

November 17, 1962

**Georgians Approve  
Government Loans**

MACON, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention here gave approval to loans from the federal government, contending there is no church-state violation, and side-stepped the issue of integrating Mercer University.

Loans from the government's Housing and Home Finance Agency sparked the only debate in the annual convention. Messengers voted after two hours and 14 minutes to approve the practice for convention institutions.

Observers speculated, however, the controversy was so divisive that no new loans were likely to be asked.

Opponents of the loans argued there is church-state involvement and an indirect federal subsidy. Supporters contended the interest rate eliminated federal aid.

The convention's hospital and colleges either owe or have pending loan applications for \$8.5 million, most of which is with the federal agency.

Integration of Mercer University here was expected to be another major issue since it has a trustee committee studying the administration suggestion to integrate. It did not come before the convention, which adopted without debate a statement from its resolutions committee saying it would be "unwise" to take action until the committee has completed its work.

The convention adopted a Cooperative Program budget for next year of \$3,386,500, an increase of \$68,900. It provides \$1,493,500 for the Southern Baptist Convention, an increase of \$25,000; a similar amount for state causes and \$399,500 for administration, promotion and the ministers' retirement program.

J. Thornton Williams, pastor of LaGrange First Baptist Church, was elected president, succeeding Dick H. Hall Jr., pastor of Decatur First Baptist Church, who had served two terms.

Nov. 11-13 will be the date of the 1963 convention in Savannah.

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**North Carolina Issue  
On Trustees Delayed**

(11-17-62)

RALEIGH (BP)--A backstage agreement kept the 1962 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina here from battling over the election of nine trustees to convention-operated Wake Forest College.

Messengers, however, faced two other major questions. Both were sent back to committees. The Christian life committee recommended the convention record itself as favoring the abolition of capital punishment.

The second matter referred back to a committee was the proposed church-personnel service. The service would have offered counsel to pastors and others on church staffs contemplating a change of churches. It would also have worked with churches seeking to fill vacancies.

The convention adopted a 1963 Cooperative Program goal of \$4,568,390 with 34 per cent going to the Southern Baptist Convention. It reelected its president, Nane Starnes, pastor, West Asheville Baptist Church, Asheville, N. C.

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It approved a joint afternoon session at the 1964 convention with the General (Negro) Baptist Convention in the state. The event, which observers said would be history-making, probably will be held in Charlotte. It will occur the climaxing year of the Baptist Jubilee Advance, in which Baptists of seven groups nationwide have been taking part.

The issue over Wake Forest College, located at Winston-Salem, is not closed. But the 21 pastors who planned to submit an alternate slate of trustees, forcing a choice between theirs and the slate offered by the official committee of nominations, reached accord off the floor.

The executive committee of the general board of the convention framed an agreement accepted by both sides in the controversy. It calls for a year's "study of the tensions between the convention and Wake Forest College."

There are 36 trustees of the college, nine rotating every year.

The pastors who prepared the alternate slate of trustees criticized Wake Forest on several counts. They said trustees had bypassed the convention on one occasion. They called attention to the novel, "The Education of Jonathon Beam," written by a college official, and considered objectionable.

They spoke about "disrespect" and "disgraceful conduct" of students and "antagonistic" faculty attitudes.

College President Harold W. Tribble answered that the 21 pastors, in proposing a new slate, seemed to question the integrity of the official committee on nominations. He said they were adjudging the college guilty without any hearing.

He said the group of pastors "attempt to condemn an entire student body for the ill-considered behavior of a small minority of students on two occasions in a three-year period..."

Tribble, for the college, and Joseph P. DuBose Jr. of Marion, for the pastors, made it clear to the convention they had not changed their minds but recognized the strategic position of the executive committee.

Retired U. S. Dist. Judge Johnson J. Hayes, 76, of Wilkesboro, was chief spokesman for those opposing the statement against capital punishment. His motion to send the matter back to committee carried by an overwhelming majority after more than 30 minutes of debate.

The motion to set up the church-personnel counseling service actually carried by a small majority, President Starnes ruled. But because opposition was so strong, General Secretary Douglas M. Branch of Raleigh moved it be recommitted for a year's more study.

A resolution was offered which appeared to criticize trustees of Midwestern Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, who fired Professor Ralph H. Elliott.

But the version brought out by the resolutions committee and adopted by the convention took a more middle of the road approach. It said:

"We would observe that our churches are deeply involved in the process of Christian higher education. We acknowledge an obligation to clarify the responsibilities of and to protect the academic freedom of teachers. We therefore express the hope that the trustees, administrators and faculties of our seminaries will continue to study the nature of theological education and the conditions under which it may be advanced. Finally, we would encourage all of our Baptist people to manifest an attitude of trust toward our Christian teachers."

The 1963 convention will gather at Wilmington Nov. 12-14.