

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas
Telephone: Office - 1-1996
December 7, 1962

Baylor Head Stops Drama Because of Bad Language

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University President Abner V. McCall ordered the Baptist school's drama department to cancel the remaining performances of "Long Day's Journey Into Night" because of the play's profane language.

President McCall said in canceling the performances that "the language of the play is not in keeping with the university's ideals."

McCall said he had received many complaints about profane language used in the play, most of the protests from laymen.

The Baylor president said he accepts full responsibility for closing the play, and that he wasn't taking the action because of pressure from Baptist ministers.

A wire service story had earlier reported that McCall closed down the play just 24 hours after a delegation of Baptist preachers had pressured him to stop it.

"There was no delegation of ministers," McCall said. "There was only one minister who came to investigate the play, and he was the only one who complained, to my knowledge."

One of the strongest protests came from sponsors of a church group of teenage girls who attended the play.

"The theater staff showed poor judgment in admitting pre-teen and teenage students," said McCall. "I don't think students of this age are mature enough to understand the intended message of the play," he said.

Six performances of the play remained on the schedule when McCall issued the order. It started Nov. 28.

"The objection," said McCall, "is not to the general message of the play, but to the excessive strong profanity profusely used to convey the message."

"I do not feel it is in good taste for a church-related university to produce such a play," McCall said.

The four-hour play is an autobiography of the late playwright Eugene O'Neill, who won four Pulitzer prizes, one of them for "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

Baylor Theater had signed a contract with the widow of author O'Neill which stipulated the play could not be cut or altered.

Baylor Drama Department Chairman Paul Baker said he and his staff were "bewildered and shocked at the order to close the play."

"Never before has my integrity been questioned," Baker said. "In the 24 years I have directed the theater at Baylor, I have selected and supervised an average of 10 to 13 full-sized plays and 25 one-act plays per year. I can't go on selecting plays or productions without full authority to do it," Baker said.

Baker added that he had never before put on a play with such language and atmosphere as O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night." He called it "the greatest play written by the greatest playwright America has produced. It is a moral play. Its theme is the understanding of the human soul."

Baker said that high school drama teachers from throughout Texas have brought their star pupils to see it "because they want to see a great production of a great play."

\$5 Million Master Plan Gets Academy Approval

SAN MARCOS, Tex. (BP)--The Board of Trustees for San Marcos Baptist Academy here has approved a five-part long-range expansion plan that will involve an estimated \$5 million within the next ten years.

The five-part program includes a master plan for physical plant expansion, increased endowment funds, teacher excellence, scholarships, and student recruitment.

Ultimate goal of the ten-year program is to triple the school's enrollment to 1,500 students in three separate schools, and to prepare the students, in a Christian atmosphere, to pursue further learning and the business of everyday living with success, said Academy President William Crook.

Obtaining funds to finance the ten-year program will be put into the hands of a bequests committee, to be named by the board.

The committee will have representatives from the Academy trustees, faculty, ex students, patrons, and from the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The committee will seek to raise the funds through cash contributions, wills, endowments, trusts and annuities.

President Crook said that church-supported schools must shift gears in order to meet the responsibility of instilling into today's child the qualities of character and intellect which will produce tomorrow's leaders.

"In structuring the future of San Marcos Academy," Crook said, "we are building a program, the end product of which will be quality."

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Networks To Carry Three Hours of Baptist Films

MINERAL WELLS, Tex. (BP)--Three full hours of nationwide television time will be devoted to Southern Baptist programs in 1963, it was announced here during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

Commission members from 20 states attended the three-day meeting at Seybold Guest Ranch near here.

Commission Director Paul M. Stevens told the group that the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC-TV) has scheduled two hours of network time (four 30-minut programs) and that the American Broadcasting Co. (ABC-TV) has scheduled in 1963 two hours of network time featuring Southern Baptist programs.

The National Broadcast Company has also scheduled in 1964 a one-hour special film on the journeys of the Apostle Paul in Greece, Turkey and Italy.

The first telecast of the one-hour program, produced jointly with NBC-TV by the Radio-TV Commission, will be during the Baptist Jubilee meeting at Atlantic City, N. J., if the network can clear the time.

In 1963, NBC-TV plans to present the following programs produced with the Radio-TV Commission's cooperation:

(more)

A film on the Japan New Life Movement, Sept. 1; a live interview with U. S. Chief of Chaplains Robert Taylor, a Southern Baptist, no date set; a live Christmas program featuring the Speak-4 Trio of the Dallas Theater Center; and an interview with Theodore Adams, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Next year, ABC-TV will telecast a Southern Baptist-sponsored program on the western cowboy's religion, April 21, and another Southern Baptist program, yet to be named, on April 28. Both will be a part of the ABC-TV program, "Directions 63."

Four 15-minute radio programs about Southern Baptists will be broadcast by NBC next year on its "Faith in Action" series. The programs will deal with cooperation between a chaplain, psychiatrist and physician in treating the "total individual" when he is ill.

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Folks and facts.....

(12-7-62)

.....The head football coach at San Marcos Academy, San Marcos, Tex., has been named director of curriculum for the Texas Baptist elementary and high school. W. C. Newberry will continue to direct the physical education program at the school and will also study the possibility of adding or subtracting courses in the curriculum. The 31-year-old football coach had been director of curriculum for elementary schools in Nacogdoches, Tex., for three years before coming to the academy. (BP)

.....William A. Cox Jr., minister of education for the 12,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, has resigned to accept a similar position at the First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Fla. Cox was superintendent of intermediate work for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville before coming to Dallas two years ago. Pastor of the 3,000-member West Palm Beach church is Jess Moody. (BP)

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For Use BEFORE Dec. 23

NBC-TV Slates Two Baptist
Network Shows In December

(12-7-62)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The National Broadcasting Co. will televise two Southern Baptist programs on nationwide network this month--one Sunday, Dec. 23 and another Sunday, Dec. 20.

The December 23 program depicts life in Hong Kong, British crown colony, and missionary efforts to reach refugees from Red China. It is slated at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

A documentary film produced in Liberia, West Africa, entitled "Freedom Bound" has been scheduled by NBC-TV on Sunday, Dec. 30. The film tells the story of "Mother George" Davis and her 50 year's ministry in the African bush.

Both films were produced by the network with the cooperation of the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission here.

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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

Cutlines

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Baptist Press

GERMAN PRODUCT--Porter Routh, right, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, shows Rudolf Thaut a facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible on display at Baptist offices in Nashville. Thaut, from Bad Homberg, Germany, is general secretary of the German Baptist Union. He spent two months in the United States studying Baptist work. The original Gutenbergs were printed in Mainz, Germany. (BP) Photo