

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

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Communism 'Serious
Threat,' Says Hobbs

By Walker Knight
Atlanta Regional Editor

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, has been elected president here of the 9,700,000-member Southern Baptist Convention.

His election highlighted the opening business session of the denomination's 104th annual meeting and followed a hectic round of business transactions.

The well-known "Baptist Hour" radio preacher succeeds Ramsey Pollard of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

Hobbs told reporters immediately after his election that he considers Christianity's struggle with communism the most serious threat "since Jesus Christ walked this earth."

Hobbs won the prestige-packed post over W. O. Vaught Jr., pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. Roy O. McClain pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., was also nominated but asked that his name be withdrawn.

Other officers re-elected were secretaries James W. Merritt, Gainesville, Ga., and Joe W. Burton, Nashville, Tenn., and Treasurer Porter Routh, also of Nashville. Routh is executive secretary of the denomination's executive committee.

In the post-election press conference Hobbs spoke freely on such topics as the John Birch Society, President John F. Kennedy, integration and Baptists' reluctance to cooperate with other religious groups.

Dodging any direct statement on the ultra-conservative Birch Society, Hobbs said he refused to identify himself with anything except the church.

"We are having our basic American liberty curbed because of the need to fight our cold war. There is a danger that when we fight one enemy we will create another. We can be our own enemy if we are not careful."

Always bringing his discussion back to the Bible, the new Baptist leader cautioned against haste in trying to solve the current racial strife.

"I want to accomplish the same things that most others want," he said. "It's a matter of how it should be done. If given more time it will be accomplished. To do otherwise is to hurt what has been done.

"Where an explosive situation exists, we should use the same caution that we would use in dealing with explosives."

A native of Alabama, he said the tension created in Birmingham and other major cities in that state by the freedom riders was evidence of peculiar problems inherent in the South.

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"There are conditions in Alabama that are quite different than Oklahoma," he said. "The problems must be worked out on a local level and in the light of Christian doctrine."

On President Kennedy, Hobbs said, "He's my President. He deserves our prayers and support...and needs our prayers more than any president in my lifetime."

He praised Kennedy's stand resisting Roman Catholic pressure for federal aid to parochial schools.

"The president has taken a stand that couldn't be taken better by a Baptist," he said. "It's a position where Baptists have stood for years and we welcome him to this position, and as long as he stands there, I am for him."

Asked about Baptists' refusal to cooperate with other religious groups in ecumenical universal movements, he said: "Baptists are the most broad-minded of all groups because we believe that all groups have a right to their beliefs."

"Southern Baptists have always been cooperative with other denominations where we do not have to sacrifice a principle or basic teaching," he said. "We cooperate in the realm of morals such as the anti-liquor movement. Other denominations often choose not to cooperate with Baptists."

"I am not personally one who believes in ecumenicalism. I do not believe that is the solution," he said. "I do not believe that Southern Baptists are thinking in terms of joining other groups but are ready to sit down and talk with other groups."

Hobbs was born Oct. 24, 1907, at Talladega Springs, Ala. He has been pastor of the huge Oklahoma church for 14 years. A graduate of Howard College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., he has also pastored churches in Alabama, Kentucky and Louisiana. He is the author of numerous books and articles and has served on several denominational boards and agencies.

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Baptist Pulses Vary
At St. Louis Meet

(5-25-61)

By Lloyd Wright
Dallas Regional Editor

ST. LOUIS (BP)--If you could have taken the blood pressure of most of the 5,000 Southern Baptist pastors attending their annual pre-convention conference here, you probably would have recorded some unusual variations.

At one moment they basked in praise for their personal sacrifices and strong defense of religious liberty. At another, they chaffed under stinging criticism for their reluctance to talk with other religious groups.

One speaker gave them tips on how to get higher wages ("Get you a layman who is the highest income man in your church..."). Another assailed their "dearth of doctrinal preaching." Still another urged them to accept desegregation as inevitable.

Through it all, the pastors remained attentive, occasionally exuberant. But they seemed keenly aware of the current world scene which most speakers insisted provided them and all Christians with their greatest challenge "since Jesus Christ walked this earth."

Carl E. Bates, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., was named president of the conference, succeeding Roy McClain, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Other officers for the 1961-62 term are W. Morris Ford, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Longview, Tex., vice-president, and Ray McCollum, pastor of the First Baptist Church, North Hollywood, Calif., secretary-treasurer.

