

FROM REGIONAL OFFICE

103 Baptist Building, Dallas 1, Texas  
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December 14, 1962

### Texas Board Commends Baylor Play Censure

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board meeting here commended Baylor University President Abner McCall for his decision to halt a Baylor drama production because of the play's objectional profane language.

The 192-member board approved unanimously a motion by Herschel Ford of El Paso, Tex., stating "that this board go on record as approving President McCall's action and commending him for his strong stand."

McCall, president of the Baptist college in Waco, Tex., had ordered the Baylor Theater five days earlier to cancel the remaining performances of Eugene O'Neill's play "Long Day's Journey Into Night" because "the language of the play is not in keeping with the university's ideals."

The Executive Board's action came just after outgoing chairman K. Owen White of Houston told the board he had written a letter to McCall expressing his personal approval of the firm stand McCall took.

White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Houston and recently-elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said he had also written a letter to the Baylor Student Congress expressing disappointment in their stand.

The Student Congress, governing group for the Baylor student body, passed 27-4 a resolution condemning the cancellation of the Pulitzer-prizewinning play, stating the decision "has embarrassed the Baylor student body and raised a storm of protest from every corner of the Baylor student world."

An editorial in the Baylor Lariat, student newspaper, claimed the forced closing would brand Baylor "as a narrow-minded, intolerant, denominational school concerned with religious indoctrination rather than education."

Most Baptist pastors and leaders throughout the state evidently felt differently. In his letter to the Baylor Student Congress, White asked "Did the Lord Jesus Christ ever use the vulgar and profane language of this play?"

In the board meeting, Baptist Standard Editor E. S. James said he had just read the play's script. "The more I read, the less I liked," he told the board, "and I've already written an editorial about it."

The editorial blasted the play, stating "the language is more than profane and objectionable to Christians--it is cheap and crude, it is blasphemous, it is abominable."

James said in the editorial, "It is not appropriate for production at the Baylor Theater or anywhere else. Baptist schools," he said, "were not built to teach the art of cursing."

(more)

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the nation's largest Southern Baptist Church--First Baptist Church of Dallas--said of the play, "anything filled with profanity is highly objectionable whether it's a businessman cussing in his office, a football coach cussing on the sidelines, or a character cussing on the stage."

The four-hour play, an autobiography of playwright O'Neill, describes in earthy language the depths of degradation of a family involved in dope addiction, alcoholism, and illicit affairs.

McCall said that he had received about 200 communications concerning the play's cancellation, with about "eight to one" backing his action.

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Japan Crusade Gets  
\$125,000 From Texas

(12-14-62)

DALLAS (BP)--The Texas Baptist Executive Board meeting here voted to send \$125,000 to the Japan Baptist Convention to help finance the Japan Baptist New Life Movement and slated an all-out fund raising campaign to raise at least \$500,000 for the nationwide evangelistic crusade.

The 192-member board approved unanimously a motion to take \$125,000 from the board's operating fund, to be repaid by results of the Texas Baptist fund drive.

About \$90,000 has already been given towards the goal, it was reported.

The board also urged churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas to take up special offerings for the Japan Baptist New Life Movement, possibly on Sunday, Jan. 20, 1963, or any other convenient date.

The board assured Japan Baptist leaders that Texas Baptists would raise \$200,000 (included in the \$500,000 total) needed to retain a leading Japanese public relations firm to develop an overall publicity plan telling the New Life Movement story in Japan through radio, television, newspaper advertising, magazines, etc.

Texas Baptist Executive Secretary T. A. Patterson told the board Baptists in Japan had said that unless every nationwide communications media in Japan is utilized to the fullest extent, the crusade will not really make an impact on Japan.

In other action, the 192-member board elected L. L. Morriss, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Midland, Tex., as chairman, succeeding K. Owen White of Houston, recently-elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The board named J. Carroll Chadwick of Center, Tex., as vice-chairman and elected nearly 100 persons to fill vacancies and expired terms on 13 key Texas Baptist boards, commissions, and committees.

Trustees for two new Texas Baptist schools--Valley Baptist Academy in Harlingen, Tex., and Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio--were elected for the first time.

The board also authorized Memorial Baptist Hospital in Houston to seek a \$4 million commercial loan to finance construction of a new five-story addition.

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Texas Association Caps  
Five-Year Giving Record

GOLDMTHWAITE, Tex. (BP)--A district missionary's challenge five years ago has inspired all the churches in a Central Texas Baptist association to be 100 per cent in giving to the Cooperative Program for 60 straight months.

Only once in half a decade has a single church in Mills Association ever been a little late in sending in its monthly gift for world missions, and that happened during a change of treasurers.

Most of the pastors during the record setting period have been students attending nearby Howard Payne College at Brownwood, Tex., or Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth about 150 miles to the north. There are only two resident pastors now in the nine-church association.

The push toward the five-year record began in 1957 when Clifford Nelson, secretary of missions for District 16 of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, challenged the churches to all be 100 per cent for one year in giving to the Cooperative Program.

"Once we finished that year with a perfect record, we couldn't afford to quit," said Associational Treasurer Erie D. Roberson. "I see no reason why this won't be kept up," he added.

Roberson credits the stewardship effort with causing Baptists of the association to become more interested in Christian endeavor and increasing their faithfulness.

Church Treasurer J. D. Wright said the 48-resident-member Center City Baptist Church "got tired of just giving a small amount to the Cooperative Program.

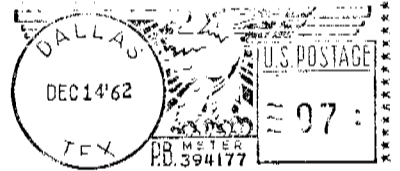
"So when I brought up the idea of giving 10 per cent of our total church offering, it went over with a bang," he said.

District Secretary Nelson says another association in the same district has already accepted a challenge to be 100 per cent in its gifts to the Cooperative Program.

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WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT LINE

Cutlines

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Baptist Press

**BAPTIST TELETYPE--**The Southern Baptist Teletype Network, with two new states (three cities) joining Jan. 1, now includes 18 cities and 24 state Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention offices. Launched March 1, 1960, the circuit is believed to be the only leased wire circuit operated by a denomination in America. New locations are in South Carolina and Kentucky. (BP) Photo