

January 6, 1961

Peak Month Brightens
1960 Receipts Picture

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A peak month's receipts for the Southern Baptist Convention's share of the Cooperative Program ended the 1960 budget on a happier key.

Receipts to the S B C treasurer here for December amounted to \$1,907,826. This surpassed the previous high of \$1,680,000 received in November, 1959.

It brought the 1960 year's total receipts to \$17,479,428. While this was under the hoped-for amount, it still provided \$1,092,500 extra income for the Convention's Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

The basic budget for operating and capital needs of the Convention's 20 agencies was \$16,386,900. This was met in early December. After that time, all receipts were shared exclusively by the missionary boards.

The Foreign Mission Board received an "advance"--as this over and above is called--of \$819,375. The Home Mission Board got \$273,125. Foreign mission leaders who all along had expected their share to top \$800,000 were proven right.

Convention Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville reminded Southern Baptists that this was an increase of only 2.2 per cent over Cooperative Program receipts for 1959. Even a revised (downward) estimate of 2.75 per cent set by the S B C Executive Committee was not reached, he pointed out.

"We are gratified that more than \$1 million has been made available through the advance section of the Cooperative Program for home and foreign missions," Routh said. "We hope and earnestly pray that the percentage of increase in 1961 (over 1960) will be sufficient to meet the basic budget provided through the Cooperative Program for operating and capital needs of the agencies."

There must be an increase over 1960 of more than 4 per cent to reach the basic needs and enter an advance stage this year, the treasurer noted.

Designated gifts ended the year with December receipts of \$122,647. It was too early to feel the effects of the 1960 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, which is counted in the designated gifts column.

The total in designated gifts for 1960 reached \$11,489,938, up 10.76 per cent over the 1959 amount. The combined total of Cooperative Program--designations was \$28,969,366, up 5.44 per cent over the combined figure for the year before.

Cooperative Program receipts are shared in by state Baptist bodies before reaching the S B C treasurer. Approximately 35 per cent of the Cooperative Program funds contributed by churches reach the S B C. These funds are shared among agencies according to a percentage scale voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Designated funds, on the other hand, are given exclusively to one agency or purpose and can not be diverted to other agencies.

The 1961 S B C basic needs through the Cooperative Program are \$18,054,716. Mission leaders hope the income will exceed \$20 million in order to provide another "bonus" boost to missions through the advance stage.

Long Island Baptists
Constitute Church

FARMINGDALE, L. I., N. Y.--(BP)--Southern Baptists constituted the denomination's first church on Long Island on the first day of the new year.

The Farmingdale Baptist Church, with 156 members, affiliated with the Northeastern Baptist Association of six other churches and 23 missions. Don Miller of Farmingdale is pastor.

Beginning as a chapel of Manhattan Baptist Church of New York City in 1958, the group met in a rented church building in Hempstead. They moved to the present location on a two and a half acre site in Farmingdale in 1959.

Chaplains Lonnie Knight and Clayton Day led in the beginning of the work and Miller was called to lead the mission only four months ago.

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Miller left an 11-year pastorate in Dallas to be pastor of the Farmingdale work.

Miller says the new church plans to establish other churches across the two-county area of Nassau and Suffolk. These two countries have a population of two million, with 349 separate municipalities. Only 59 have Baptist churches or missions.

Participating in the constitution of the new church were the president of Southwestern Seminary, Robert E. Naylor of Fort Worth; the Home Mission Board's secretary of pioneer missions, A. B. Cash, Atlanta, and Paul S. James of New York, Pastor of the sponsoring church.

The Farmingdale church is a part of the denomination's emphasis on pioneer missions and is a part of the 30,000 movement.

This was the third church to be constituted from chapels of Manhattan Church which was to celebrate its third anniversary Jan. 10. All three have had larger charter memberships than the 98 with which Manhattan Church started.

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Baptists Keep In Touch
With Military Personnel

(1-6-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Church life was brought into closer contact with Southern Baptist military personnel and their families during 1960 according to George Cummins of Atlanta.

Cummins, recently named director of the chaplains division of the denomination's Home Mission Board said that the secretary of military personnel ministries, E. L. Ackiss, visited 47 military installations and commands in the United States during the year.

The ministry to military personnel which Ackiss heads seeks to keep the local church in touch with Southern Baptist military personnel and their families. The ministry also seeks to provide names of servicemen for Baptist churches in the areas near their bases.

Ackiss, of Atlanta, called on commands of all branches of the service and visited installations across the country.

"Some of our Southern Baptist churches are extending their spiritual ministries to personnel serving on ships at sea and in foreign waters through dependents living in port cities," said Ackiss.