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Most of the pastors' exuberance came during a scathing attack on Roman Catholic efforts to get federal aid for parochial schools. It was made by Glenn Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

Often interrupting Archer's talk with "amens" and loud applause, the pastors gave him a standing ovation when he finished with a pledge for POAU to "never surrender" in its fight for church-state separation.

Archer chided the Catholics for crying "injustice" and "discrimination" when President Kennedy insisted that loans or grants to parochial schools would violate the Constitution.

He warned that the principal danger in proposals now before Congress seems to lie in the attempts to include benefits for sectarian schools in the extension of the Defense Education Act.

"The public will not be duped into believing that we have to subsidize church schools in order to advance the teaching of science, mathematics and foreign language," he said.

"Separation of church and state is now being challenged by a church whose policies are created in Europe, ruled by a European dictator and committed throughout the world to a demand for public revenue to sustain its institutions," he said.

Blood pressure of the pastors probably shot to its highest point when Carlyle Marney, pastor of the Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., ridiculed their strong adherence to independence from ecumenical (universal) movements.

Saying that Baptists fear nothing like criticism, he proceeded to sharply criticize their "attempts to match the Roman Catholic claims to unbroken descent in place of the truly valid spiritual accreditation open to all who receive His spirit," and their tendency to measure success by numbers.

"The proclamation of our Baptist witness by absence from the arena is singularly ineffective," he said. "The refusal to converse is a refusal to admit our own errors of withholding even what we have learned."

"We have as yet little sense of a common task in areas whose tensions sociologically and ethnically we do not know," he said.

A spot survey following his address indicated a wide divergence of opinion.

"I can't agree with him," said one pastor.

"It's something we needed to hear," said another.

"I'll have to think it over awhile," said another puzzled-looking minister, expressing the view of many that Marney's philosophical address may have soared over the heads of a host of preachers.

But there was no mistaking the straight-forward insistence of seminary Professor Dale Moody, Louisville, Ky., that pastors should instill a Christian approach to race relations in their churches.

"One decade from now, you won't know this social order in which we are living. The day must come when church members will accept all mankind as equal in the sight of God if the church is to minister to the people of this earth."

Another professor, J. B. Weatherspoon of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., urged the pastors to saturate their preaching with love.

"To preach without love easily results in 'ding-dong preaching,'" he said. "Every truth preached without love may only burn and blister. In many of our churches there is a dearth of doctrinal preaching. Some pastors let it be crowded out; some do not have a heart for it; and some just don't have it."

Louisiana College President Earl Quinn told the pastors that the gap between their church budgets and receipts is not a financial problem.

"It's a spiritual problem," he said. "Our people have the money. When they say they can't give, they mean that they cannot give and still have the comforts they want."

Defending Baptist seminary professors who have been criticized in some circles recently, Quinn said there is "no justification for raising doubts about all our professors because one man has written or said something we do not understand or has said something with which we do not agree."

Layman J. A. Avary Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., offered tips on improving wages when he told the pastors that they are too often taken for granted.

"If we are a merchant we think when we give the preacher a 10 per cent discount for his family we have made peace with God."

A lot of the preachers, he said, sell their wares below cost. What they should do is get high income laymen interested in their plight.

"When we look to you men to save us from what's happening around us as well as for the salvation of our souls, we have a strange sense of values, and some of us have a guilty conscience about accepting your services at the price we've been paying."

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Ladies Learn Genius
Of Starting Churches

(5-25-61)

By Walker Knight
Atlanta Regional Editor

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The Southern Baptist genius for starting churches threaded itself through a program of international design at sessions of the Woman's Missionary Union here preceding the Southern Baptist Convention.

The tapestry also included an expression on segregation by a Liberian vice-president, a call for "mass bombing" with the Gospel by Southern Baptists' "Baptist Hour" speaker, and a major address by a Canadian Baptist woman.

The more than 3,000 women who attended the sessions of this auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, heard speakers tell of new churches in such scattered areas as Japan, Africa, the Philippines, South America, Hawaii, and the United States.

The WMU, a prayer and fund raising arm for mission causes, helped raise more than \$10 million last year for foreign and home missions, according to Miss Alma Hunt of Birmingham, Ala., executive secretary of the organization.

Re-elected at the sessions were Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Tex., president; Mrs. Robert Fling of Seminole, Okla., recording secretary; and Miss Hunt, executive secretary. The vice-presidents are the presidents of the state WMU organizations.

Disgust With Segregation

The vice-president of tiny Liberia on the West Coast of Africa expressed his hope that all men might enjoy respect, common decency, individual freedom, liberty, and justice.

