

February 14, 1960

Teletype Net Started
By Southern Baptists

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention teletypewriter network, believed to be the first leased wire communications system operated by a denomination, goes into operation Mar. 1.

W. C. Fields, Nashville, secretary of public relations for the Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention, said 19 cities will be on the system. It will stretch from Washington, D. C., to Wichita, Kans.

Both agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and offices of state Baptist conventions, as well as Baptist state papers, will be on the system.

Agencies taking part are the Radio and Television Commission, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Relief and Annuity Board, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Brotherhood Commission, Historical Commission, Executive Committee, Sunday School Board, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Home Mission Board (including its division of evangelism), Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Foreign Mission Board, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and Baptist World Alliance.

States and state papers taking part are Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and District of Columbia.

The network will operate eight hours a day, five days a week. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday. The cost of the teletype system is being shared by each participant.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co., Atlanta, engineered the system.

The teletype leased wire enables each party on it to receive copy the instant it is sent from any point on the system. Each machine will receive copy at the same moment others receive it. Messages may be sent to all points on the circuit, or any location may select any other location, or series of locations, to receive its message.

The Executive Committee office in Nashville will be traffic control center so that the time will be used to best advantage each day.

Baptist Press news service articles, messages from agencies to state offices and the reverse, appointments in distant cities, information wanted by one subscriber from another---all these are among the kind of messages which will flow over the network.

The network is on a six-month experimental basis, as authorized by the Executive Committee.

Machines with a keyboard similar to a typewriter will be installed in each office. They are capable of receiving messages especially designated for them, and for selecting other machines in distant cities which they wish to send messages to.

Rolls of paper will feed through the machines as the keys spell out the messages. These machines are capable of handling copy at 60 words a minute.

The machines and method of transmission are similar to those used by the national news agencies, Associated Press and United Press International.

Archer Renews Pledge
To Safeguard Freedom

BOSTON, Mass.--(BP)--The executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State renewed his pledge here for a continuing defense of constitutional freedoms with a declaration: "We are opposed to every dictator, clerical or military."

The address of Glenn L. Archer, Washington, at a public rally here closed the 12th national conference of the organization which had as its theme "Religion and Public Affairs."

Protestants and Others United re-elected Louie D. Newton, Atlanta pastor and former president, Southern Baptist Convention, to his third term as president. Dick H. Hall, Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., was elected one of three vice-presidents, and J. M. Dawson, Waco, Tex., was named recording secretary.

Newton and Dawson were among early organizers of Protestants United, the latter when he was director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington.

This two-day conference here, in a city which is 76 per cent Roman Catholic, gave major attention to a program of education and legal action to protect the wall separating church and state. It reviewed such issues as tax support for parochial schools, federal funds for church-operated hospitals, and church acquisition of slum-clearance land.

Archer declared in his address that Protestants and Others United has not centered its attacks on Catholicism as a religion. "We have never attacked the Catholic people or their right to worship," he said. "We defend both."

Instead, he said, "our case is a case of free Americans against a clerical hierarchy which seeks to bring to this country partial union of church and state which exists everywhere in Europe." Archer added, "If 90 per cent of our effort has been directed against Catholic power" the explanation is that "90 per cent of the threat to church-state separation comes from a determined drive of one church to change the American system."

Turning to November's Presidential election, Archer said, "We want no official religious test for office but we also do not want silence about fundamental social and political issues." He declared, "No candidate of any faith has a right to use his religion as a shield in order to avoid searching and realistic discussion."

Benjamin P. Browne, editor of Baptist Leader (American Convention), published in Philadelphia, called for Protestants to "seize the initiative and call a true, world-wide ecumenical council" to discuss "as equals" all religious questions.

Browne said the council called by Pope John for the Vatican, by including only Catholics, will be "little more than a demonstration of pomp and pageantry of the Roman Catholic Church" together with "reams of publicity and endless TV and radio coverage." He added, "The only feature" to involve Protestants "may be a vain call to them as heretics to return to Rome."

Long Run Gives Up
Unique Finance Plan

By C. R. Daley

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--An unique plan of financing local associational work was abandoned by Long Run Baptist Association here through a vote of its executive board. Long Run Association is composed of more than 80,000 Baptists and over 100 churches and missions in the Louisville area.

Six years ago the association adopted a co-operative plan of missions whereby 25 per cent of all Cooperative Program funds sent by Long Run churches to the treasurer of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky was refunded to Long Run Association for its program of work. Later the refund percentage was reduced to 22 and still later to its present 20.

By unanimous vote, the board accepted a recommendation from its executive committee to give up the present plan by Jan. 1, 1961, and revert to the plan of depending upon direct contributions from individual churches to the associational program. The direct contribution plan conforms to the methods used by most of the other district associations of Kentucky and other states throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

A special committee was appointed by Long Run executive board chairman, Eugene Enlow, to work with churches in the transition to the new plan. Present plans call for requesting the individual churches to designate for associational missions an amount equal to the contribution of the church under the present plan.