Ackiss also leads churches in developing a ministry to their youth preparing to enter service and keeping contact with them while they are in military service.

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Textile Mill Purchase
Said Normal Investment

CHERAW, S. C.--(BP)--A Southern Baptist Convention board bought a large textile mill here and Baptist leaders said it was a normal real estate investment.

Burlington Industries sold the \$2.9 million plant to the Annuity Board of the Convention. The Annuity Board leased the plant back for 20 years to Burlington Industries, with options to renew the lease up to 50 years total.

Fred W. Noe, Dallas, director of investments for the Baptist agency, said the board's investment will be completely paid off during the 20-year first lease.

He added it was called a "net-net lease." This means that Burlington Industries will bear all the expenses for property taxes, insurance, and maintenance, according to Noe.

"We have \$15 million invested in industrial lease-purchases in the South and West," Noe reported. The agency purchased an industry in Louisville, Ky., a few years ago on the same basis.

The Annuity Board is the Convention's agency to handle retirement plans for its more than 30,000 pastors and agency employees. Funds contributed by the employers and employees are invested by the Annuity Board.

The Annuity Board invests its funds equally in bonds, stocks, mortgage loans, and industrial plants, Noe said.

Noe said the board had this policy on such investments:

"A purchase leaseback is a relatively new but effective source of earning for a pension fund. Funds are used to purchase a property which is leased on a net basis at rentals sufficient to amortize the investment completely during the original term of the lease in addition to paying an acceptable yield on the investment.

"Being on a net basis means that all taxes, insurance, maintenance, and repairs are paid by the lessee; all rents received going, therefore, to amortization of principal or interest.

"A leaseback is advantageous to both the lessor and lessee. The lessee can write off the rentals against profits more rapidly than depreciation would be permitted were the building owned. The lessor has an advantage in that, in addition to recovering in rent the entire cost of the property plus an interest yield, the property will produce rentals beyond the original lease when the amount invested will have been diminished to zero, thus establishing what is in effect a perpetual endowment.

"Many institutions administering endowment and pension funds have come to favor the purchase leaseback as an effective channel of investment, effecting at once some of the advantages of both mortgage loans and property ownership.

"Notable examples of the purchase leaseback situations of the Annuity Board exist in South Carolina, such as the plant for the Homelite Division of Textron, Inc. at Greer, the Dunlop Tire and Rubber Plant at Westminster, and the new Burlington Industries plant at Cheraw.

"It should be observed that these represent the investment of funds which have been deposited to await their time of need---when the members come to retirement. The funds are not surplus funds in any sense but are funds which otherwise would be idle until needed to pay annuities."

Stewardship Agency
Begins Formal Work

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention began the new year as the "baby" of denominational agencies.

In informal ceremonies here, Porter Routh, executive secretary of the S B C Executive Committee, gave the commission a check for \$75,000 to launch its work.

Executive Director Merrill D. Moore of Nashville will lead the agency. Prior to Dec. 31, 1960 stewardship was a function of the Executive Committee with Moore as secretary of stewardship promotion. Moore had served for over 12 years with the Executive Committee in this field.

The new agency was created by votes of the S B C in 1959 and 1960. It will work with Cooperative Program promotion, with the Forward Program of Church Finance, and in encouraging Baptists to remember Baptist work in their wills.

Heads of several S B C agencies in Nashville attended the informal meeting. They included James L. Sullivan of the Sunday School Board, which provides office housing for the new commission; J. W. Storer of the Southern Baptist Foundation; Davis C. Woolley of the Historical Commission, which till that time was the youngest of agencies, and Rabun L. Brantley of the Education Commission.

Heads of agencies located in other cities sent letters or teletype messages greeting the new commission.

The new commission may be addressed at 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville.

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Mission Policy Same
After Cuba Break

(1-6-61)

ATLANTA--(BP)--The break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba has left the policy of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board unchanged.

"We have had no communication from Cuba," said Loyd Corder of Atlanta, secretary of the language groups ministries department of the board. "However, this action does not change the policy of the board."

Missionaries have been asked to use their best judgement in leaving or staying in Cuba. Only Mr. and Mrs. Tom Law, who had worked with the English-speaking residents of Havana, have returned.

Corder indicated that recent requests from leadership in Cuba have been for more missionaries, not fewer. There are now eight missionaries working with 85 churches and more than 200 missions. More than 150 Cubans are employed by the churches and the board.

"It is unknown what effect this action will have on transmitting salaries and other funds to our workers," Corder added. He expected some action on Cuban work by the executive committee of the board.

