

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Kennedy Commended, POAU
Name Change Suggested

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission has unanimously passed resolutions commending President John F. Kennedy for opposing federal aid to sectarian education and suggesting a change in the name of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

The 15-member group proposed that "Protestants and Others" be dropped from the POAU title, and that the organization shorten its name to "Americans United for Separation of Church and State."

Not all of the members of the organization are Protestants, said Jimmy Allen, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission. In fact, he said, there are both Roman Catholics and Jews in the group, making its name a misnomer.

Herbert Howard, pastor of the Park Cities Baptist Church of Dallas, said that the POAU group has been branded as anti-Catholic when it is actually "pro-church-state separation." Howard said that a growing number of Catholics are supporting the principle.

"We've got a man in the White House who is living evidence of Catholic support for church-state separation," Howard said.

The Commission passed a resolution commending President Kennedy for his "clear and forthright stand" in opposing federal aid to parochial schools.

They also urged Congress to support the President's efforts to continue tax support only for public education.

The resolution was passed two days after a \$5.75 billion federal aid to education bill was recommended to Congress by President Kennedy. The proposed bill excluded aid to sectarian education completely.

"We view this action as a reaffirmation of his (Kennedy's) campaign statement that federal aid to sectarian education would be unconstitutional," the resolution said.

The group also urged constant vigilance in resisting every effort to violate the constitutional provision which preserves separation of church and state.

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Folks and facts....

....Perry F. Webb, pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio for the past 24 years, has resigned the pastorate of the 7,000 member church. Webb, 64, announced no definite plans for the future, but said that he plans to continue lecturing, teaching at conferences and leading revival meetings. (BP)

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Vote On Legalized Race
Betting Bill Postponed

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--The Texas House of Representatives has postponed a roll-call vote and a proposal to hold local option elections to allow legalized pari-mutuel betting on horse racing.

By a slim 79-70 margin, the representatives granted a three-week postponement to Rep. V. E. (Red) Berry who introduced the bill.

Rep. Berry announced that he would probably change the bill to set up the elections in only four Texas counties instead of nine.

The proposed change would make the bill apply only to Bexar County (San Antonio area) and three counties on the Mexican border. It would eliminate the local options in Dallas, Tarrant (Fort Worth), Galveston, Harris (Houston), and Midland counties.

The Dallas News called the postponement "a stay of execution," and added that the bill is obviously facing the death sentence.

A flood of letters have deluged Texas legislators following an all-out letter-writing campaign suggested by E. S. James of Dallas, editor of the Baptist Standard.

One representative said that he received 162 letters in one day urging him to oppose the bill.

Rep. W. S. (Bill) Heatly of Paducah, leader of the opposition, argued that time could be saved by disposing of the matter quickly.

Rep. Berry accused him of "misconstruing" the measure. "It's not a gambling bill," he declared. "It's an election bill. So what's the great rush?"

After the vote postponing the consideration of the measure, Rep. Berry thanked the House for the delay and added: "I think I'll be very lucky when it comes up if I can get Mr. Heatly up here to oppose it."

From the far corner of the House, Heatly shouted back: "I'll be happy to grant your request."

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Radio-TV Commission,
College Win Top Awards

(3-3-61)

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP)--Two Southern Baptist institutions, the Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, and Howard College in Birmingham, have won Freedom's Foundation awards for outstanding public service.

Both institutions will receive the George Washington Medal of Honor, the Freedom's Foundation announced here on Washington's Birthday.

The award went to Howard College for its "outstanding achievement" in helping to bring about a better understanding of the American way of life through its American heritage program.

The school's department, headed by George V. Iorns, offers classroom instruction that seeks to present the American way of life, fundamental beliefs in God, faith in constitutional government, and other tenets of the credo of the Freedom's Foundation, said Howard College President Leslie S. Wright.

The award went to the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission for the third consecutive year.

The Commission won the honor for its production of the film, "Bread and Water," the story of a Korean War veteran who refuses repatriation after the conflict, but later changes his mind and returns to find that he is unwelcome and unforgiven.

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Only the young man's pastor, his mother, a garage owner who gives him a job and a former sweetheart who is uncertain what her feelings are, accept him with understanding and forgiveness.

