

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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January 22, 1960

Washington Publicists
Condemn Movie Trends

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Strong disapproval of certain trends in the motion picture industry has been expressed by the Washington chapter of the National Religious Publicity Council.

In a vigorous resolution the religious publicists condemned the trends in motion pictures which (a) overemphasize sex and violence, (b) distort the Biblical account, or (c) hold up essential aspects of the Judeo-Christian tradition to disrepute. The resolution said that such films are "detrimental to the nation's moral climate."

✓ Already the Southern California chapter of the NRPC in Los Angeles has expressed its disapproval of such films. Likewise the West Coast office of the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches has taken a forthright stand on the problem.

The Washington chapter of NRPC voted to ask the national organization in its approaching annual convention to adopt a similar resolution. It also called on other interdenominational and denominational agencies to voice their concern and to bring their influence to bear against such film production.

The resolution pointed out that "the movie industry has made in recent years many films of great spiritual value and has thus shown its ability to produce profitable movies with a most worthwhile message."

Especially deplorable to the religious publicists were the recently produced "motion pictures ostensibly based on Biblical incidents but altered to an extent so as to result in an essential distortion of the Scriptural account, a distortion which frequently takes the form of an exaggeration of evil -- especially sex and violence -- with conspicuous neglect of the condemnation and judgment the Bible attaches to such evil."

Although no specific films were mentioned in the resolution the group evidently had in mind such films as Solomon and Sheba, The Big Fisherman, The Ten Commandments, and others that are in the planning stage.

The National Religious Publicity Council is an association of persons who devote a major portion of their professional activity to editorial, public information, audio-visual, radio, television and other related public relations and promotional activities of any denomination or interdenominational body or church-related agency.

Proposes Free Postage
For Religious Magazines

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Free postage for magazines in packages not exceeding 20 pounds sent by religious organizations to their organizations in foreign countries has been proposed by Rep. Jeffery Cohelan (D., Cal.).

Cohelan's bill would also include educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veteran's, or fraternal organizations for free mailing of magazines to foreign countries.

The proposal comes as an aid to people to people program, and Cohelan pointed out that he believes that the United States can afford to subsidize the gifts of educational and scientific magazines from the people of the United States to other countries.

The bill (H. R. 9570) has been referred to the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

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Baptist Attitudes Get
National Attention

(1-22-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Changing Baptist attitudes in the United States have attracted the attention of the United Press International.

"The Mason-Dixon line is a thing of the past, as far as the Baptist church is concerned," said a recent UPI story. The Southern Baptist Convention has reached into the North on a large scale, the UPI observed, and the American Baptist Convention is active in the South.

"Members of each of the two movements have been known to become irritated with the tactics of the others," the UPI said, but it indicated that the attitude is now changing. This was made clear in a press conference participated in by Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and Herbert J. Gezork, president of the Andover Newton Theological School and of the American Baptist Convention.

Both leaders declared that there should be no feeling of rivalry or "invasion" on the part of either group, that there is work enough for both conventions, and that both should be happy with the success of the other.

Reviewing the history of American Baptist-Southern Baptist relations the UPI pointed out that although no merger is in sight "neither group is interfering with the other's expanded home mission work."

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Would Declare Good
Friday Legal Holiday

(1-22-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The effort to establish Good Friday as a legal public holiday continues in Congress. Rep. L. Mendel Rivers (D., S. C.) has introduced a Joint Resolution in the House of Representatives that would declare the Friday before Easter Sunday each year, known as Good Friday, to be a legal holiday.

Other such efforts have been made in the past. If this should pass Good Friday will then be a public holiday the same as New Years, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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Urges National Lottery
To Reduce Tax Burden

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Continued appeal to Congress is being made to establish a national lottery for the purpose of reducing taxes.

Rep. Paul A. Fino (R., N. Y.) recently told the House of Representatives that "a national lottery should be accepted by this Congress as a good practical and sound fiscal substitute for taxation." He claimed that this would "help ease our present financial pains," and that it would bring "long-awaited relief to our overburdened wage earners."

Last year Fino introduced two lottery bills, which would provide for Federal lotteries and would establish a commission to conduct a national referendum on the question.

Also last year Rep. John Lesinski (D., Mich.) proposed a Federal lottery to raise funds for Federal hospitals, the blind, recipients of old-age assistance and disabled veterans.