Declining to comment on the South's segregation problems, W. R. Tolbert did express his feelings on South Africa's apartheid (segregation) policy.

"With feelings of disgust and chagrin I think about the independent nation of South Africa, whose contemptuous, diabolical apartheid policy denies the teeming majority of its depressed and suppressed peoples human respect, common decency, individual freedom, liberty, and justice."

He called the practice a great threat to the peace and security not only of the African continent but to the entire world.

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Tolbert paid tribute to the Christian missions, especially the education brought to his country. Liberia was founded in 1822 when freed United States slaves established a colony. It became a republic in 1847, with a government modeled after the United States. English is the language of the 2½ million people, and Christianity is the most dominant religion.

Tolbert, a Baptist, is a vice-president in the Baptist World Alliance, the international organization of Baptists. The president of Liberia, William Tubman, is a Methodist lay minister.

"Mass Bombing" Call

A call to soften the world's population for the message of Christianity by "mass bombing" was issued by Southern Baptists' Baptist Hour speaker.

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, said, "By means of mass communication we can so preach the Gospel to the multitudes as to make the missionary's work more effective."

Hobbs suggested Baptists add radio, television, and the printing press to their present program.

"The military strategist knows that to have an objective you must first 'soften it up' by mass bombing," he added. "If men use such methods to sell gadgets and to achieve military victory, surely we should do so."

He said such methods would not mean less missionaries and did not call for a reversal of strategy. "An army does not take an objective from the air," he stated. "It weakens the enemy's will to resist, so that the ground troops can achieve the objective. By means of mass communication we can so preach the Gospel to the multitudes as to make the missionary's work more effective."

Canadian Baptist Speaks

"We must turn our opposition into opportunities," Mrs. Edgar Bates of Hamilton, Canada, suggested to the WMU delegates.

Mrs. Bates, a dean of women at McCaster University and chairman of the women's department of the Baptist World Alliance, cited instances of opposition which Baptists face throughout the world.

She spoke in place of John Soren of Rio de Janeiro, president of the Baptist World Alliance, who was unable to attend because of illness.

Journey Of Faith

A Georgia evangelist recounted his journey of faith, a trip that carried him from Orthodox Jewry, to agnosticism, alcoholism, and finally Christianity.

Don Brandeis of Atlanta studied eight years to become a rabbi. Later he entered the Navy, where he was one of five in a crew of 175 who escaped the explosion of a ship carrying nitro-glycerin.

He became an alcoholic and was imprisoned for a minor offense, but there he was converted. He became a Baptist "because every Jew knows that when you speak of baptism you are speaking of immersion."

Churches Everywhere

The emphasis on the local church reflects the basic philosophy of Southern Baptist mission work, Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, reported. He announced that more than 12,000 churches and missions have been started in the past five years.

Other speakers accented his words. A missionary to Brazil, Miss Anna Mae Wollerman of Pine Bluff, Ark., told of penetrating the forest of the Sao Lourenco River Valley where the government's colonization program has moved many families to Jaciara.

"Families cleared forests, built mud huts, prepared the land, and planted crops, and at the same time they helped form the nucleus of a church that now has 112 members, a primary school, and three missions," she said.

Mrs. Howard Olive of Bolivar, Mo., and missionary to the Philippines, said the Aurora Hill Baptist Church in Baguio City started when a man pleaded, "Please sirs, please ma'am, come and start Bible classes and services in our place."

The presence of many dialects made the work difficult. She told of services where interpreters translated into Tagalog, Pangasanan, and Ilocano simultaneously from English.

New England Penetration

Southern Baptist penetration into the northeastern region of the United States has placed a church in every state in the New England area, according to Paul S. James of New York City, pastor of the Manhattan Baptist Church.

The denomination had left this area entirely to other Baptist groups until four years ago, when the Manhattan church was organized. James called the starting of this church "historic, because the world's largest Baptist body had a beachhead within the shadow of the world's tallest building, at the Vortex of the world's largest concentration of cities, and at the gateway to New England."

He cited the chain-like reaction which resulted from the starting of other churches, some of which now have four missions.

Reford announced that "to be as well churching from a Baptist standpoint as the state of North Carolina, the region needs 30,000 churches."

The 75-Year Old Sunbeams

A dramatic presentation utilizing elaborate staging and costumed actors commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Sunbeam Band, a missionary organization of the WMU for children through eight years of age.

