

February 1, 1961

Hospitals Steer Clear Of Government Support

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.--(BP)--Two Southern Baptist Convention hospitals, seeking \$8 million for capital needs in the 1960's, won't ask the federal government for grants.

The board of Southern Baptist Hospitals voted here to look for the money without asking for any grants under the Hill-Burton Act. This act provides financial aid to new hospital construction. Many denominations have taken large sums of money from the public treasury under its provisions.

The board's decision affects directly hospitals located here and in New Orleans, La. These are the only two Baptist hospitals operated directly by the Southern Baptist Convention. Other Baptist hospitals are supported by state Baptist groups.

To accept the money would be a violation of a principle Baptists cherish--that of church-state separation, the hospital officials have felt all along.

Over 92,000 persons used facilities of the two hospitals in 1960.

The two hospitals provided \$335,000 in service (charity) care to patients last year. The Southern Baptist Convention provided \$25,000 from its Cooperative Program budget to help meet this expense.

Committees of the board have been studying sources of capital funds, the relation of the Baptist hospital ministry to the Southern Baptist Convention, and the "global dimension" of the board's work.

The board undertook a new survey. It will study the way that at least three religious groups--Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Seventh-Day Adventist--with "their extensive teaching and healing ministries" are advancing their cause in the United States and throughout the world.

The executive secretary of the institutions, T. Sloane Guy, Jr., of New Orleans, will direct the studies and research.

A. W. Merritt, New Orleans attorney, was elected president of the board. H. N. Harrell of Jacksonville, an insurance executive, is vice-president, and L. F. Tadlock, New Orleans store executive, is secretary.

The nine-man executive committee of the board includes Harrell, Merritt; past board president Carl A. Howell of Jacksonville; Jewell A. Davis, also of Jacksonville; Edwin Hartsman, Vartan N. Dombourian, both of New Orleans; C. C. Duncan, of McCaysville, Ga.; J. B. Sylvest, of Montgomery, and Joe H. Tuten, Biloxi, Miss.

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Seminary Recognizes Advanced Bible Lore

(2-1-61)

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--The faculty of New Orleans Theological Seminary here has approved special recognition to students having strong backgrounds in Bible study.

Those who have done considerable study in college may receive advanced standing in Bible courses when they enter the seminary.

Tests will be given students to determine whether they merit advanced standing in Old Testament and New Testament.

Although no advanced credit is given students who complete the tests satisfactorily, these students will have the option of other biblical courses in lieu of survey courses which are normally required.

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The new policy became operative at the beginning of the third term of the present session and affected new students as well as some whose work was in progress.

The tests were the outgrowth of a study--completed last summer--by the Association of Baptist Professors of Religion, comprised of both college and seminary professors. For several years the group has concerned itself with the improvement of Bible study in colleges and seminaries and a better correlation of teaching of Bible in colleges and seminaries.

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42-Year-Old Housewife
Typical Church Member

(2-1-1961)

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.--(BP)--The typical member of the 6,227 American Baptist Convention churches is not a man but a 42-year-old married woman with two children.

"Mrs. American Baptist" and the members of her family are middle class, belong to the "white collar" group of workers, and have an income of from \$5,000 to \$5,999 a year. She grew up in a town of fewer than 10,000 people but now lives in a city of more than 100,000 population.

These facets of the denomination's life were released here during a three-day convocation on the mission of the church. About 1200 representatives from 39 states were on hand for the meeting.

The composite American Baptist member was described as a Caucasian, a high school graduate, and a regular church attender. She votes in most elections, but does not give time or money to political causes.

Her parents were Baptists and religion is to her a necessity. She attends morning worship six or seven Sundays every two months and goes to Sunday school almost as often. She and her family give about 5 per cent of their income to the church. She is fairly literate in biblical knowledge but she is disturbed because she feels that she has too little to say about the policy and program of her local church.

These characteristics were revealed by an extensive two-year research project dealing with general census information and the sociological characteristics of American Baptists and their communities. The study revealed an average growth of 11,549 for the denomination each year since 1955. In 1959 the churches had 1,548,795 members.

Since 1940 American Baptists have established 35 new churches each year. Registrants at the convocation were told that the same rate of growth would add 462,000 more members by the year 2000 and would bring the total ABC churches to 7,700.

Participants in this unprecedented gathering of American Baptists discussed the significance of the changing patterns of modern life on the church member. They were told that although the majority of churches affiliated with the American Baptist Convention was still in rural areas that a majority of the membership is now urban.

The group studied the limited participation of males. Fewer than one-third of the members are men or boys. The "average" or median size of all American Baptist churches is 161.5 members, according to the study. It found that the smaller churches with less than 150 members are declining while the larger churches with more than 500 members are increasing in membership.

The study was used at the convocation here to help determine where the denomination is effective, where it is not doing an adequate job in the light of present-day needs, and how and where it can best serve in the future.