Fino estimates that his bill would "painlessly and voluntarily pump into the U. S. Treasury \$10 billion a year in new additional revenue."

Opposed to the proposal are church groups and many business interests.

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Negro Church Observes
Founder's Anniversary

(1-22-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Rep. Adam C. Powell (D., N. Y.) has proposed congressional greetings and felicitations to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The occasion is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the denomination.

Allen was born a slave in Philadelphia on Feb. 14, 1760 but later purchased his own freedom. His denomination will begin a year-long celebration on his birthday this year.

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Asks Establishment Of
Point Four Youth Corps

(1-22-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D., Wis.) has proposed an amendment to the Mutual Security Act of 1954 to study the advisability of the establishment of a Point Four Youth Corps.

The objectives of such a Youth Corps would be to strengthen the development programs in underdeveloped friendly foreign countries, to acquaint the people of other nations with the ideals and aspirations of Americans, and to aid American young people in understanding world problems.

Churches and church agencies are involved in the proposal because it would authorize a study to consider "the manner in which interested private American foundations, and groups such as service clubs, religious groups, farm organizations, labor unions, business groups, youth groups, and similar organizations, might cooperate in the operation of Point Four Youth Corps projects."

The bill (H. R. 9638) was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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Asks Larger Deduction
For Corporation Gifts

(1-22-60)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A proposal to increase tax deductible gifts to religious and charitable causes has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. William S. Broomfield (R., Mich.). His bill (H. R. 9485) would increase from five per cent to ten per cent the amount which corporations may deduct for tax purposes for charitable contributions. It was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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Education Proposal Would
Revert To Colonial Policy

Washington ---(BP)--- A reversion to American colonial policy in education has been proposed in the United States Senate.

Inadvertently, Sen. Norris Cotton (R., N. H.) is asking for a reaffirmation and reenactment of a portion of Article III of the Ordinance of 1787, adopted by the Confederation Congress. The section reads: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

The Ordinance of 1787 preceded the adoption of the United States Constitution, and its language antedates the birth of the principle of separation between church and state as enunciated in the first amendment.

Cotton's proposal is a part of a bill (S. 2832) which would find that responsibility for and control over education is one of the powers not delegated to the United States.

In order to follow through with this idea but at the same time provide for education, the bill would authorize 25 per cent of the Federal tax on cigarettes to be returned to the States for educational purposes only, and that would repeal legislation already enacted that authorizes Federal grants to the States for education.

The reason offered by Cotton for presenting his bill is an effort to break through the impasse in efforts to aid education. He said that he believes some such proposal as his constitutes the only chance of getting some aid for education in this or any of the immediately succeeding sessions of Congress.

Cotton announced his intention of offering his bill as an amendment or substitute for the measure now on the calendar (S. 8) which will be debated in the Senate in the near future. The Senate bill calls for a two-year program of up to \$1 billion of matching grants to the states for school construction.

The Ordinance of 1787 was passed by the Confederation Congress to govern the Northwest Territory. It encouraged education and religion by setting aside Lot Number 16 in every township, including 640 acres for the support of schools. Lot Number 29 was for the support of religion and two townships were for the benefit of a university.

While no public lands were granted for aid to religion after the First Amendment, it was not until 1860 that educational grants were modified so as to include only the State university and only "common schools." Both changes were made to prevent public funds from going to sectarian institutions.

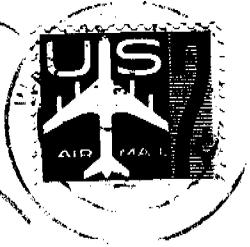
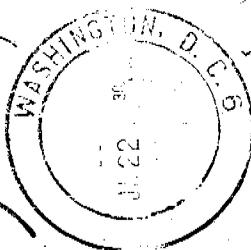
In Cotton's speech to the Senate he indicated that he wanted no debate in Congress on the religious issue in education. He wants this problem thrown back to the States.

Cotton said, "Congress need not concern itself with the question of the use of these funds by the States for maintaining segregated schools, for transportation to private or religious schools, or any similar vexatious issue."

In a conversation with Cotton's office assurance was given that it was not the Senator's intention to raise the religious issue and that the proposed legislation would be restudied in the light of this problem.

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