

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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September 25, 1962

### Baptists Blamed For College Aid Defeat

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Southern Baptists, along with two major national education organizations, were heavily censured by the Washington Post, prominent daily newspaper here, for their part in the defeat of the higher education bill in the House of Representatives.

The paper said in its lead editorial Sept. 23, "If it is fair to charge Catholics in Congress with having prevented Federal aid to elementary schools and high schools in the United States, it is no less fair to charge Protestants, the Southern Baptist Convention in particular, with having blocked Federal aid to colleges."

The compromise higher education bill would have provided grants for libraries, science buildings and engineering facilities to both public, private and sectarian colleges. It provided for a student loan program that would have made 20 per cent of the funds available to needy students as "non-reimbursible loans." It also authorized aid to develop public community junior colleges.

The House of Representatives voted 214-186 to recommit the bill to its Education and Labor Committee with instructions to eliminate the student loan program. This action killed the bill, unless the Senate-House conference committee reaches new compromises.

The Washington Post editorial said that the National Education Association "brought its representatives from all over the country to lobby on the Hill for recommitment. We think it will rue its narrowness and shortsightedness."

Another organization, The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, was likewise attacked by the editorial for opposing Federal grants to sectarian colleges. The PTA, the editorial said, "was similarly unable to see beyond the tip of its own snub nose."

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention unanimously passed a resolution at its regular session in Nashville, Tenn., asking "that action on this bill be delayed until the church-state problems are eliminated."

The Executive Committee said "we fear that this legislation involves a definite violation of the principle of separation of church and state." It declared that "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," the resolution said.

The Southern Baptist action was transmitted by telegram to every Member of Congress by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Washington Post, which has long opposed Federal aid to parochial schools, said that "we see no constitutional or policy objection to Federal financial aid at the college level" to colleges that may be church-related.

The reasons the Washington Post gave for opposing Federal aid to parochial schools are (1) because these schools are devoted to religious instruction, (2) because school attendance at this level is compulsory, and (3) because public schools available to all are the traditional American instruments of primary and secondary education.

The Washington Post bemoaned the long-range effect of the defeat of the college bill on federal aid to all education. It said, "So much inflexibility, so many prejudices and bitternesses, so stubborn an adherence to special interest in the name of principle, were involved in the vote that the chances of any Federal aid to education, now or in the future, seem very dim indeed."

Hays Predicts Racial  
Justice In Mississippi

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A special assistant to President Kennedy and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention stepped into the Mississippi racial controversy over admission of a Negro student in the University of Mississippi.

Reading from a prepared statement Brooks Hays said, "I will make a prophecy.... The people of Mississippi will conclude finally that this issue can be resolved on no other basis than the admission of the Negro student to the University."

"I will make another prediction," he continued. "When this occurs, the conscience of Mississippi will rest easier."

Hays made his statement during a speech before the Washington Ministerial Association of the National Capital Area.

A federal court has ordered officials of the University of Mississippi to admit James H. Meredith, Negro, as a student. The governor of the State, Ross R. Barnett, has said that he would go to jail before complying with the court order.

The University's trustees made the governor registrar. He then refused to admit Meredith. United States Justice Department officials, however, are continuing their efforts to force compliance with the court order.

The former Southern Baptist Convention leader said that when the Negro student is admitted to the University of Mississippi an injustice will be removed. "The achieving of justice, no matter what the judicial or political procedures, will be a gain for that distinguished institution," he said.

The President's special assistant pointed to commitments made by Robert E. Lee to be kind to the Negroes if the Southern states were readmitted to the Union as equals. On the whole the South has lived up to this pledge, he said.

"Now we recognize that to be kind requires more than in 1865," he continued. "It is not kindness as Robert E. Lee envisaged it to deny to the Negroes equal treatment as defined by the Courts or to deprive them of participation as our fellow Americans in the educational and political life of the times. The paternal kindness of the 19th Century is not adequate for the dynamic 20th."

Hays acknowledged in his statement that what he was making would not be a popular position among southerners. He said that to some it might mean that "I have abandoned the role of reconciliation - a cause I have tried to serve."

"In answer," Hays said, "I would only say that the basis of all mediation is moral soundness, and the course I am suggesting is the wisest and best way to serve our beloved Southland. We cannot prevail on any other basis."

Although stating that his speech had not been cleared by President Kennedy, Hays said "I believe that my President will approve every word I have said. In fact, I have taken steps to lead me to believe that he will approve."

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Congress Like Lazarus

(9-25-62)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- President Kennedy at his press conference compared Congress to the Biblical character Lazarus who was raised from the dead.

A reporter asked about the slow progress of the President's legislative program in Congress.

