

September 23, 1962

Reporter Says Kennedy
Caught In Tug-Of-War

NASHVILLE (BP)--The President has been caught in the middle of a tug of war between the Catholic bishops and the Protestant separatists, a religion reporter for the New York Times said here.

This, he added, has John F. Kennedy's political tacticians "undoubtedly worried."

The speaker was John Wicklein, who won a Freedoms Foundation Award for his coverage for the Times of the religious issue in the 1960 Presidential election campaigns.

"For the pragmatists among them (the tacticians), if not indeed for the philosophers," Wicklein continued, "the better course must seem to be: keep pulling with the separatists. They are aware that the cultural ratio of Protestant voters to Catholic in 1964 will still be about 3 to 1, and that religious partisanship has not died.

"To keep or gain one Catholic vote by outright support of a distinctly Catholic position that is opposed by Protestants will mean the loss of three Protestant votes."

Addressing the Southern Baptist Communications Conference here on the "continuing religious issue," Wicklein made these other observations:

"In a sense, today, the Catholic Church is (*italics*) standing for election...asking in effect to be made a partner with the Federal Government in educating the nation's school children."

"Indications are that if Kennedy were to do no more than maintain his standing with those who voted for him last time, the religious equation should be even more in his favor in 1964."

"I think it is likely that the Republicans will nominate a Catholic for the vice-presidential slot when they go in against Kennedy again."

"Kennedy became President in spite of his religion, not because of it....The election (of 1960) did not hinge on the Roman Catholic Church but on the two men involved."

"It was evident many more Protestants voted against Kennedy because of his religion than Catholics voted for him because he was a coreligionist."

"Only 51 per cent of the Catholics voted for Stevenson (Adlai Stevenson, the previous Democratic Party candidate for President); three-fourths of them voted for Kennedy."

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2 Films, Filmstrip
For 1964 Being Made

(9-23-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Two Southern Baptist Convention agencies have under development films and filmstrips which portray the Baptist struggle "for liberty and light" in North America, a denominational executive said here to the SBC Executive Committee.

According to Courts Redford of Atlanta, the Radio and Television Commission "reported that for months it has had under way the development of three films which can be used separately in briefer showings, or which can be combined into one continuous presentation on the general theme 'For Liberty and Light.'"

This is the theme of the 1964 climaxing year of the Baptist Jubilee Advance. The "Jubilee" commemorates 150 years of Baptist work organized on a national scale in North America.

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Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, said the Radio and TV Commission films will be based on the life and message of the apostle Paul.

They will emphasize "the meaningful Christian concepts which he advocated and which in turn have helped produce religious freedom as the Christian message and influence flowed westward."

He said the Sunday School Board is developing a film and a filmstrip.

Research has led Broadman Films, an arm of the board, to consider a dramatic presentation of John Leland's life as the best approach, Redford noted. The Baptist Leland (1754-1841), "as much as any other person, portrays the struggles and victories related to the historic crusade for the freedom of the soul," he added.

"A filmstrip depicting brief epochs in our Baptist heritage for showing in local churches is being developed now by Broadman Films in conference with the Historical Commission," a third agency, according to Redford.

The Radio-TV agency's films would first be used on television, then would be available through Baptist Book Stores for use in the 32,500 Southern Baptist churches.

Executive secretaries of the Foreign Mission, Home Mission and Sunday School Boards, and of the Radio-TV Commission were asked to explore the idea of producing films for the 1964 jubilee year.

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70 Per Cent Sum Set
On 1963 Capital Needs

(9-23-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention agencies have been requested by the Executive Committee not to anticipate more than 70 per cent of their 1963 capital needs budget. They will need to wait and see how Cooperative Program funds come in next year, a finance officer said.

John H. Williams of Nashville, financial planning secretary for the Executive Committee, said this is the forecast for 1962 Convention support: The agencies will receive (1) all their operating funds, (2) the portion of 1961 capital needs which could not be paid last year and (3) about 80 per cent of their 1962 capital needs budgets.