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Armstrong Includes
Church Site Emphasis

ATLANTA--(BP)--Southern Baptists will provide the financial means for further church extension through their annual home mission offering this spring.

The offering, sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary, seeks \$2,470,000 for home missionwork, and \$250,000 of this will be placed in the church site fund of the Home Mission Board.

In addition, all gifts in excess of the goal will be added to the fund. If the goal is reached, this will raise the fund to a million dollars.

"Never has the Annie Armstrong Offering held greater promise for a worthy part in the advance of home missions than it does this year," Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission board, said. "The offering will provide about 40 per cent of the operating expense of the board.

"It is especially significant that \$250,000 of the goal will help to provide church sites for new churches and that all undesignated funds above the goal will go for that purpose."

G. Frank Garrison, of Atlanta, director of the division of church loans, said that "scarcely a day passes that he does not have to say 'no' to from one to three requests for loans for church sites."

The need has become acute with Southern Baptists' entry into new states where financial institutions are not acquainted with the denomination and loans are difficult to secure. Also the 30,000 Movement, a drive to start 10,000 churches and 20,000 missions from 1956 to 1964, has intensified the demand for church site funds.

"While the offering is tremendously important," Redford added, "We feel that the educational program and the emphasis on prayer that constitutes the vital part of the home mission week of prayer are of even greater significance.

"I hope that every church and every Woman's Missionary Union will make its largest possible contribution to the total program of missions in the homeland."

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Plan Second Meeting
On Negro Education

(1-6-60)

CHICAGO--(BP)--A second meeting will be held next summer to find ways in which Southern Baptists and Negro Baptists may work together to advance Negro Baptist higher education. Time and place will be set later.

Leaders from three Baptist nationwide conventions talked here at the first meeting about aims for colleges and seminaries for Negro students. These conventions were the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and the National Baptist Convention of America (unincorporated). The two National Conventions are for Negro Baptists.

It was agreed that representatives from the American Baptist Convention should be invited to the second meeting. The American (formerly Northern) Convention established several colleges for Negroes in the South years ago, and still has an interest in many such schools.

The Southern Baptist Convention is a partner with the National Convention, U. S. A., Inc., in maintaining a seminary for Negro students at Nashville, Tenn. The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has a department of work with National Baptists and supplies teachers of Bible in a large number of Negro colleges.

Several state Baptist groups in affiliation with the S B C also have educational interests. Mississippi Baptists, for example, support a seminary for Negro ministers at Jackson. State groups also have secretaries named to work together with Negro Baptist leaders and churches in their states.

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The meeting is an outgrowth of action at the 1959 Southern Baptist Convention at Louisville, calling for talks between leaders of the three conventions.

Southern Baptists present at the Conrad-Hilton Hotel here for the first conference included Porter Routh, executive secretary, and Albert McClellan, program planning secretary, Executive Committee, Nashville; E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard, Dallas.

C. C. Warren, Charlotte, former president of the Convention and leader in the Baptist Jubilee Advance in which all conventions are taking part; Courts Redford, Atlanta, executive secretary, and Guy Bellamy, Oklahoma City, secretary of work with National Baptists, Home Mission Board.

W. P. Davis, secretary, Negro work department, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Jackson; and Robert W. Lashbrook, Nashville, and Clyde C. Bryan, Hattiesburg, Miss., members of the Southern Baptist Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Alliance In North
America Suggested

(1-6-61)

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Another Baptist editor has voiced his belief there should be closer alliance among Baptists in North America.

In proposing a North American Baptist Alliance, Editor Joe T. Odle of the Baptist Record here concurred with a statement by J. Marse Grant, Raleigh, editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, that "a strong, united Baptist witness in America is needed" and points to a proposed North American Baptist Alliance as a possible answer.

The Alliance would be fashioned regionally along the lines of the existing Baptist World Alliance. Continuing, Odle declared:

"This could give a united front in Baptist work and witness, without affecting the autonomy of a single church or denominational group. Each individual Baptist group could continue to carry on its program with its own emphasis, yet each would be working along side other Baptists in closer fellowship and stronger witness.

"It seems most timely that such an alliance should be studied by Baptists just now. Some writers are hinting that American Christianity may be entering a 'post-Protestant era.' A prominent Protestant leader has charged that 'Christianity is in retreat.'

"Under such circumstances it is imperative that Baptists re-examine their position and program to see if they are giving the largest possible witness to today's world. Since the majority of Southern Baptists (and we are included among them) do not believe that Baptist participation in modern ecumenical movements is the answer to the problem of an enlarged Christian testimony, it seems that we must carefully consider whether a more united Baptist voice is needed."

