

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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April 7, 1961

Fall Of School System Warned If Tax Aid Given

DALLAS (BP)--The Baptist Standard has warned in an editorial that tax support of sectarian education would lead to anarchy with different church groups squabbling over which one would get the most tax support.

"If such a condition concerning church schools should ever obtain," said editor E. S. James, "the public school system would then and there go out the window and we might as well call off the army and tell Mr. Khrushchev to come on and take us over."

The editorial added that the people would be so divided and hostile toward each other that Khrushchev could do it anyway.

James said that tax support of parochial schools would be a decisive blow to the nation's public education system and that approval of federal aid to sectarian schools would be an acknowledgement that public education is a failure.

"The public school is open to every child in America," James said, "and support of it is the responsibility of every parent. If any religious group chooses to operate its own schools, then it must be responsible for supporting them."

The editor said it is strange that only Roman Catholics and a few others are insisting that parochial schools receive federal aid.

Included among religious bodies cited as having come out in opposition to government aid to sectarian education are the Lutherans, Jews, Universalist-Unitarians, Independent Churches of Christ, Mormons, Adventists, Baptists and the National Council of Churches which represents some 35 denominations with 38 million members.

"Most non-church people who are informed about the issue are against it," said James.

"In fact, many Roman Catholics are opposed to the theory that the government owes something to their church, but under their system they have no voice in the matter," the editorial said.

The Catholic hierarchy has argued that their people are being taxed for support of public schools and still have to pay for their own parochial education.

Editor James countered that since the hierarchy admits the purpose of parochial education is religious instruction, there is no more reason for the government to support church schools than there is for support of every church in America with educational activities.

The editorial gave a summary of arguments against use of federal tax funds for parochial education. The arguments listed included:

"It is morally wrong to compel citizens to support any portion of a church's activities.

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"It breaches the wall of separation between church and state and is contrary to the Constitution.

"It is an invitation to the government to ultimately dictate what shall be taught in churches and would give the national government veto authority in the selection of the workmen.

"It imposes taxation without representation since no outsider would ever be allowed a voice in determining the policies of the schools.

"It would put the government in the church and the church in the government.

"It would cut the roots of the tree of religious freedom which took 1,600 years to grow to the blossoming stage."

Editor James urged his readers to examine the facts concerning the campaign to secure federal aid for parochial schools and warned them against swallowing propaganda.

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Editor Calls Gambling
Bill "A Subterfuge"

(4-7-61)

DALLAS (BP)--The editor of the Baptist Standard here has described a race track gambling bill before the Texas House of Representatives as "a subterfuge, a diversion and a travesty."

The bill (HB 777) would call for a referendum vote in 1962 on legalized pari-mutuel betting on horse races in nine Texas counties.

E. S. James, editor of the 365,600 circulation Baptist paper, urged his readers in an "emergency editorial" to send 100,000 letters, wires and telephone calls to Texas legislators.

It was the second time in five weeks that the outspoken editor had proposed a mass letter-writing campaign to defeat a legalized gambling bill in the House.

The Representatives had tabled an earlier bill calling for a constitutional amendment on the issue by an overwhelming 143-5 vote soon after Editor James proposed his first letter-writing campaign.

James said in his editorial that when the bill's sponsor, Rep. V. E. (Red) Berry, saw that his first gambling bill was doomed to defeat, he voted with his opponents to table it.

"Immediately," James said, "he (Berry) introduced H.B. 777 which he calls a substitute, but we call it a subterfuge."

The House privileges and elections committee has recommended approval of the bill by a 9-4 vote. House consideration on the measure is due soon.

Proponents of the "substitute" bill argue that the vote would be a public opinion poll and that it would not legalize gambling but would indicate to the state legislators how their constituency feels on the measure.

James said however, that if the members of the House want to know how the voters feel, then all they have to do is to refer back to more than 100,000 letters protesting racetrack gambling they are reported to have received.

He accused sponsors of the bill and big gamblers of wanting to use the referendum vote as a club over the heads of future legislature sessions.

The editorial said that if the gambling interests can get both Houses to approve the bill, they would not hesitate to spend millions in a campaign to secure support at the polls. He added that they know that the opponents do not have millions to spend on it.

James predicted that the public would become involved in a bitter political hassle over a matter which he said should be settled once and for good by the men and women who have been elected already for that purpose.

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Hardin-Simmons To Hike
Tuition By \$3 Per Hour

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University here will increase tuition and general fees by \$3 per semester hour beginning next September.

The increase will raise tuition from \$15 to \$18 per semester hour, said Hardin-Simmons President Evan A. Reiff.

Average tuition costs under the new rates for a student carrying a normal 15-hour load will be \$540 per year, compared to \$450 per year under the former tuition fees.

Half of the funds derived from the increase will go to meet rising instructional costs while the other half will be used for improved services to the students, said George L. Graham, the school's executive vice president.

Hardin-Simmons last increased tuition four years ago and announced at that time that there would be no further increase for at least three years.

Graham pointed out that whereas tuition and fees took care of 55 per cent of the operating budget in 1955, they now provide only 45.8 per cent of the costs.