He replied, "This Congress is ending. I think it is somewhat like Lazarus. It has revived. It is moving and we are going to see the session end, in my opinion, with the passage of a good trade bill, with a tax bill which will come out of the conference, I hope a higher education bill, and a good many other bills which two months ago seemed to be in the deep-freeze."

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College Aid Fight  
Continues In Congress

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Efforts to pass legislation for aid to higher education have not died in the Congress. Even though the House killed the compromise proposal from the Senate-House conference committee, there are still those who are seeking a new compromise bill.

The higher education bill that was defeated provided special purpose grants to both public, private and church-related colleges. The funds would help build libraries, science and engineering facilities. Also included were funds for student loans and scholarships and for community junior colleges.

The House sent the measure back to committee with instructions to eliminate the student aid feature.

Although the House defeated the bill on the ground that it objected to student scholarships, it is common knowledge around Capitol Hill that the religious issue of public aid to church colleges was a major factor in the decision.

In an exchange between Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) and Sen. Jacob Javits (R., N.Y.) on the Senate floor it was revealed that last minute efforts are being made to get the Senate and House conferees back together again. From what was said, and from other indications on the Hill, it appears improbable that a new compromise can be reached before the 87th Congress adjourns.

Sen. Morse appealed to the New York Senator to join him in support of a bill that would provide for help to community junior colleges. He said that if they could get such a bill through now, they could join forces in January "to fight it out, on the great religious issue, on a bill to provide grants on a categorical use basis, to both public and religious schools."

Observers in Washington are of the opinion that there will be no higher education bill passed this year. They also believe that the new Congress in January may face a long, bitter fight on public aid to church colleges.

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THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS

WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

October 25, 1962

**Capital Needs Proposed  
By South Carolina Body**

COLUMBIA (BP)--The general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention voted here to recommend a new five-year capital needs program with an overall goal of \$3.7 million.

For the first time, the state's five Baptist student centers are included in a capital needs program. It is recommended that 8 per cent of available funds be divided among them.

A total Cooperative Program goal of \$3.4 million will be considered by the November convention. Southern Baptist Convention causes will receive the usual 45 per cent of the operating budget (after administrative expenses) and 40 per cent of capital needs gifts. The goal is \$25,000 larger than the 1962 total.

Receipts from all sources are running \$150,000 ahead of 1961 for the first nine months. Cooperative Program gifts for the period are up \$163,000 and designated gifts down \$13,000.

The general board will recommend a merger of the convention's Christian life commission and a committee set up last year to act as a watch-dog on public affairs generally. Another committee seeking a prohibition referendum would be discontinued under the plan.

The new Christian life and public affairs committee would have 10 members organized into three subcommittees to study moral issues, matters affecting Christian witness and Christian citizenship affairs.

At the suggestion of trustees of Baptist-related North Greenville Junior College, the board will ask the convention to change the name of the institution at Tigerville, S. C., to Donnan College in honor of M. C. Donnan who retired this year as president.

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**Court Rulings Point Up  
Church College Values**

(10-25-62)

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (BP)--Court rulings on religion in education demonstrate the importance of church-related colleges, a Baptist college president told supporters here.

J. Ollie Edmunds of Stetson University (Baptist), DeLand, Fla., said church-related colleges are free both to require and to expect prayers, Bible reading and singing of hymns. Such practices in public schools have been and are currently before the Supreme Court of the United States to decide their legality.

Edmunds told a Stetson loyalty dinner gathering that only in America is there a dual educational system with a balance between strong private institutions and strong public schools.

He reminded them the first colleges in this country were started by church people. Public colleges came later.

The Stetson president pointed out that church-related and independent colleges are free from political influence. "You as citizens must select the church college of your choice to support, and then support it with your influence, your prayers and your money," he said.

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Kansas City Chairmen  
Reported For Next Year

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Chairmen of committees preparing the way here for the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention May 7-10 have been announced.

General chairman is W. Ross Edwards, pastor, Swope Park Baptist Church. Working with him on special committees are the following chairmen:

Information--E. B. Calvin, pastor, Trinity Baptist Church.

Ushers--G. Dennis Sullivan, Kansas City attorney, president of the associational Brotherhood.

First aid--Marvin J. Hilton, pastor, New Haven Baptist Church.

Housing--Luther B. Dyer, pastor, Bethany Baptist Church.

Decorations--John Robert Steers, pastor, Santa Fe Hills Baptist Church.

Dinners and luncheons--J. L. Wilson, pastor, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

Nursery--E. Paul Fisher, pastor, Kensington Avenue Baptist Church.

Registration--William H. Bolick, pastor, Mount Washington Baptist Church.

Transportation--Joseph T. McClain, pastor, Maywood Baptist Church.

Post Office--George C. Wilson.

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