Odle declared that experiences in the current Baptist Jubilee Advance program have revealed how near together Baptist groups are in the larger program and purpose. Seven conventions in Canada and the United States, with 18 million members, are taking part.

Continuing, he said: "It has shown that through committees and adopted goals we can work together in a single overall plan, with each group adapting it to its own peculiar situation. Our fellowship of Baptists of America has been brought closer together through this united effort."

The editor was quick to point out however that this is not a proposal to seek to form a giant super-denomination in order to become the largest Christian group.

And neither, he added, is it a veiled effort to lead Southern Baptists down the road to ecumenicalism. His editorial said it is simply "an attempt to find a means of marshalling all Baptist resources for the glory of God and the advance of Christ's Kingdom. Since Baptists constitute the largest evangelical group in America, they have a responsibility to give the strongest possible witness for Christ."

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FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

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Education Is Prominent In Bills Before Congress

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Twenty-three education bills were dropped into the legislative hopper of the House of Representatives the first day of the 87th Congress, according to a listing in the Congressional Record.

Some of these bills are designed to give Federal aid to public schools alone, some designate the aid to the States to be distributed through the State school system, some clearly have relief to parochial schools in mind, while others offer an indirect approach by providing income tax deductions for certain educational expenses.

These 23 bills are but the forerunner of hundreds of others in a like vein that will be offered within the next few weeks. It has not yet been determined which bill or bills will receive serious consideration, but it is certain that the philosophy behind many of them will be thoroughly studied.

It is almost certain than an aid to education bill of some description will be enacted during the 87th Congress. Both houses of Congress passed education bills last year, but they failed to agree on a compromise. The platforms of both the Democratic and Republican parties called for aid to education from the Federal government. Strong lobbying interests throughout the country are pulling for an education bill.

Although the new Kennedy administration has declared itself against tax aid to parochial schools, there remains the possibility of indirect aid to church schools by the method of income tax deductions for certain school expenses or through aid to school pupils irrespective of the type of school attended.

The first day Congress was in session there were 903 public bills, 436 private bills and 165 resolutions introduced in the House of Representatives, making a total of 1504. The Senate does not begin the introduction of bills until after the President's message on the state of the Union. There will probably be 25,000 bills and resolutions introduced before the end of the 87th Congress.

Other bills of church concern introduced the first day include proposals for a National Peace Agency, against racial discrimination, for a Bureau of Older Persons, against the mailing of obscene matter, for the establishment of a national lottery, prohibiting the serving of alcoholic beverages in airplanes, and for a minimum hourly wage increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

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We Wonder If It Was Hot!

(1-6-61)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- "There Is A Hell" was announced in a church bulletin as the subject of a sermon at the Evangelistic Conference of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

"Some of our leaders will be there, and will bring back a report," the bulletin commented.

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Baptist Leader Favors
Further Unity Talks

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Another proposal for a North American Baptist Alliance has been revived by a prominent denominational leader.

Edward Hughes Pruden, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, in an interview published in the Capital Baptist, publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, said "I sincerely believe that all Baptists should be interested in a large degree of unity among the followers of Jesus Christ."

He then proposed consideration of an idea suggested by M. E. Dodd of Shreveport, La., several years ago that a Baptist Alliance of North America be formed. Pruden pointed out that on other continents the leaders of the Baptist World Alliance have been organizing continental groups for purposes of fellowship and cooperation.

"It would seem to me," he continued, "that one of the contingency benefits of our Baptist Jubilee Advance program might be a study of a possible North American grouping of our Baptist Conventions for purposes of missionary, evangelistic and other major Baptist concerns."

The First Baptist Church of Washington is affiliated with both the American and the Southern Baptist Conventions. Pruden has been an active leader in both conventions, having served as president of the American Baptist Convention and a member of the board of directors of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Pruden's observations were made in response to an inquiry by James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist, concerning the recent proposal by Eugene Carson Blake, Presbyterian, that the Episcopal, Methodist, United Church of Christ and Northern Presbyterian churches merge into one denomination.

Commenting on the proposal, Pruden said, "I see no immediate possibility of any major union between the four denominations mentioned above, so that it will probably be ten or fifteen years before anything concrete is achieved along these lines even if the present enthusiasm among the leaders of these groups should be maintained."

In a recent editorial in the Biblical Recorder, state Baptist paper of North Carolina, J. Marse Grant said that "a strong, united Baptist witness in America is needed," and he proposed exploratory talks between the Southern Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Convention looking toward closer cooperation.