Gene Bartlett, president of Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y., called for five emphases in the denomination: (1) More effective preparation for church membership, (2) Restoration of priority to preaching, (3) A closer, warmer fellowship among the members, (4) The encouragement of mature and constructive criticism, and (5) A new understanding of the primacy of the family.

Edwin H. Tuller of New York, general secretary of the denomination's general council, expressed appreciation for a rising interest in more effective cooperation

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between the American Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

He indicated that a greater sense of unity between the two conventions could strengthen Baptist work in America. He stressed the fact that a renewal of interest in unity did not require these two groups, separated since 1845, to merge once again.

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Washington Paper Urges Church-State Separation

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- The Washington Post, daily newspaper here, has defended its stand against the violation of separation of church and state by the use of tax funds for the support of parochial schools.

The Washington Post has been both severely criticised and highly commended for its editorial statement against Cardinal Spellman's attack on President Kennedy's task force recommendation for tax aid to public schools. In an editorial the Washington Post said that the Cardinal "has done a disservice to the country by reinjecting a religious controversy into the issue of Federal aid to the public schools."

The newspaper pointed out that all Americans have a right to send their children to the public schools, or, if they prefer, to parochial schools, "but they cannot expect public funds to support those parochial or private schools, and least of all those that give instruction in religious matters."

The Washington Post further pointed out that the use of public funds for private schools would mean "some measure of public control" in order to protect the public interest, and that by keeping the parochial schools out of the public funds their freedom from public regulation is thereby being protected.

In a letter to the editor James P. McGranery, Attorney General of the United States in 1952, denounced the Washington Post for its attitude toward Federal aid to parochial schools and charged the newspaper with denying to Cardinal Spellman the right to differ, using police-state methods, and misrepresenting the Cardinal. He then appealed for public funds for private schools on the grounds that they relieve the public schools of a great burden, that their pupils are a part of the public and that they become patriotic, loyal and responsible citizens.

McGranery quoted the Supreme Court (*Zorach v. Clauson*, 1952) to prove that an "absolute wall of separation" between church and state was not intended by the First Amendment.

In an editorial reply the Washington Post defended its position as being in no way an attack on the Cardinal's right to speak. The newspaper said, "However exalted the Cardinal's authority in ecclesiastical matters, it is neither sacreligious nor discourteous nor an infringement of his freedom to criticize him when he voices a view on a political problem."

The newspaper then quoted the Supreme Court (*Everson v. Board of Education*, 1947) to prove that "a wall of separation between church and state" was established by the First Amendment. Among other things that decision said:

"Neither a State nor the Federal Government can set up a church. Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another...No tax in any amount, large or small, can be levied to support any religious activities or institutions, whatever they may be called, or whatever form they may adopt to teach or practice religion."

Baylor Literacy Director
On Assignment To Congo

WACO, Tex. ---(BP)--- The director of training for Baylor University's Literacy Center has accepted an assignment to teach English to leaders in the Republic of the Congo.

Stuart McConaughey, with the Baylor Literacy Center since last September, has been employed by the English Language Service, Inc., Washington, D. C., and has been placed under appointment by the International Cooperation Administration of the U.S.A. State Department for a two-year mission in Leopoldville, capital of the new Congolese republic.

McConaughey will be a member of a seven-man team to teach English to Congolese officials and others in professional capacities. The purpose of this training is to prepare the Congolese leadership for further training and technical advancement in the United States. There will be some 300 Congolese in the program. Some of those trained will in turn become teachers of English for their own people.

According to McConaughey this will be the only such team teaching English in the Congo. The Russian program provides for grants for the Congolese to go to Moscow for their training. The team from the United States is going at the request of the Congolese Government.

One of the aims of the program for the development of native leadership of Congo is to enable the new nation to help itself and improve the general welfare of the people. McConaughey hopes that by his participation in the project to extend democratic principles and ideals to parts of the world where many conflicting philosophies are competing for the loyalties of the people.

Before going to Baylor McConaughey was publisher of The Southeaster, a weekly newspaper in Kansas City. He received a Frank Laubach grant to continue his studies in Baylor and to participate in the Literacy Center there, working with Prof. Richard Cortright for the fall semester.

The English language team from the United States began its work in Leopoldville on February 6.

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Baptists, Catholics Join
In Anti-Gambling Move

(2-1-61)

By Gainer E. Bryan, Jr.

BALTIMORE ---(BP)--- Baptists are participating in a combined Protestant-Catholic crusade against "one-arm bandit" slot machines in Southern Maryland.

Only in Nevada and four counties of Southern Maryland are the gambling devices legal in this country. Just as in Nevada, the machines are to be found not only in road houses but in restaurants, drugstores and grocery stores in Southern Maryland.

An article in The Maryland Baptist (state paper), by Parker S. Hooper, pastor of the Indian Head Baptist Church, Indian Head, Md., traces the 16-month effort of the Charles County (Md.) Ministerial Association to combat the "slots." He wrote that there are 2,300 "one-arm bandits" in Charles County alone, and that "they are robbing the people of an estimated \$8,000,000 a year."

