

February 11, 1960

E. S. James Credited
By Liberty Organization

By John J. Hurt

BOSTON, Mass.--(BP)--The editor of the Baptist Standard of Texas received from Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State a special citation as a "militant advocate of church-state separation."

The presentation to E. S. James was made at a luncheon during the 12th national conference of the organization, which has headquarters in Washington. Theme of the two-day conference was "religion and public affairs."

The citation to James read "Eloquent minister, courageous editor, militant advocate of church-state separation." His paper, published in Dallas, has a circulation of 350,000 which is the largest of the Southern Baptist Convention state papers.

Louie D. Newton, Atlanta pastor who is president of Protestants and Other Americans United, paid tribute to James in the presentation for his "wise and steady leadership" provided in "the baffling and delicate problems involved in maintaining our sacred freedoms."

The Baptist Standard gave strong opposition to a recommendation from the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas that it accept a \$3½ million hospital in Texarkana which had received Hill-Burton federal funds. The recommendation was withdrawn but the convention went ahead and voted disapproval of the proposal.

Earlier, addressing the ministers' conference which traditionally opens the annual meetings, James denounced in a prepared speech the disposition of some politicians "and even among the clergy to wink at and blindly tolerate violations of law in the church-state area because they happen to be cloaked in religious garb." He added that this "undermines the principle upon which our religious liberty rests."

James commended the church-state organization for leadership in defense of constitutional freedom and paid tribute to Glenn L. Archer, Washington, its executive director, for his direction.

Clyde W. Taylor, secretary of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, told the conference that "ecclesiastical influence to obtain official favors" grows wherever "one religious body is recognized above others as the religion of the nation." He added that "Oppression of minority religious groups usually develops out of such an arrangement."

Taylor said over 20 Protestant churches are closed in Spain where the Roman Catholic Church is the official religion and that "Protestant petitions for the opening of churches are delayed for years or completely ignored."

Referring to restrictions in other countries, he added: "As American citizens we have every right to protest every aspect of this, not only at home but overseas. . . . We should use our influence to gain liberty for those who are suffering under clericalism."

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Discuss Controversial,
Conference Is Told

(2-11-60)

BOSTON, Mass.--(BP)--The 12th National Conference of Protestants and Other Americans United heard an appeal here for unity of religious leaders in "honest appraisal of the American principle of church and state."

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The call was sounded by Richard C. Raines, Methodist bishop of Indianapolis. "Let us discover," he said, "in what we can agree and admit frankly where we differ and why."

He said Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish clergy and laymen in such a conference "would come to know and respect each other." Raines added, "American people can be trusted to face truth and act together" and would appreciate "discussion of the controversial."

Bishop Raines, discounting appeals for ecclesiastical unity, said "spiritual life of any people suffers when the stimulus of competition is removed." He declared, "Monopoly breeds misuses of power" in religion, just as in business and politics, and the Roman Catholic Church suffers from it. "Having seen Catholicism in 30 countries, I am convinced that Catholicism in the United States is the most spiritually wholesome and soundly alive Catholicism in the whole world," Raines reported.

In contrast, the bishop pointed to Roman Catholic pressure to curb Protestants in countries where there is an alliance with government.

Earlier in conferences of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, two speakers made appeals for greater emphasis on public schools as bulwarks of American democracy. W. Earl Hotalen, executive director, Louisiana Moral and Civic Foundation, said tax support for parochial schools in Louisiana is a danger if organizations like Protestants and Others fail to attack it. "The foundations are being destroyed," he said, and the question is "what are we going to do about it?".

John J. Hurt, editor of the Christian Index, Baptist state paper in Atlanta, said, "There is no difference between taxing me for your church and taxing me for your church school." Hurt added, "I had as soon send my tax dollars to the priest, or Vatican, as to send it to the state and let the state provide the forwarding address."

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Campbell Builds, Aims
To Be Senior College

(2-11-60)

BUIES CREEK, N. C.--(BP)--Immediate erection of a college infirmary, to begin as quickly as detailed plans can be completed, will be the first actual construction of the expansion program to make Campbell College here a senior institution.

The decision to move the \$2 million program into the construction phase was announced on the campus after a meeting of the executive committee of the Campbell board of trustees. Campbell College, a junior college, is an institution of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

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Hundreds of Southern Baptist churches are co-operating with the Convention's Education Commission in its sponsorship of February as emphasis month for Christian education and Baptist schools and colleges. This is the seventh annual emphasis, which has formerly been observed in April.

The Commission has been swamped with orders for materials which have been specially prepared. 13 career pamphlets are included this year, in addition to several general monographs such as "My Vocation--A Career for Christ" (this year's theme), "Helping Your Child Choose His Vocation," "Here Comes College," and "Where Are My Talents? My Interests?".

The best available persons were asked to write the articles and they are aimed at the interests of high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen.

Feb. 21 is "Baptist College Day" in the churches. Many pastors are preaching on Christian education and choosing a vocation.

EDITORS: Please insert the following paragraph in the statistical story for release on February 16.

Training Union enrolment also showed a strong gain of 4.2 per cent, increasing from 2,503,920 to 2,608,110. Vacation Bible schools showed a 2,101 gain in enrolment, reaching 2,910,258.