The action also included a request for the executive board of Kentucky Baptists to assume financial obligation for Fellowship Center, a Long Run Association project once operated by the general association, and for as much financial help as possible from the state group to the University of Louisville Baptist Student Union. It is estimated that \$12,000 to \$15,000 will be required for these two projects.

The Long Run action grew out of the acceptance by the 1959 general association of Baptists of a report of its survey committee calling on local associations to find ways to finance their programs, leaving all Cooperative Program gifts for distribution by the general association. The committee of the executive board of the general association met with the executive committee of Long Run Association to discuss the matter. The proposals adopted originated with the Long Run group and met hearty approval by the general association committee.

The Long Run Association program, under the direction of Supt. Ben F. Mitchell, is one of the outstanding city mission endeavors in the Southern Baptist Convention. The present budget exceeds \$100,000 annually.

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Dining Hall Fix-Up
Planned At Pineville

(2-14-60)

PINEVILLE, La.--(BP)--Trustees of Louisiana College (Baptist) here authorized complete remodeling of the college dining hall at an estimated cost of \$100,000. They want the work done by time school opens next September.

J. D. Grey, pastor, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, and former president, Southern Baptist Convention, was elected president of trustees.

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Choy Directs Hawaii
Religious Ed Program

HONOLULU--(BP)--Sam Choy, a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, has been elected director of religious education of Hawaii Baptist Convention.

He is former pastor of Kahului Baptist Church on Maui. His new office will be in Honolulu. Choy was associated with University Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex., and Farmers Branch Baptist Church, Dallas, while in Texas.

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Mississippi Debating
Church Control Bill

(2-14-60)

By Purser Hewitt

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--The keenest discussions in and around the Mississippi legislature are centering on a proposal advanced by Methodist laymen to secure state authority for local congregational control of church property.

The bill now before the upper house of the legislature will be the subject of extended hearings early next month, but newspapers and all other information media are being used as sounding boards in advance of the formal Capitol sessions.

The proposed legislation has been attacked by official Methodist individuals and groups all the way from the resident bishop, Marvin Franklin, to the organized youth of The Methodist Church.

The Mississippi Baptist Record, state Baptist paper, has joined opponents of the measure, Editor Joe T. Odle of Jackson declaring the move to be "a dangerous precedent which may open the door for other types of state control of the churches."

The bill would give "local Protestant bodies" the right to retain church property if 65 per cent of the congregation votes to withdraw from the parent body.

The plan has been called unconstitutional by so many authorities that friends of the legislation are now engaged in a job of re-writing the original bill to make the measure apply to all religious bodies. Such a move, it is believed, might also remove criticism that class legislation is being sought.

Advocates of the bill give a number of reasons for wanting the legislation adopted, ranging from fear that integration could be ordered by church authority, to the forging of a weapon with which to threaten the quadriennial conference of The Methodist Church in Denver this April and prevent this governing body of the church from abolishing the present system of segregated jurisdictions.

Several Methodist Sunday school groups have protested what they define as "integration brain-washing" in Methodist literature, and some women's groups have objected to mission literature references to racial mixing.

The Baptist Record editorial summed up many of the arguments of the opponents of the bill. After pointing out that congregational control is traditional with Baptists, Editor Odle said:

"We believe the state does not have the constitutional authority to step in and change the laws of any religious group. If the denomination itself decides to give full autonomy to its churches, that is one thing; if the state seeks to do it, that is something altogether different.

"If the congregations of some church groups are to be given the right to separation and control of their property, why should not all congregations have the same right?"

A group organized outside Methodist church channels, the Mississippi Association of Methodist Ministers and Laymen, claims the measure has "nothing to do with the basic ideas of separation of church and state, as some may think. Certainly

the people who prayed for, planned, and obligated themselves to pay for the church properties, which they call their own, should be entitled to continue to own, control, and enjoy those properties under all circumstances."

The official board of one city Methodist church has expressed its approval of the bill, but many others have voted opposition to its provisions. One member of the legislature said his mail is running about four to one against the proposal.

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Pollard Opposition
To Kennedy Voiced

(2-14-60)

NATCHEZ, Miss.--(BP)--Ramsey Pollard of Knoxville, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has openly expressed opposition to the candidacy of Senator John Kennedy (D., Mass.) for the Democratic nomination for President.

Speaking here to the Mississippi Baptist Evangelistic Conference, Pollard said he could not "stand by and keep my mouth closed when a man under control of the Roman Catholic Church runs for the Presidency of the United States."

"I will never believe what the Pope of Rome says about good will and brotherhood until I see some evidences of it in countries where the Roman Catholic Church is dominant," Pollard said.

Pollard, who will become pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis on Easter Sunday, told about 1,000 Baptist leaders of his recent extended preaching tour in Europe and the Orient.

"We Baptists believe in complete and absolute religious liberty for all men," Pollard said, "and we cannot walk with those who deny this fundamental freedom on which every other liberty is founded."

"I have seen Protestant and Baptist churches with their doors closed because of the influence of Roman Catholicism," he continued.

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