"Children go hungry," Hooper said, "because one or both parents have squandered the grocery money on the 'one-arm bandits'...We have seen men lose their jobs because they have, in their weakness, lost their company's money on the 'slots.'"

The Charles County Ministerial Association was to present a petition to Governor Millard Tawes on the matter. It called for the state legislature to authorize a statewide referendum to declare the "one-arm bandits" illegal throughout Maryland.

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Official Roman Catholic condemnation of the "inordinate use" of slot machines followed the publication of an article on the Maryland problem in America, the Jesuit-edited national Catholic journal. The article was written by an aroused Catholic layman, Elbert R. Sission, of Charles County (Md.). The article was also reprinted by the Washington Post.

The Catholic deans of three Southern Maryland counties then broke an 11-year silence on the subject by condemning the excessive use of slot machines in their archdiocese. (It was 11 years ago that the machines were legalized in the Maryland counties.)

The day after the deans' statement a Catholic-Protestant group met in Washington to map out strategy against the slots. Meeting in the Methodist Building chapel across the street from the United States Supreme Court, they decided to form a seven-man action committee to draft legislation. They agreed on a goal of the complete abolition of the gambling devices.

The Baltimore Sun quoted several high church officials as favoring the elimination of the machines. Quoted to that effect were Edward J. Herrmann, representing the Archbishop of Washington; William F. Creighton, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Washington; and John Wesley Lord, bishop of the Methodist Church in the Washington area.

Lord and Herrmann presided over the Washington meeting. David Hume of Charles County, Md., was named as chairman of the committee to plan legislation.

Whereas the Catholic deans' statement condemned the "inordinate use" of the gambling machines, The Maryland Baptist article categorically labeled their use as sinful.

The Christian Life Commission of Southern District Association of Maryland reported last year that there were "more Federal gambling machine stamps sold in Maryland in 1958 than in any other state, including Nevada."

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President Kennedy Hits
Parochial School Aid

(2-1-61)

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- President Kennedy reaffirmed his position on Federal aid to "public" schools only, in his message to Congress on the state of the Union.

In pointing out the need for development of the Nation's educational program he said, "Federal grants for both higher and public school education can no longer be delayed."

Observers in Washington were quick to point out that this was a direct challenge to Cardinal Spellman and his criticism of the Kennedy task force recommendation that Federal aid to provided for public schools only.

During the presidential campaign, Senator Kennedy frequently asserted his belief in separation of church and state and that tax aid to parochial schools is unconstitutional. Although a Catholic himself, Kennedy has not followed the line of the hierarchy in advocating governmental aid to religious schools.

The position of President Kennedy has been hailed by Protestant and non-Catholic groups throughout the Nation. Questions have been raised by many as to whether or not, once in office, he could maintain his position on separation of church and state. His strong statement in his state-of-the-Union message indicates that he has no intention of deviating from his campaign position.

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Education Legislation
Faces Complex Forces

WASHINGTON ---(BP)--- Federal-aid-to-education proposals in the 87th Congress face a complexity of forces, according to C. Emanuel Carlson in the January issue of the "Report From The Capital," monthly newsletter from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Carlson is executive director of the BJCPA.

Although the major education bill to be offered to Congress has not yet been introduced, the issues involved are already clear as indicated in Carlson's analysis.

He pointed out that "it is not probable that any major shifts of position have occurred in the interest groups" that have been urging Federal aid to education, but there may have taken place some significant changes in the public mind on the subject. Political changes in the election will also have a bearing on likely political action.

Five considerations in evaluating the outlook for Federal aid to education were set forth in the Report From The Capital:

1. The national mood for more and better schools for all has not abated.
 2. Federal aid for operating expenses and building construction or only for buildings will continue to be controversial.
 3. The church-state controversy in aid-to-education proposals will continue. Although President Kennedy and other political leaders are committed to aid public schools only, Cardinal Spellman and the Roman Catholic hierarchy in their insistence for inclusion of parochial schools have placed other legislators "in sensitive positions under pressure."
- Carlson points out that "the traditional American policy will also be harder to hold in the face of the unfolding programs of the National Defense Educational Act of 1958."
4. Indirect approaches to aid education will be attempted if effective road blocks are encountered on the main route. The most probable by-pass will be the "aid-to-the-person" or "aid-to-the-family" approach. "Large scholarship programs or other devices for distributing educational money will undoubtedly get parochialist support," Carlson observed.
 5. An even more indirect approach may be attempted in the form of income tax relief for those carrying educational burdens. Both income tax "credit" and "deduction" plans have been proposed. Strongest opposition to such plans may come from the Treasury and the Administration, because of their responsibility for a balanced budget.

Carlson concluded that "public funds are collected for the advancement of public policy, not for special interests. For churches or other private groups to attempt an interposition between the public power and the public policy is to endanger both the common good and the freedom of private agencies."