

April 26, 1961

Virginia Weighs Set
Of College Standards

RICHMOND (BP)--Virginia Baptist colleges should not compete with state colleges or heavily-endowed private colleges for spacious campuses of large enrolments, a committee reported here.

Neither should they raise tuition except as a last resort. Faculty salaries should meet the minimum set by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the committee continued.

Enrolments should reach a level where they become fixed. Priority should be given to Baptists who want to enrol in the Baptist schools since this will eliminate some criticism and draw more financial support from Baptist people for their colleges, it stated.

The report came to the general board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia at its meeting here. Virginia Baptists have one senior college, the University of Richmond here; three junior colleges--Averett College at Danville, Bluefield College at Bluefield and Virginia Intermont College at Bristol, and three academies--at Fork Union, Chatham and Mouth of Wilson, Va.

The committee to study faculty salaries at Virginia Baptist schools divided its report into three sections, (1) enrolment, (2) finances and (3) selection of students.

"We believe the quality training which our denominational institutions afford offers a unique value within itself and this can best be attained or maintained by eliminating the highly-competitive factors of enormity of campuses and enlarged enrolments," the committee declared.

When college administrators feel their schools have reached the maximum number of students they can "reasonably and economically accommodate," enrolments should become fixed at that point.

Although the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools discusses faculty salaries for its accredited institutions, it requires only a certain minimum for ranking and experience.

The Virginia Baptist committee suggested that salaries should also be attractive to the most competent teachers.

Money available by holding the rein on larger enrolments should be turned back into building quality training, according to the committee. Cooperative Program allocations from general association should be increased sufficiently to help provide adequate salaries.

Baptist students should get reasonable priority over students from other denominations at Baptist schools. Admissions committees at the schools should set a specific date each year until which Baptist students have priority, but after which applications are considered regardless of denominational preference.

While the schools are governed by separate boards of trustees elected by the general association, the administrators and trustees were expected to seriously weigh the general board approval of the committee's report.

51 Persons To Present Substitute Fund Plan

GREENSBORO, N. C. (BP)--A former Southern Baptist Convention president is among 51 North Carolina Baptist ministers and laymen who planned to present a substitute fund-raising plan at a special May convention here.

The special session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was called to consider a committee's recommendation to launch a \$45 million campaign for state Baptist higher education.

The substitute plan would vary from the committee's recommendation both as to amount to be raised and method of raising it. C. C. Warren of Charlotte, former SBC president, and Ralph A. Herring, pastor, First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem and a former state convention president, signed the alternate plan.

The convention's advance committee sought \$30 million in the first three years and another \$15 million in the years after that. The alternate proposal by Warren, Herring and 49 others would bring in \$3.3 million to the colleges in a three-year period if Cooperative Program giving gained 25 per cent in that time.

The \$45 million campaign would be conducted outside the framework of the Cooperative Program, the financial plan used by the convention to support its objectives. The substitute would include additional Cooperative Program support as the method of financing.

The substitute proposed no professional fund-raisers be employed. Baptists in Texas and Missouri, facing campaigns for higher education, used professionals.

The committee report itemized the allocation of money to each college and to student work. Under the substitute, this presumably would be left to the judgment of the convention's general board and Council on Christian Education.

The committee plan provided for a substantial increase in enrolment in the next decade. The alternate plan did not stress enrolment increase but gave more attention "to Christian education of such a quality as to strengthen the work of our churches, institutions and Baptist witness around the world."

The alternate plan would also give more priority to Baptist student work on non-Baptist campuses, pointing out 80 per cent of the Baptist college students in North Carolina attend state-supported and non-Baptist private schools. Under the committee proposal, only \$1 million of the \$45 million was earmarked for student work.

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Educator G. L. Johnson
Announces Retirement

(4-26-61)

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--George L. Johnson, Illinois Baptist educator here, announced he will reach retirement age Aug. 31 and will step down from his post at Southern Illinois College of the Bible.

He is president of the local institution, which offers elective credits in church music, religious education and Bible courses. It is housed on Baptist property surrounded by Southern Illinois University, a State of Illinois school second in size only to University of Illinois.

Johnson joined the staff of the school when it was begun in 1938 as Baptist Foundation, indicating it as a religious foundation serving students on a public college campus. The name of the school was later changed as the term Baptist Foundation came to designate a financial agency.

A number of Southern Baptist leaders from Illinois took courses at the college of the Bible while enrolled at Southern Illinois University. The sponsoring Illinois Baptist State Association conducts higher education exclusively through chairs, or colleges, of Bible on state campuses.

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The Carbondale school became a forerunner of similar ventures by Illinois state association. Recently the association has devoted attention to strengthening a similar program in Urbana, home of the University of Illinois.

Johnson's retirement was reported to directors of the state association at their meeting in Carbondale. No successor has been named.

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Baptist Press Given
Press Gallery Rights

(4-26-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Press gallery membership in both houses of Congress has been granted to W. Barry Garrett of Washington, regional editor here for Baptist Press, Southern Baptist Convention news service.

It is the first time the Standing Committee on Correspondents has admitted a representative from a news service of a Protestant denomination.

Garrett, a former editor of the Baptist Beacon in Phoenix, Ariz., is associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here. The joint committee serves six nationwide Baptist bodies.

Press accreditation has for some time been accorded Religious News Service, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Baptist Press provides news to 28 Baptist state papers from Florida to Hawaii, most of them weeklies, having a combined circulation of 1.4 million. Its Conventionwide office is in Nashville. Many Baptist Press member editors are served by a teletype system operated by Southern Baptists.

Press accreditation grants Garrett free access to Senate and House sessions at all times, immediate first-hand contacts with members of Congress and congressional committees, pressroom facilities at the Capitol and the right to eat in the press section of the Senate dining room.

"This will result in an improved, faster, more complete news coverage from Washington by Baptist Press," W. C. Fields of Nashville, director of the news service, announced.

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Folks and Facts.....

(4-26-61)

.....Directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association held a testimony dinner in Carbondale, Ill., for Noel M. Taylor, executive secretary of the association. The occasion was Taylor's 15th anniversary as leader of Illinois Southern Baptists. (BP)

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.....The dedication of Lewis Smith Dam on Sipsey Fork of the Warrior River 47 miles northwest of Birmingham has been scheduled May 23 by Alabama Power Co. Lewis Martin Smith, for whom it is named, was president of the power company and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at the time of his death in 1958. (BP)

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.....The Southern Baptist Extension Educators Association meets Aug. 1-3 at Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn. C. H. Watson of the Carson-Newman faculty is president of the association. (BP)

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