

1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

FOR RELEASE: 9:45 A. M.  
Friday, May 26, 1961

Edwin F. Perry is pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Presented Before

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, MAY 26, 1961

by Edwin F. Perry

Chairman, Education Commission

It is a mark of rare courage for one to attempt to present the work of the Education Commission to the Southern Baptist Convention in twelve minutes. The work of the Education Commission is as broad in scope as the interest and responsibility of Southern Baptists for Christian education beyond the high school level. Manifestly the program which involves a service relationship with six theological seminaries, a seminary for Negroes jointly sponsored with the National Baptist Convention, one school of missions and social work, thirty-one senior colleges, twenty junior colleges, seven academies and five Bible schools is one to demand our attention and command our energetic support.

In addition to the listing just made there are eight new Baptist colleges in various stages of planning or building. Other areas are considering the founding of new colleges.

Education is expensive and education is valuable. Let us first say a word concerning expense.

In today's market higher education has undergone severe inflation. Costs are staggering when compared with the expenses of similar schools a generation ago. This is the case of schools with large endowments and tax fund resources. It is even more so of private schools such as those supported by our denomination. With a firm determination to upgrade the great majority of schools now supported by Southern Baptists, there is an additional cost to which our people are committing themselves in the founding of new colleges. Some are anxious lest we over-extend our financial abilities in the expanding of present schools and the beginning of new ones. Others are equally convinced that we have no alternative to such expansion if we are to provide the educational opportunities for our youth of today and tomorrow.

Now for a word concerning the fact that education is valuable. Southern Baptists respect consecrated intelligence and have never looked upon ignorance as a virtue. Southern Baptists have sought in the past to provide educational opportunities for a large segment of our leadership potential. We will certainly do no less in the future. Our pastors, missionaries, other Christian workers at home and abroad, and a great host of our lay leadership in local churches give convincing testimony to the vital part Baptist schools, colleges and seminaries have had in their preparation for life commitment. We cannot wisely leave to state, municipal, or other denominational schools the responsibility of educating our leadership for the future. This is distinctly a necessary work of our own denomination. It is a necessary work to do and it is equally necessary that it be done well.

A real dilemma confronts us. While believing in the value and urgency of Christian higher education and while spending more dollars year by year upon such provisions, Southern Baptists are finding that we are providing for a smaller and smaller percentage annually of our own young people in our schools and colleges.

The dilemma is so sharp and distressing in some areas that retrenchment programs are under way. In other sections a call to advance is heard. But no where is there found adequate funds for the meeting of the total Baptist educational needs.

We do not, however, yield to despair. On the contrary it is precisely because of this sharp dilemma before us that we value Christian higher education more.

The Education Commission is essentially a service group addressing itself specifically to the real needs of the administrators, trustees, faculty and staff of the several schools and colleges and seminaries supported by our Convention. Yet, the work of the Commission also involves certain initiatory activities. Among our duties are the gathering and the dissimulation of relevant materials; the making and charting of surveys; advising and assisting college groups and state convention groups in

specialized programs.

In addition, the Education Commission diligently seeks to maintain and to utilize a placement service for faculty members for all schools, colleges and seminaries. The Commission seeks to aid in the recruitment of students for Baptist schools, especially those students whose abilities and dedication will most fittingly qualify them for service to their Lord and their denomination in the years ahead.

The Commission's publications - Career News, The Educator, Southern Baptist Campus Directory, and numerous tracts, greatly assist in pinpointing news and information of our Southern Baptist education program to prospective students, faculty and related personnel. A file of 1500 teacher registrants is maintained in our Nashville office. Two hundred new registrants were added in 1960. Several hundred requests for teachers were processed.

While our need for money, increased facilities and capable students is ever before us, the Education Commission is urgently concerned about the greatest problem confronting our school men. That problem is the desperate shortage of qualified teachers who have an excellence of academic training and an adequacy of Christian dedication.