Actually the Sunbeams got a head start on Woman's Missionary Union, which wasn't organized until 1888. By 1889 there were 284 bands with almost 10,000 members, and the organization had spread to mission fields in Africa, South America, and the Orient.

Continuing to grow, the Sunbeams now number more than 300,000 boys and girls in over 27,000 bands. The Woman's Missionary Union also sponsors organizations for older groups. These are the Girl's Auxiliary, the Young Women's Auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Society.

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Glorieta Building Destroyed By Fire

(5-25-61)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The original unit of the first hotel constructed at the Southern Baptist Assembly at Glorieta, N.M., was destroyed by fire May 20.

Built in 1953, Texas Hall was completely demolished in an early afternoon fire resulting from a defective heater. The frame stucco building housed 40 rooms with private baths.

R. L. Middleton, director of the business division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, estimated total damage at about \$140,000. He said that the loss was fully insured and will be replaced in the fall of 1961.

Dr. James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer, said, "Even though Texas Hall is gone, we still have approximately the same space we had last summer, since we now have the new Garden Apartments and the two new wings of Texas Hall which were saved. The programs at Glorieta will be as usual with fullest use of all other facilities."

Two newer wings connected to the original Texas Hall unit were not harmed. Parts of the covered walkways between these units were damaged by smoke.

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Firefighting units were readily available from Santa Fe, Pecos, and Glorieta.

The Sunday School Board owns and operates both Glorieta Assembly and a similar assembly at Ridgecrest, N.C.

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Music Ethics Code
Tabled Until 1962

(5-25-61)

By Jim Newton
Texas Baptist Press Representative

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Music directors attending the annual Church Music Conference have closed out heated discussion on a proposed code of ethics for ministers of music by tabling the proposal until the 1962 meeting in San Francisco, Calif.

The code of ethics, prepared by a four-member committee upon the request of the 1959 Church Music Conference meeting in Louisville, Ky., outlined in detail how a minister of music ideally should go about changing churches and working with other church staff members.

For more than 90 minutes the music directors debated the proposal, changed the wording, killed phrases and amended motions.

Climaxing the debate, one unidentified minister of music questioned whether the code of ethics was needed at all, and made a motion that the rules of the previous 1959 meeting be suspended and the committee work junked completely.

"There are only 240 registered conference members attending this meeting," the music director said, "and we are implying in this proposed code of ethics that we are speaking for all the churches, colleges and seminaries in the entire convention."

The chairman of the committee that drafted the measure, Paul McCommon, Atlanta, secretary of the Church Music Department for the Georgia Baptist Convention, said the proposal had been in the mill for two years and that every music director in the 32,000 Baptist churches across the nation had been invited to join the conference and speak up on the issue.

"Are we going to take a stand on what we believe," he asked, "or will we just meet, eat, talk and sing?" He said that if the conference is going to be held, then it ought to do something constructive.

In other action, the group elected T. D. (Jack) Dean, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., president of the organization.

Other new officers include McCommon, secretary-treasurer; and three vice presidents--W. Rudolph Howard, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Murray, Ky.; Maurice Hinson, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Frank Charton, secretary of the Church Music Department for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nashville.

During the conference's opening session, outgoing President Dwight Phillips of Decatur, Ga., recounted the growth of the five-year-old organization and stressed the need for increased use of the ministry of music in Baptist foreign missions services abroad.

As a special feature on the conference program, an eight-year-old child prodigy from Hattiesburg, Miss., Susal Lynn Walters, was presented in a piano recital.

The group granted an honorary life-time membership to Edwin McNeeley, retiring professor of Southwestern Seminary, for "his long and untiring efforts in the field of church music."

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Religious Educator
Man Of Many Parts

By Gomer Lesch
Southern Baptist Church Public Relations Consultant

ST. LOUIS (BP)--The well-adjusted religious education worker learned at his professional meeting here that he needs to be a person of many parts: leader and servant, writer and reader, volunteer and paid worker, adult worker and children's worker, foreign missionary and church minister, individual operator and Sunday School Board co-operator, interpreter and accomplisher.

These opposites on the occupational scale represent some of the apparent contradictions made by speakers at the sixth annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention.

S. C. Ray, minister of education of the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., said, "This is one of the finest meetings we have had. The spirit of those attending was excellent and interest in the program was unusually high." Ray, who presided over this year's meeting, turned the gavel over to incoming president J. P. Edmunds, secretary of the Sunday School Board's Department of Research and Statistics.

