

May 5, 1962

**Executive Committee  
Has 12 Proposals**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The budget for 1963, a new procedure for amending the Constitution of the Convention, and removing exceptions for rotating "local board" members are among the dozen or more recommendations from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here.

They will go before the 1962 session of the Convention at San Francisco next month for adoption.

Other recommendations make changes in technical wording to bring the Constitution and bylaws into closer harmony with each other, provide for representation of Indiana Baptists on several SBC agencies and call for printed ballots to be used by messengers in voting.

Executive Secretary Porter Routh of Nashville said the total proposed 1963 budget for SBC agencies is \$19,792,500. This is the basic amount needed to meet operating and capital needs. Any funds received beyond this sum would go to foreign and home missionary advance only.

The proposed 1963 budget compares with the grand total 1962 budget of \$19,013,500.

The Executive Committee recommends the Convention adopt a procedure for amending its Constitution so that subsequent amendments must be approved at two successive Conventions.

Presently, amendments may be presented at one session, without a vote, and voted on at the following year's session.

Another recommendation calls for eliminating the exception which has been granted to "local board members" of the SBC agencies. Presently, agencies may retain "any local member whose technical service...in such matters as medical, legal, and financial operations seems to make it advisable that he be continued as a board member."

"Local members" live in the city, or within a short distance, of the agency on whose board they serve. Those covered by present exemption have not had to rotate off the boards periodically as have other members of the agencies.

To make the adjustment easier, the recommendation is that it be implemented gradually over two years and take full effect by time of the 1964 Convention.

Indiana Baptists reported more than 25,000 members of affiliated churches, which has made them eligible to have representatives on all agencies whose charters permit.

Printed ballots for the messengers (elected by churches to vote on Convention affairs) would be provided when they register their attendance at the Convention. A count of important votes, such as the election of officers, would be announced only if a majority of messengers requested it, if the recommendation passes. Vote counts are not presently reported, only the outcome.

The Executive Committee recommended that a proposed week on the Convention calendar to promote the Cooperative Program be "postponed for the time being." The Cooperative Program is the financial plan to support state and nationwide Baptist work.

Other ways in which the Cooperative Program may be promoted are listed.

In continuing to prepare an Organization Manual of SBC Agencies, the Executive Committee will present for adoption the program descriptions of two more agencies--the Southern Baptist Foundation and Southern Baptist Hospitals.

Gifts Still Run  
More Than In 1961

NASHVILLE (BP)--Cooperative Program receipts at the Southern Baptist Convention treasurer's office here are running nearly half a million dollars ahead of 1961 receipts for a four-month span.

Treasurer Porter Routh of Nashville announced January through April, 1962 receipts of \$6,203,249, up \$437,378 over the same four calendar months last year.

April receipts themselves amounted to \$1,562,654 compared with \$1,415,293 in March, 1962, and \$1,499,746 in April, 1961.

Despite this continued increase in dollars, the percentage of increase declined. At the end of March, 1962, Cooperative Program receipts for the SBC agencies were 9.7 per cent ahead of 1961's first quarter. At the close of April, they were running only 8.26 per cent ahead.

Designations showed increase both in dollar amounts and in percentages of increase. April's income of \$1,307,982 for SBC agencies ran the total for 1962 to date to \$10,391,847, up 12.79 per cent over the January-April period for 1961.

At the end of March, comparative figures showed a 12.02 per cent rate of increase from 1961 to 1962.

Receipts for both funds totalled \$16,595,097 on April 30. This is 11.05 per cent above the collections on April 30, 1961.

Disbursements for the month of April included \$716,633 through the Cooperative Program to the Foreign Mission Board, plus \$587,684 by designations. The 1962 total thus far through both categories for the board is \$12.4 million.

The Home Mission Board received \$252,056 through the Cooperative Program and \$716,490 by designations, reflecting Annie Armstrong Offering collections. Its sum thus far in 1962: \$1,797,070.

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary got \$104,854 from the Cooperative Program and another \$1419 by special designation to bring its four-month total to \$419,817, third highest among SBC agencies.

Collections reported by Treasurer Routh are those forwarded from state Baptist convention treasurers to the SBC. Not included are the much larger sums kept for local church operations and for state convention uses.

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Seminary Commission  
Elects New Chairman

(5-5-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Troy D. Woodbury, Nashville businessman, has been elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Commission on American Baptist Theological Seminary here.

The commission, currently operating without an executive secretary, asked the SBC Education Commission to permit its executive secretary, Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, to continue to serve as acting executive of the Seminary Commission.

The commission represents Southern Baptists' interests in the joint operation of the local seminary with the National (Negro) Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc.

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Virginia Votes 1963  
Fund Distribution

RICHMOND (BP)--The general board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia voted here to recommend a 1963 budget of \$3-1/2 million to the general association in its meeting in November.

Executive Secretary Lucius M. Polhill of Richmond said the Cooperative Program budget will be divided between state and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

The state will retain \$2,240,000 and will forward \$1,260,000 to the Southern Baptist Convention treasurer.

He said gifts now are running about seven per cent higher than for the previous year. However, the 1963 budget represents a slight decrease from the 1962 budget of \$3,633,000. This reduction became necessary because the budget goal had been increased yearly at a faster rate than actual collections had increased.

The Virginia general board also voted to aid in the resettlement of Cuban refugees, cooperating with the SBC Home Mission Board in this project. Resettlement will be the responsibility of local Baptist churches, but a committee of the state organization will work with the churches on the refugee relocation.

Polhill announced that Virginia Baptist churches are now sending 12.38 per cent of their local collections to the state treasurer through the Cooperative Program. This is the first time that the amount has exceeded 12 per cent in a number of years, he added.

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Folks and Facts.....

(5-5-62)

.....Former President Harry S. Truman of Independence, Mo., will speak at a retirement dinner May 28 in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Pope Binns of Liberty, Mo. The dinner will be given by the board of trustees of William Jewell College (Baptist) for Binns, who is leaving July 1 after 19 years as president. (BP)

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Fire Disrupts Mobile  
Church Activities

(5-5-62)

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--Fire and smoke damage will disrupt worship services at Dauphin Way Baptist Church here for about a month. The church, with 6346 members, is the largest Baptist church in Alabama and is ninth largest of those affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Fire broke out about 6 P.M., only a short time before revival services were to begin at the church under the leadership of Roy O. McClain, pastor of Atlanta's First Baptist Church.

Mobile's fire chief reported that the fire started on a small stage in the social hall from a short-circuit in an amplifier. Ten trucks and seven companies of fire-fighters responded to the blaze.

Although the fire was under control within less than an hour considerable smoke and water damage was done to a wide area of the church, including its auditorium.

The revival moved to Dauphin Way Methodist Church for its remaining services.

Pastor Harold W. Seever was not available for comment. Minister of Education Dennis Conniff said damage was not immediately estimated. He said churches of other denominations had offered their facilities for use until repairs can be made.

Three firemen were hospitalized as a result of fighting the fire. One was cut; two were overcome by smoke.

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