Last year the Commission received an award for a film entitled "Gimmick," and in 1959 for "Rich Fool." Each of the films were cited as "outstanding achievements in helping to bring about a better understanding of the American way of life."

The Freedom's Foundation is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian organization. Actual presentation of the awards will be made later in the year.

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Jack Hamm Named Staff
Artist For Standard

(3-3-61)

DALLAS (BP)--Jack Hamm, religious cartoonist from Waco, Tex., has joined the Baptist Standard as staff artist.

Hamm, whose religious cartoons are used as syndicated features in more than 200 newspapers throughout the nation, will devote half of his time to work on the Baptist Standard, and continue to send out his free lance work for other publications.

As a college student Hamm faced a real dilemma--he wanted to be a cartoonist, but he also wanted to be a preacher.

Finally, after serving in both capacities, he decided his most effective ministry would be to use his drawing board as a pulpit.

Hamm has pastored Baptist churches near Waco, Tex., where he attended Baylor University, near Chicago, Ill., while attending Moody Bible Institute, and in his native state of Kansas.

He worked for some time on such well-known comic strips as "Boots and Her Buddies," "Alley Oop," and "Bugs Bunny."

When the comic-strip syndicate asked him to start a detective strip of his own, he declined. For most cartoonists this would have been a dream come true, but Hamm said it would have meant giving up a compulsion to preach the Gospel.

He resigned his job and entered Baylor University to study religious work. After he received his degree he joined the Baylor art faculty, and later resigned to establish his syndicated religious cartoon service.

Hamm will move to Dallas and set up an art studio in his home. His association with the Standard will not affect his religious cartoon service which will continue, he said.

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Radio-TV Commission, NBC
To Film Healing Series

(3-3-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission and the National Broadcasting Company are cooperating in the production of a filmed documentary showing how physicians, psychiatrists and ministers collaborate in healing.

The 30-minute film will be released as an NBC public affairs presentation on "Frontiers of Faith," weekly network television religion program.

Sequences for the film are being shot at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem; at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; and at the Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, La. Scenes in a pastor's study in Durham, N.C., will also be used.

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Miss Doris Ann, manager of religious programs for NBC-TV, said "the medical profession is beginning to welcome the chaplain on the hospital healing team, and the clergy in all denominations is training and increasing the number of ministers for such service."

The program will demonstrate how doctor, minister and patient, by uniting their efforts, treat "the whole man," said Martin Hoade, producer-director of the NBC film.

The film will show students learning pastoral care techniques at the Seminary, young ministers serving internships as hospital chaplains in the North Carolina Baptist Hospital, and experienced chaplains at work in the New Orleans Baptist Hospital. Out-patient counseling will be portrayed in the pastor's study.

Paul M. Stevens, director of the Radio and Television Commission, will work with the network's film and sound crew on location.

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Radio-TV Commission
Produces Easter Show

(3-3-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here has produced a half-hour Easter drama for radio available free to any station requesting it.

The recording, entitled "Never Has Been" depicts the agony that the Apostle Thomas might have undergone between the time of his refusal to accept Jesus' resurrection and His appearance before the disciples when Thomas was present.

Written by Ted Perry of the Radio-TV Commission's radio department, the play is performed by professional actors of the Dallas Theater Center Repertory Co.

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Southwestern Seminary
Enrolls 2280 Students

(3-3-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has enrolled a total of 2,280 students during the 1960-61 school year, Registrar Katie Reed said.

Southwestern, the largest theological seminary in the world, noted a slight drop in enrollment during the year, in keeping with a general nation-wide decline in seminary enrollments.

Southwestern officials said that they were not unduly alarmed over the 114 student decrease, attributing the drop to a big percentage of women students who were married, and to an increase in married women who are working this year.

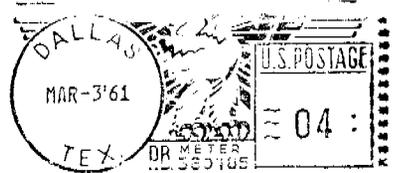
Registrar Reed reported that men outnumber women at the seminary 1,878 to 402.

Largest enrollment is in the school of theology with 1,361. The school of religious education enrolled 772, and the school of church music, 147.

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