Other new officers elected by the association include three vice presidents: for church workers, Russel Noel, minister of education at Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis; for field workers, Harold C. Marsh, Sunday School secretary for the Alabama Baptist State Convention; and for teachers, J. B. Nichols, professor of religious education at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. All are serving their first terms except for Nichols and Miss Gracie Knowlton, secretary-treasurer. Miss Knowlton is professor of secretarial training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Key speakers were Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, who urged the educators to consider the opportunities for their specialties in the foreign mission field, and Charles Roselle of Nashville, student worker for Tennessee, who told the conferees of the responsibility of the home church and college church to the college student.

During the two-day meeting, members of the association heard panel discussions on teamwork between both vocational workers and vocational ministries. At one point during the gathering, special sessions were held for each type of vocational interest.

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Committee Rejects
Private School Aid

(5-25-61)

WASHINGTON (BP)--An attempt to add federal aid for private schools to the Public Education Bill was rejected by the House Education and Labor Committee.

The House committee, headed by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D., N.Y.), approved the administration's public school aid bill, with no provision for private schools. The bill was sent to the floor of the House for action, probably early in June.

An amendment, sponsored by Rep. Herbert Zelenko (D., N.Y.) to provide federal grants for the construction of science, mathematics and foreign language buildings in private schools was ruled out of order as not germane to a bill whose title limits aid to public schools.

Powell indicated, however, that he would favor such private school aid as a part of the National Defense Education Act Extension Bill.

The House bill, as approved by the committee, provides \$2,484,000,000 in grants over a 3-year period to help public elementary and secondary schools build classrooms or pay teachers' salaries or both.

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Committee Approves
Higher Education Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House Committee on Education and Labor approved a bill authorizing assistance to public and other nonprofit institutions of higher education.

The bill (H.R. 7215), introduced by Rep. Edith Green (D., Ore.), provides assistance for construction and scholarships for undergraduate study. This is the final version of the administration's higher education proposal. The committee ordered the bill favorably reported to the House.

The proposal contains a grant and loan program for construction in both public and private colleges. The formula designates 60 per cent of the available funds for grants and 40 per cent for loans.

A provision in the bill states that buildings used for sectarian instruction or places of religious worship, or buildings as a part of a school of divinity are not eligible for grants for construction.

The scholarship program included in the bill makes scholarships available to students attending a college of their choice, public or private, and places the administration of these scholarships directly in the hands of the colleges.

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Wayland Queens Return
From Tour Of Russia

(5-25-61)

PLAINVIEW, Tex. (BP)--The Hutcherson Flying Queens of Wayland Baptist College here, nucleus of the United States national women's basketball team, have returned to their studies after leading their team to an even break in eight games with the Russians on a recent tour of the U.S.S.R.

Playing under new regulations and on "some rather crude playing courts," the United States team won four of eight games played against Russian women's teams and one game in Stockholm, Sweden.

Harley J. Redin, Wayland Baptist College director of athletics, who coached the U.S. team, said the Russians seem determined to excel as top sports teams.

"Their athletes may hold a token job," he said, "but their main duty is developing their athletic skills. In every sport they train all year long, not just in season."

Despite this emphasis on sports, the coach feels that if the United States girls practiced under the same rules used in Russia "we could dominate them as our boys team did 8-0."

The coach and team said they found communism had dealt religion a severe blow in Russia. "Churches in Russia are rapidly becoming only museums," they said. "The Greek Orthodox churches we visited had congregations composed almost entirely of older people, with only a few scattered youths."

They were impressed, however, with the general friendliness of the Russian people.

The Queens earlier this year won their fifth National Women's Amateur Athletic Union tournament championship in the last seven years. They once had a winning streak of more than 100 games.

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Dove Elected President
Of Training Union Heads

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Robert N. Dove, secretary of the Training Union Department for the Baptist General Convention of Washington-Oregon, was elected president of the state Training Union Secretaries Association.

The election was during the annual meeting of state Training Union secretaries just before the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other new officers are H. Walton Connelly Jr. of Virginia and James E. Frost of California, vice presidents.

During a special auxiliary session Tom Dempsey, associate secretary of the Texas Baptist Training Union Department, was elected president of union secretaries.

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Folks and facts.....

(5-25-61)

.....Robert L. Dorrill of the Dallas Morning News will become research analyst in the Research and Statistics Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville June 15. A graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas with the B.B.A. and M.S. degrees, Dorrill has been in market and production research with the Dallas News since 1958. (BP)

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