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Soviet Surgeon Studying
Baylor Doctors' Work

(4-7-61)

HOUSTON (BP)--One of Russia's top surgeons has arrived in the United States to study heart surgery techniques used by Baylor University College of Medicine surgeons here.

Dr. Fedor G. Uglov, surgeon-in-chief of the Hospital Surgical Clinic at the First Medical Institute in Leningrad, Russia, will spend about two months studying cardiovascular techniques of Dr. Michael DeBakey, chairman of the department of surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine.

The 56-year-old Uglov will also observe techniques of open heart surgery at Texas Childrens Hospital. In addition to his status in Russia, Dr. Uglov is well known for his work in the field of lung cancer.

His visit is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the American-Soviet Exchange Program. The program was set up under an agreement reached by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at Camp David in 1959.

Under the plan about 50 doctors from the two countries will be shuttling back and forth each year.

Dr. Uglov, who will give scientific papers in Houston and Philadelphia, will spend much of his time studying in the Cullen Building and in the operating rooms of Methodist Hospital across the street.

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Paul Stevens To Deliver
Hong Kong Baccalaureate

(4-7-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Paul M. Stevens, director of Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at Hong Kong Baptist College, July 8, 1961.

Stevens will be in Hong Kong at that time with a National Broadcasting Co. team producing a film to be used on national network television later in the year. The 30-minute documentary will portray Christian activities of Southern Baptists in Hong Kong including schools, hospitals and churches.

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1500 Radio Stations
Carry Baptist Programs

FORT WORTH (BP)--A record 1,500 radio stations broadcast Southern Baptist programs during the 1961 Easter season.

Officials of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission said that it was the largest number of stations ever to carry the programs in a single week.

Nearly 400 radio stations that do not presently carry one of the Baptist's regular programs accepted for broadcast one of two special Easter programs produced by the commission.

"Never Has Been," a drama presenting the inner struggle of the Apostle Thomas, was carried by nearly 200 stations. It was the first radio drama produced by the commission as a special holiday program.

An additional 200 stations broadcast a special Easter program of the regular "Baptist Hour" program. The special program, featuring a message by Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, was entitled "Headlines in a Garden."

The commission reported that a large percentage of the 400 stations carrying the special programs were sampling the broadcasts with the possibility of adding weekly programs produced by the commission.

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Baptist Pastor To Speak
On Network CBS Program

(4-7-61)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Dotson M. Nelson, Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., will represent the Southern Baptist Convention on a network radio program of the Columbia Broadcasting System on Sunday, April 16.

Nelson will speak on the CBS program, "Church of the Air" on the subject "Your attitude Makes a Difference."

Music for the program will be presented by the Baptist Hour Choir, directed by Miss Joe Ann Shelton. The program was produced on tape by CBS with the cooperation of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth.

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Teachers Sought
For Home Missions

(4-7-61)

ATLANTA (BP)--The shortage of public school teachers has created an opportunity to strengthen Southern Baptist work in mission fields in the northern and western areas of the United States.

"Requests have come for 107 teachers for elementary, secondary and special schools," announced Glendon McCullough, of Atlanta, personnel secretary for the denomination's Home Mission Board.

"These are definite, but our missionaries write of needs for hundreds in Oregon and Washington, and a report of the California State Department of Education indicates that state will need 238,340 additional teachers in the next 13 years," he added.

McCullough's department helps to place the teachers and other workers in areas where new missions and churches need the leadership and other assistance they can give.

The effort is called the Tentmaker Movement, patterned after Paul's work as a tentmaker, supporting himself as he did mission work.

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Roy L. Johnson, superintendent of missions in Portland, Ore., writes, "Each year sees new ones come, and they serve in the churches, inspire the people, add their tithes to the church income, and get thrills galore in the new kind of field and in one of the most interesting places of the world in which to live."

McCullough also announced requests for doctors, engineers, office workers, construction workers, and even farm hands, barbers, printers, and truck drivers.

Qualifications for Tentmaker service include a genuine interest in missions; a Southern Baptist by conviction; active church membership experienced in the total program of the church; unquestionable character; good health, both physical and mental; capable of earning a livelihood through secular employment due to professional or specialized training.

He asked interested persons to contact the personnel department of the Home Mission Board at 161 Spring Street N.W., Atlanta 3, Ga.

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Folks and facts.....

(4-7-61)

.....The second annual annuitants luncheon will be held at the Third Baptist Church of St. Louis during the Southern Baptist Convention, May 25. The luncheon will recognize and honor retired ministers, church and denominational employees. About 150 persons have indicated they would attend the luncheon, free to any person who receives an annuity check from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas. (BP)

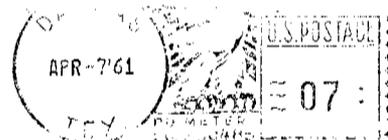
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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

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NOT FOR USE before papers dated April 13, 1961. EDITORS: The picture is supplied you through courtesy of Gainer E. Bryan Jr., editor of the Maryland Baptist, who plans to use it on his cover April 15.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"...words which are appropriate in the Nation's Capital today in the wake of the debate over federal aid to parochial schools...is the reminder engraved on this statue standing before the National Archives Building in Washington. (BP) Photo from Gainer E. Bryan Jr.

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