We must succeed in this broad area of helping to provide, in all the ways God will direct us, faculty recruitment sufficient to meet the needs of all our schools and colleges. This hope on our part cannot be fulfilled without a more aggressive and a more adequate program of graduate study in all the major fields of arts and sciences. Somehow we must make better provisions now for the advanced education of those who are to man our classrooms in the years ahead. It is unthinkable that we should continue to strive for excellence in Christian education and not to make adequate provisions for those who will lead in this attainment.

From the recruiting of the high school graduate for the Baptist college campus to the graduating of Ph.D.'s in all major fields of human knowledge the responsibility of Southern Baptists extends. We pray that the success of our efforts shall become increasingly evident in the classrooms of our schools, colleges and seminaries across the land. Thereby we shall be fulfilling more nobly God's will for us in this day and generation.

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND EDUCATION  
FOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

(A draft by C. Emanuel Carlson)

1. WHEREAS our understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ has led us to place strong emphasis on (a) the voluntary quality of religious faith and participation, (b) the importance of freedom for the church, (c) the rights of all men to be free from the coercion of law in matters of religious practice and support;

2. WHEREAS the instructions which aim at the parson's ultimate commitment are properly the responsibility of the family and the church agencies;

3. WHEREAS we have consistently sought the development of communities which are rich in free facilities for unbiased and unhampered growth through learning the cultural, scientific, and technological skills of society;

4. WHEREAS we are persuaded that the goals of human wellbeing, productivity, and freedom have been and are well served by a strong program of public instruction which administered by elected community leaders and supported by the government's power of taxation;

5. WHEREAS our modern age, having become scientific and technological in unprecedented manner, requires new and higher levels of personal competence of all people which can be attained only by the enlargement of the share of the nation's productive effort which is given to the education of the next generation;

6. WHEREAS a communist pattern has developed in the world which by imposing a state monopoly on education denies the churches the freedom which they need for the proper spiritual nurture of the children;

7. WHEREAS the Roman Catholic leadership in our own country are currently in an aggressive campaign to press our Federal Government into a program of tax support for church operated schools; and

8. WHEREAS strong propaganda movements have developed in our country which endanger our free way of life by attacking our public schools and the free institutions of democracy;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, assembled in St. Louis, Missouri, May, 1961, that:

I. We will exercise a diligent stewardship of influence in behalf of a good program of public instruction, therefore and accordingly

1. We urge our people to give sacrificial support to the agencies of public instruction by (a) assisting in such legislation as may be needed for adequate financial strength, (b) making their services available as teachers and administrators, as board members and civic supporters, and as parental friends and champions of the cause of free learning, doing these things with conscious stewardship of their influence under God;

2. In this same stewardship we urge upon all who either lead or support the cause of public instruction to give due care to the transmission of the noblest moral and spiritual values of our society without equating those with religion nor with divine imperatives;

3. And we urge all our people to communicate with public leaders from the President of the United States to the local school board our Baptist concern that every effort shall be made to keep church and state separate in their respective educational programs, in recognition of the distinctions which must be made between the objectives, the sources of support, the kind of administrative organization and control, and the legal requirements which are possible and appropriate to the two sets of institutions.

II. We determine to renew and strengthen our church-related instructional efforts to serve the religious needs of the people of our generation, for which purpose

1. We urge that the distribution of time between the two sets of institutions be re-thought by educational leaders with a view to the maximum contribution to the person's growth and commitment, and in search of psychologically sound distributions of instructional periods.

(more)

2. We also urge that the teachers and the administrators of the two parallel programs of instruction try to keep an awareness of the experiences which the pupil is having in the other program, to the end that institutional separation may not produce needless inner conflict or confusion, but that the various experiences may contribute to a wholeness of personality which shall be the fulfillment of God's purpose in that life.

3. And we encourage both sets of institutions to find proper opportunities in the context of their curricula and instructional materials for a larger emphasis on the basis and meaning of religious freedom, both at the level of personal commitment and response and at the level of civic meaning and practice.

III. In the light of the foregoing considerations and aspirations we go on record as

1. Commending President Kennedy for his frequently expressed support of the constitutional principles of American government which establish separation of church and state, and for his recommendations that these principles be respected in legislative proposals;
2. Expressing opposition to the giving of tax aid, either as grants or as loans, to elementary or secondary sectarian or church-related schools;
3. Desiring all Baptist channels and institutions to renew their efforts toward a public articulation of the meaning of our movement for current church-state relations by means of communication, policies, and attitudes.