The estimated 20 per cent, or whatever actually remains unpaid, of the capital needs budget for 1962 will be taken care of in 1963 before new budgeted items are supported. However, operating expenses are always met--as a Convention policy--before meeting the full amount on capital needs budgets.

The capital needs budget total for 1961 for SDC agencies was \$4,575,000. For 1962, it is \$5,075,000, and for 1963, the Convention approved \$5,575,000--all from Cooperative Program receipts.

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New Commission Given
\$50,000 For 1962 Needs

(9-23-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The sum of \$50,000 has been turned over to the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention to meet operating needs this year.

The money comes from the Convention operating reserve, on approval of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Stewardship Commission's request to get Cooperative Program allocations starting in 1964 will be taken up at the February, 1963 meeting of the Executive Committee. It is at this meeting the 1964 Convention budget will be drawn up for Convention adoption.

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Introductory Note to Editors: We have kept this story short since congressional action was almost certain before any weekly paper could print it. You may want to incorporate this into the story describing the action congress took.-- (BP)

Violation Feared
In College Bill

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee notified individual senators and congressmen it feared a "definite violation" of church-state separation was involved in a House-Senate compromise bill on aid to higher education.

The bill was being considered at the time the Executive Committee took its stand.

The text of the Executive Committee message:

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, representing ad-interim a convention of ten million members in all fifty states, in regular session at Nashville, Tennessee, September 19, 1962, has received reports regarding the plans of the Congressional Joint Conference Committee for aid to higher education.

In the opinion of the Executive Committee this proposed legislation merits more careful consideration because:

(1) The proposed public grants to sectarian as well as to public colleges is a further erosion of an important public policy and basic constitutional provision in American life. The fact that these are specific purpose grants does not relieve this evaluation.

(2) The loan of public funds to private institutions with authority to give away 20 per cent of those funds as scholarships represents an inappropriate transfer of administrative functions to private or church agencies.

We fear that this legislation involves a definite violation of the principle of the separation of church and state. We request, therefore, that action on this bill be delayed until the church-state problems are eliminated.

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Southern Baptists Open
Work In Atlantic City

(9-23-62)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (BP)--Southern Baptists who attend the denomination's 1964 Convention in Atlantic City will find one of their churches has preceded them.

The first meeting of the Atlantic Baptist Chapel was held in the recreation hall of a resort motel in one of the city's suburbs.

The meeting had been planned for the home of George Bagwell, Sunday school superintendent, but so many responded to the announcement other quarters were found.

The chapel is sponsored by the Delaware Valley Baptist Church at Levittown, one of five Southern Baptist churches in the state. There are four other chapels. Southern Baptists began work in New Jersey in 1957.

Elmer Sizemore of Fort Lee, N. J., area missionary for the Northeastern states for the denomination's Home Mission Board, is helping to guide the development of the new work.

He asked anyone who knows of Southern Baptists in the area to send their names to George Bagwell, 635 Oakhurst Ave., Absecon, N. J.

A. B. Cash of Atlanta, secretary of the pioneer missions department of the Home Mission Board, attended the initial meeting of the chapel. He said New Jersey had the greatest density of population of any state, 300 per square mile.

"In Georgia we have a Baptist church for every 750 people," he said. "By the same ratio, we would need one for every mile in New Jersey."

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Baptist Hospital
In Muskogee Closes

MUSKOGEE (BP)--Oklahoma Baptist Hospital in Muskogee has closed permanently after the City of Muskogee declined to accept it as a gift from Baptists. The institution, Oklahoma Baptists' oldest hospital, had been in continuous operation since 1909.

Muskogee City Council passed a resolution asking the closing of the hospital be delayed. The hospital's board of governors then voted to recommend to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma the entire hospital facility be given to the City of Muskogee if it would assume the \$175,000 operating deficit and agree to maintain it as a hospital for at least five years.

With advice of a hospital consultant, Muskogee officials turned down the offer, deciding instead to enlarge the city-owned General Hospital.

