

December 22, 1960

## Arlington Churches Prove East Can Be West of West

DALLAS--(BP)--Columnist Paul Crume of the Dallas Morning News has straightened out a confusing situation in nearby Arlington Baptist churches.

In the Dallas News' daily front-page column "Big-D," Crume explains it this way:

"It seems that the Rev. H. E. East's First Baptist Church is west of the Rev. Beryl West's church (Highland Baptist). Not only is East west of West, but he (East) is often visited by a ministerial student named Dan North. And the Rev. Ralph West is moving to town as pastor of the Church of the Nazarene.

"It will work out this way. North lives south of East. West (Beryl) lives northeast of North, while West (Ralph) lives northwest of East. West (Beryl) lives east of West (Ralph).

"We trust that everybody has got it straight," said Crume.

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## Die-Hard Texas Baptist Voices Support of Nixon

(12-22-60)

DALLAS--(BP)--Vice President Richard M. Nixon continues to pull the support of Texas Baptist pastors.

One die-hard member of the Texas Baptist executive board voted for Nixon as his choice for chairman of the 191-member state Baptist board.

Nixon lost again. Pastor K. Owen White of the First Baptist Church of Houston won the election by a landslide.

Tellers counting votes in the election were unable to identify the lone Nixon supporter. His was among four names written on secret ballots during the election.

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## Folks & facts . . . .

(12-22-60)

. . . . Bethel Baptist Church, Frankfurt, Germany, pledged \$21,759 on its 1961 budget using the forward program of church finance, Pastor H. L. Stout reported. The goal was \$18,000. Of the 138 persons pledging, 110 are tithing--80 per cent. The Frankfurt church is one of nine English-speaking Baptist churches in Germany. Many of its members are servicemen. (BP)

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### Houston To Enforce Sunday Closing Laws

By the Baptist Press

Mayor Lewis Cutrer of Houston has ordered businessmen in the largest city in the South to close their stores on Sunday or face arrest and prosecution.

The order was prompted, said Mayor Cutrer, by increasing violations of both Texas statutes and Houston ordinances banning Sunday operation of non-essential businesses, and by a flood of protests from religious and business groups.

Both the Houston Baptist Pastors Conference and the Association of Ministers of Greater Houston had earlier passed resolutions calling for a boycott of merchants who do business on Sundays and urging their members to support firms that are closed on Sundays.

In Dallas, meanwhile, the Texas Baptist Brotherhood executive committee urged Brotherhood organizations in 2,300 churches across the state to call attention to the "increasing number of businesses remaining open on Sunday."

The Brotherhood group also commended a huge Houston firm which announced in a large paid advertisement in a Houston paper that it would remain closed on Sundays.

At least five Houston business organizations, including the Retail Merchants Association, sent resolutions to the Mayor asking for a crack-down on "blue law" violations.

More than 1,200 members of Seventh Day Adventist churches gathered in Houston to protest the crackdown. A resolution from the Greater Houston Council of Seventh Day Adventists opposed the laws as contrary to its religious belief.

Asked if he felt the laws were in violation of the principle of church-state separation, Mayor Cutrer told the Baptist Press that the laws go much further than "mere religious legislation."

"The 'Blue Laws' are primarily three-fold in scope--social, economic, and moral," he said. "When people are forced to work and conditions become too unbearable, they organize themselves into protest groups to better the conditions."

Under Texas laws, each Sunday sale constitutes a separate offense. Both the sales clerk and the store could be fined from \$10 to \$50 on each count.

The mayor cited several exceptions to the laws, including hotels, restaurants, boarding houses, drugstores and grocery stores. He said, however, that grocery stores could sell food, but not household appliances on Sunday.

Mayor Cutrer said no definite date for enforcement was set in order to give merchants a chance to consult with their attorneys. He said he expects some legal protests to the laws.

At least six appeals are presently pending in the United States Supreme Court on the constitutionality of state Sunday closing laws. The supreme Court could wipe off the books of every state and municipality all laws that set Sunday apart as different from any other day, or uphold the constitutionality of such laws.

Texas Board Elects  
Officers, Committees

DALLAS--(BP)--The Texas Baptist executive board has approved the appointment of a committee to map plans for a \$28 million fund drive for Texas Baptist schools, elected a Houston pastor as its chairman, and named a Midland pastor to a state Baptist Sunday School position.

The six-member joint committee will map a blueprint for the four-year fund drive in an effort to meet a critical shortage of building funds at nine Texas Baptist educational institutions.

It was appointed jointly by the denomination's Christian education commission and the administrators of the Baptist schools, with the board's approval.

The board elected K. Owen White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Houston, as chairman, succeeding James H. Landes of Wichita Falls, Tex. who has been elected president of the 1½ million member Convention.

Clyde Childers, pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church of San Antonio, was named vice-chairman, and R. A. Springer, treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was re-elected as the board's recording secretary for his 23rd consecutive year.

The board also picked Edwin Allen Seale, pastor of the Glenmore Baptist Church of Midland, Tex., as associate in the Texas Baptist Sunday School department, effective Jan. 1. Seale will direct the state's Vacation Bible School program.

In other action, the board elected 41 pastors and laymen from throughout the state to fill vacancies and expired terms in eight important state Baptist committees and commissions.

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Oak Cliff Votes Against  
Liquor In Dallas Suburb

(12-22-60)

DALLAS--(BP)--Residents of the vast southeast Dallas suburb of Oak Cliff have voted overwhelmingly against the legalized sale of beer and alcoholic beverages.

Final count in the hotly-contested local option vote was 22,497 to 13,468. Only six of 45 boxes went wet.

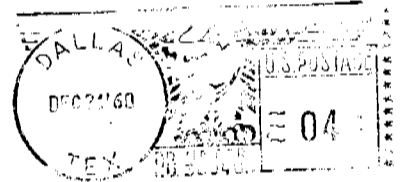
"I want to give God the glory," said H. Jeff Pritchard, pastor of the Clarendon Drive Baptist Church and co-chairman of the Oak Cliff Civic and Moral League which led the dry forces.

It was the third time in four years that Oak Cliff voters have vetoed liquor and beer sales, once in 1956 and again in 1957.

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