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For Baptist Editors

Pictures of the Sunbeam 75th Anniversary Pageant are available for purchase. Since these were made Saturday prior to Carl Jones' arrival, they are available through a St. Louis commercial photographer.

If you believe you would be interested in one, ask the receptionist to let you see the sample pictures, of which there are seven. Point out to her the ones you want, and she will write this information on a paper to give the local photographer.

Prints will be made available before you leave. Usual charge.

Cutlines will be available later.

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WEDNESDAY AMs  
Church Music Conference  
Jim Newton

ST. LOUIS, May 23---Church musicians elected T. D. Dean of Fort Worth, Tex., president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at the organization's closing session here Tuesday.

Dean, professor of sacred music at Southwestern Theological Seminary, succeeds Dwight Phillips of Decatur, Ga.

Other offices filled were secretary-treasurer, Paul McCommon of Atlanta, secretary of the church music department for Georgia Baptists, and vice president--W. Rudolph Howard of Murray, Ky., minister of music at First Baptist Church; Maurice Hinson of Louisville, Ky., professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Frank Charton of Nashville, secretary of the church music department for Tennessee Baptists.

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By Lloyd Wright  
Dallas Regional Editor

ST. LOUIS, May 23--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 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.

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.

q 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," he said, "you won't know this social order in which we are now 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, 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 the 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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WEDNESDAY AMs  
SBC Roundup  
Ray Jennings

ST. LOUIS, May 23---The 104th session of the Southern Baptist Convention opened quietly Tuesday night before a sparse crowd of less than 10,000 messengers, but with promises of more lively moments before it gets much older.

One of the features of the session in Kiel Auditorium was the keynote address by A. B. Van Arsdale, a Decatur, Ala., pastor who substituted for Billy Graham.

The tempo is expected to pick up Wednesday morning with the presentation of the Executive Committee's report. It contains several recommendations which could prove controversial.

One recommendation--the deletion of a part of the convention constitution which allows boards to keep certain members in service because of their peculiar talents--got opposition at an Executive Committee meeting Tuesday.

Wallace Bassett of Dallas, president of the Annuity Board for 43 years and one of the recommendation's most vocal critics, predicted the convention wouldn't approve it. He promised to oppose the recommendation when it is offered.

A recommendation that the Brotherhood Commission serve as liaison between the convention and Boy Scouts of America could also get opposition.

Some messengers claimed privately before the convention session that passage of this recommendation would create competition for Royal Ambassadors, a boys' organization the Brotherhood Commission already services. The Executive Committee denies it.

Another issue, a request to change the name of the Southern Baptist Convention, got sidetracked at least temporarily Tuesday when the Executive Committee refused to give it serious consideration.

However, any messenger may bring up the matter at any convention business session.

In other action, the committee:

Announced plans to buy property a mile north of its present location in Nashville, Tenn., as the site for a new home. The building would also contain offices of the Education Commission, the Christian Life Commission, and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Approved an enabling act permitting ministers of education, music, and administration to Southern Baptist churches and agencies to qualify for Social Security coverage; and

Approved several program structural proposals for convention commissions and agencies.

Four convention auxiliary groups wound up two-day sessions Tuesday with the election of officers.

Dr. Carl Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., was named president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; Dr. W. Morris Ford, First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, vice-president, and Ray McCollum, First Southern Baptist Church, North Hollywood, Calif., secretary-treasurer.

Delegates to the Woman's Missionary Union Convention re-elected Mrs. R. L. Mathis of Waco, Texas, president; Mrs. Robert Fling of Seminole, Okla., recording secretary, and Miss Alma Hunt, Birmingham, Ala., executive secretary.

At the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, J. P. Edmunds of Nashville, was chosen president. New vice-presidents are Russel Noel of St. Louis, Harold Marsh of Montgomery, Ala., and J. B. Nichols of Mill Valley, Calif.