Edwin H. Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, responded to Grant's proposal by saying that such talks were "certainly in order" and that he personally would welcome such talks with emphasis on "exploratory."

In the interview with the Capital Baptist, Pruden was asked, "Do you feel that Baptists should be more interested in unity or in union?"

He answered, "It is almost as frustrating to speak of spiritual union without some feasible expression of it as it is to say to one's minister when one is constantly absent from the church services, 'I am with you in spirit.'"

"I feel that our witness to a pagan world requires of us that we conceive some manner of presenting a Christian united front to the problems of our age and at the same time maintaining those personal and congregational freedoms for which our forefathers suffered and died."

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Southern Baptist Says
Integration Must Come

(1-6-61)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- A Southern Baptist evangelism leader said here that the denomination should not oppose integration but should let it take its due course.

C. E. Autrey, Dallas, Tex., director of the Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, expressed his views on racial integration before the Evangelistic Conference of the District of Columbia Baptist

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Convention and in an interview with Casper Nannes, staff writer for the Evening Star. His remarks were given national publicity through the Associated Press.

Autrey said that "the whole process of integration must come" in due time. He warned that the church is being tested and declared: "In this crucial hour, the church should stand up and be counted, otherwise it is failing its mission in the 20th century."

Reminding the Conference that Southern Baptists are gaining fewer members than in previous years, Autrey pointed out that in the last five years, membership increased only 9 per cent, whereas in the previous years the increase had been 20 per cent.

One reason for this failure, he asserted, is that Southern Baptists have been deserting their old emphasis on revival and enlargement campaigns in favor of newer techniques.

"We are looking for too many new things instead of keeping to the basic things which have served us so well in the past."

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Study Begins On Need
For National University

(1-6-61)

By C. E. Bryant

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Baptist leaders of Maryland, Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia are taking a hard, realistic look at the need for a Baptist university in the Nation's Capital.

Their vision of tremendous need is seasoned with realization that a good university would cost from \$50 million to \$100 million at the beginning, and that Baptist denominational commitments already are at the peak of available funds.

Twenty-six committeemen, representing the Maryland Baptist Convention, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, and the Mount Vernon (Virginia) Baptist Association, spent four hours recently looking at the situation.

They will meet again February 9 to hear further reports.

Baptists once had a college in Washington. It was Columbian College, started in 1821 by Luther Rice, the missionary cohort of Adoniram Judson. The college later was absorbed by George Washington University and passed out of Baptist control.

The current study of Baptist educational needs in the National Capital area has resulted from an editorial by James O. Duncan in the Capital Baptist, which has been reprinted in other denominational publications across the nation.

Baptist leaders across the country have expressed interest and support.

Leaders envision that such a university, specializing in law, international relations, communications and social problems would fulfill a unique ministry in training Christian leaders for both national and international affairs. Its location in Washington would afford many opportunities not possible in other cities.

The Baptists of Maryland, District of Columbia and the metropolitan Virginia area each named committees of ten at their meetings last fall "to study the need" for such an institution.

Their first meeting was held at the home of Jack R. Jones, an Arlington, Va., real estate man who is chairman of the Mount Vernon Association committee.

The group of leaders -- consisting of top flight educational and business men, as well as ministers -- heard a paper by C. Emanuel Carlson on the curriculum and scholastic hurdles that would face a Baptist school in Washington. Carlson formerly was dean of Bethel College and now is director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

They next heard veteran missionary Greene Strother on "The Missionary Implications of a Baptist University in the Nation's Capital." And then they listened soberly to a report from Bryan Archibald, pastor of Chevy Chase Baptist Church, on his investigation of the problems of financing such a school.

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Two more reports are scheduled at the February 9 meeting in Silver Spring, Md. J. P. Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., will report on "Changing Educational Patterns for a Changing World," and R. Orin Cornett, formerly head of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, will talk on the "Distinctive Function of a Baptist University in the Nation's Capital." Cornett now is connected with the U. S. Department of Education.

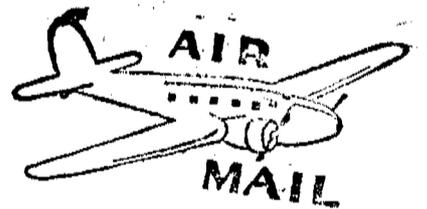
Proponents of the Washington school -- and "proponents" may not be the correct word, for nobody is committed beyond the "study" stage -- envision the institution as a national Baptist project, supported by all Baptist groups in the United States.

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1628-16TH ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON 9. D. C



Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committee
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee

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