requiring a two-thirds majority to pass barely missed the mark with 54 favoring and 29 opposing. It required a 55-2/3 votes to pass.

During the convention's business session, messengers shouted a resounding "Aye" in favor of a resolution to "look with disapproval upon the board's earlier recommendation to lease the hospital."

The resolution said: "It is now evident that the majority of the board and messengers were agreed that it would have been a mistake to lease the hospital.

"We hereby announce to the world that this convention looks with disfavor upon any future move by our executive board, or any committee appointed by it, to accept as a gift or on a lease basis, any institution financed in whole or in part by a gift or grant from the government," the resolution said.

"Nationwide publicity given to the announced intention of the board to lease the hospital has led thousands across America to believe that Texas Baptists were yielding their time-honored position on separation of church and state," said the resolution.

Later, a similar resolution, submitted by convention's resolutions committee, passed unamisouly. The second resolution urged trustees of Baptist institutions to refrain from any transaction involving the grant of government money or property as a gift in either expansion program or acquisition of new institutions.

The convention action climaxed a 2½-year debate on the intepretation of the meaning of church and state separation.

Some Baptist leaders had earlier asserted that Baptist operation of the Texarkana hospital, originally built with aid of \$1½ million in federal Hill-Burton funds, would be a violation of the historic Baptist stand on church-state separation.

As a compromise measure the Texas Baptist executive board voted by a slim 74-71 margin last month to recommend that the convention lease the hospital for "a nominal sum." The board's recommendation was to come up for a vote during the Nov. 4 business session of the convention.

A substitute motion introduced by Texas Baptist Executive Secretary Forrest C. Feezor was soundly defeated. The resolution, Fe zor said, was designed to tone down the "implied reprimand" included in the original resolution.

New Mexicans Talk
Of Proposed College

HOBBS, N. M.--(BP)--New Mexico Baptists heard talk at their annual convention here of a proposed state Baptist-supported college.

Several cities were mentioned. The mayor of Roswell, N. M., sent word that the convention should consider 100 acres on the outskirts of Roswell as possible site for it.

Albuquerque was considered another possibility.

The Baptist Convention of New Mexico's executive board received instructions to weigh the matter during the coming year. It could, if necessary, call a special session of the convention to consider the matter.

There appeared to be strong sentiment on both sides of the question of establishing a Baptist college.

New Mexico Baptists presently carry on their Christian higher education program through chairs of Bible at the various state colleges and universities.

The 314 registered messengers voted a 1960 convention budget of \$1,126,475 including supplemental income through the Southern Baptist Sunday School and Home Mission Boards.

The Cooperative Program budget comprises \$600,000 of this amount. Of this \$600,000 New Mexico convention will retain 70 per cent, and it will send 30 per cent to support work of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Previous percentage distribution of the Cooperative Program portion was 75 state, 25 SBC.

Messengers had last year selected Clovis for the 1960 session. They picked Farmington for the 1961 session, scheduled Oct. 24-26.

All officers were re-elected. W. D. Wyatt, Albuquerque minister, is Convention president.

The convention will dedicate its 1959 annual to the memor of Seferino Jojola, an Isleta Indian missionary at the Indian pueblo in Isleta, N. M.

A resolution put the convention on record for vigilance in maintaining separation of church and state.

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California To Hold
Special May Session

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--(BP)--California Southern Baptists will hold a special, mid-year meeting of their convention in 1960 to consider a survey made by the convention's long-range planning committee.

The special session was voted by messengers attending the regular 1959 session of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California here.

It will convene May 9 at Fresno, where state Baptist offices are located.

The long-range planning committee has been making a survey of work done by the convention, but did not have its report ready to present here.

The committee said time will be saved in putting survey recommendations into force by calling the special convention session. The convention will have to make constitutional changes if it adopts certain recommendations.

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Messengers re-elected Charles L. McClain, pastor, Truett Memorial Baptist Church, Long Beach, as convention president. They adopted a total budget of \$1,258,222 which includes \$861,000 in distributable, Cooperative Program funds.

23 per cent of Cooperative Program funds will go to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention at large.

While the convention here didn't establish a public affairs committee, it did turn the matter over to its board of directors to work out details.

Next year's convention will meet Nov. 8-10 in Stockton, Calif., and the 1961 convention will assemble Nov. 14-16 in Santa Monica.

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S. G. Posey Announces Retirement Next Year

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--(BP)--S. G. Posey, executive secretary of California Southern Baptists, announced here that he will retire Dec. 31, 1960--just after the observance of the convention's 20th anniversary.

He has been leader of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California since Jan. 1, 1951. He will be approaching his 68th birthday at the time of retirement.

A native of Brookhaven, Miss., Posey is a graduate of Mississippi College (Baptist), and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, before going to California in 1947.

Posey also was for about two years associate Sunday school secretary for Mississippi Baptist Convention. He taught school in Mississippi and Louisiana and later also taught religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California.

He spoke of his retirement at the convention's 1959 session here. The convention plans to commemorate its 20th anniversary next year, and to build the observance around the Cooperative Program, financial plan of Southern Baptists for meeting state and world missions needs.

It was announced here that the convention now numbers 700 affiliated churches for the first time in its score of years.

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Novak Out As Editor Of Kansas Journal

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--Joe Novak resigned here as editor of the state Baptist paper after the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists voted to abolish the paper's board of directors.

The resignation became effective at once. The convention will continue Novak's salary for the balance of the year.

Messengers debated for about two hours the proposal to abolish the separate board of directors for the weekly Baptist Digest. When the count was taken among the over 300 voting, the margin was about three to two in favor of doing away with the board.

The paper's direction is now left in the hands of the executive board and executive secretary. The assistant executive secretary of Kansas convention, F. Paul Allison, will edit the paper in addition to handling duties in promotion and stewardship.

The offices of the state convention and the paper are located in Wichita.

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Novak's future plans were not announced. He has been editor of the Baptist Digest since June 1, 1957. A layman, Novak was editorial assistant on the Baptist Standard in Dallas, Tex., before moving to Wichita.

He is a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Baptist Digest reported a circulation of 6200.

The convention adopted a resolution urging caution in electing to public office any person whose religious affiliation might impair his service to the nation.

It approved a total budget of \$307,685 for 1960, of which \$184,800 will be subject to Cooperative Program distribution. This distributable amount will be divided between state and Southern Baptist Convention with SBC objectives receiving 28 per cent. Present SBC percentage is 26. The convention's goal is to increase the SBC percentage to 36 by the year 1964.

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Folks & facts.....

.....Mrs. Lucille Power Eddleman, 69, mother of H. Leo Eddleman, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, died Nov. 4 in New Orleans after an extended illness.

She had made her home with her son for the past 11 years. Funeral services were held in New Orleans Nov. 5 with Eddleman officiating. Burial was in Cleveland, Miss.

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