The 53-year-old hospital has been beset with financial problems in recent years. Baptists considered closing the institution nine years ago when Muskogee built a new hospital.

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Engineers To Assist
Capital Need Survey

(9-23-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Professional engineers will be employed to assist in a study of capital needs of Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The Executive Committee of the SBC authorized their employment.

Porter Routh, Nashville, committee executive secretary, said the engineers will examine buildings and property at the agencies. They will consider two things: (1) how the space is used, and (2) what may be needed as repairs or replacement.

The survey will help the Executive Committee to allocate capital needs during a four-year cycle beginning in 1964, Routh said.

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Folks and Facts.....

(9-23-62)

.....Stetson University Athletic Director W. C. "Brady" Cowell has been placed in the hall of fame by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. It is the highest honor the association bestows. Cowell is honored as a "contributor to the sport of football and to athletics in general," with outstanding achievements through the years of his career. Stetson, a Baptist school, is located in DeLand, Fla. (BP)

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.....Two estates turned over to the North Carolina Baptist Foundation almost double the agency's assets. The estate of R. Sterling Graves of Yanceyville, N. C., is valued at over \$400,000 and stipulates it be used for a home for the aged. The \$100,000 estate of a Wilson, H. C., resident goes to churches and Baptist institutions in the state. (BP)

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Baptist Position Hit
During House Debate

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptists and others who opposed the higher education bill on the ground of separation of church and state were taken to task by Rep. Edith Green (D., Ore.) on the floor of the House of Representatives.

The House was debating a Senate-House compromise bill that provided for special purpose grants to church-related colleges for constructing libraries, science facilities and engineering buildings. The bill also contained a provision for student loans and scholarships.

By a vote of 214-186 the House recommitted the bill to its education and labor committee with instruction to eliminate the student loan provisions. Supporters of the bill are reported to have said that this action probably killed any chance of a major education bill this year.

During the two days between the surprise report of the conference committee and the action by the House, intense opposition to the bill developed by the National Education Association and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Both bodies sent telegrams to every member of Congress protesting the inclusion of church-related colleges in the federal aid program.

Mrs. Green, in a dramatic effort to play down the "religious issue" in the bill as mere sectarian controversy, claimed that it has been the policy of the United States to give grants to church-related colleges for 100 years. She then read what she said is "a partial list of Baptist colleges which have received both loans and grants" in recent years. The list included 30 colleges in 28 states.

During her attack on the Baptists, Mrs. Green was asked by Rep. Thomas B. Curtis (R., Mo.) to clarify the nature of these aids to the Baptist schools. He asked: "Are those grants or are they actual contracts for services?"

Mrs. Green replied, "There are loans and grants and contracts. There are several areas where there are unrestricted grants."

In the list read by Mrs. Green, however, there was no way to distinguish between dormitory housing loans, student loan funds, research grants or other aids made available to these Baptist schools.

Continuing her attack, Mrs. Green said "that any individual member of this Congress or any organization that opposes this legislation on the religious issue should in good faith either introduce a bill or support legislation which would repeal the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency and the National Defense Education Act; yes, and even the Hill-Burton funds."

Her reason was that "in all these areas funds have been given to private and public colleges alike."

In contrast to the position taken by the National Education Association and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Anthony J. Celebrezze, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, sent the members of Congress a lengthy telegram urging support of the higher education bill.

He was challenged by members of the House as violating a federal law that forbids the use of government money for lobbying.

Celebrezze accepted full personal responsibility for his action and said, "I have issued specific instructions that this procedure shall not be repeated."

Cutlines

September 23, 1962

CORNERSTONE--The cornerstone for the new Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville was put into place during the meeting of the SBC Executive Committee. Ceremony participants, from left, were Herschel H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City, SBC president; Porter Routh, Nashville, Executive Committee executive secretary, and John H. Haldeman, Miami, chairman of the Executive Committee. Still under construction, the new building will be entered early next year, perhaps in time for the February meeting of the Executive Committee. The scripture inscribed is I Cor. 3:11. (BP) Photo.