

January 18, 1963

**Fight Pledged
On Catholic Group**

ATLANTA (BP)--The president of Protestants and Other Americans United says the organization will redouble its efforts to turn back Citizens for Educational Freedom in its demands for tax support of parochial schools.

Louie D. Newton, pastor of Atlanta's Druid Hills Baptist Church, said in a formal statement that Citizens for Educational Freedom is "a Roman Catholic front group set up to exert political pressures for the purpose of obtaining public aid for Roman Catholic schools." He added it "is known that some of the literature distributed for this group is actually written for them under pseudonyms by Jesuit priests at St. Louis University."

Newton is president of Protestants and Other Americans United.

Newton said it has used its educational and legal services in half a dozen states opposing the group. It is active now in Kentucky and Missouri to maintain constitutional restrictions against public funds for private schools.

He said the group also would respond in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa "to urgent appeals to bring its public information service to bear as Citizens for Educational Freedom campaigns to overturn the long-time traditions of those states which have barred transportation at public expense for church schools."

-30-

**Old Translation Termed
Easier Read Than New**

(1-18-63)

MEMPHIS (BP)--The King James Version of the Bible is easier to read than the modern versions.

So said Robert Gunning of Blacklick, Ohio, a specialist on clear writing. But, Gunning added, this does not mean the King James Version is easier to understand. It came out in 1611.

Gunning was main speaker at a conference here for Royal Ambassador program writers. The writers met at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission building.

During his four-hour lecture on clear writing, Gunning reported on his study of two Royal Ambassador magazines.

Ambassador Life, the monthly magazine for boys 9-17, is aimed at the eighth grade level, he said. Ambassador Leader, quarterly magazine for men who work with the boys, has a 10th grade reading level.

Neither magazine has serious clear writing problems, Gunning said. The magazines are edited by Roy Jennings and Mrs. Mildred Dunn of Memphis.

Gunning works with the nation's large newspapers, magazines and corporations to improve the writing habits of their personnel.

Writers receiving their 1964 assignments during the two-day conference included John Carter of Birmingham; W. J. Isbell Jr. and David K. Morris, both of Montgomery; S. J. Watson of New Orleans; Donald Holton of Brookhaven, Miss.; Mrs. O. K. Armstrong of Springfield, Mo.; Gordon Vestal and William Carroll, both of Memphis; Larry Allison and Theo Sommerkamp, both of Nashville; Mrs. C. J. Humphrey of Amarillo, Tex.; Jim Newton and Bill Pinson, both of Dallas, and George L. Euting of Richmond.

-30-

Missions Leaders
To Emphasize Prayer

ATLANTA (BP)--"Let us pray" will be heard many times during the associational missions conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Miss., Feb. 11-15.

"This is not a meeting just to deal with techniques but we want a real spiritual spark, a haystack prayer meeting," said M. Wendell Belew of Atlanta, secretary of associational missions with the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Sponsored by the Home Mission Board in cooperation with other agencies, the conference will have workers from all 50 states and representatives from almost every Southern Baptist agency. Study groups dealing with 16 topics related to associational missions will be a major feature of the week-long meeting. Associational missionaries will study how agencies can best serve the churches.

The mission board's director of missions, Arthur Rutledge of Atlanta, says of the conference on the Gulf of Mexico, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime conference which can add great strength to the work of our churches, associations and Convention."

-30-

Dr. R. Q. Leavell, 71,
Dies Of Heart Attack

(1-18-63)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP)--In his last two years, Dr. Roland Quinche Leavell reached a lifetime goal. He wrote a book on the gospel of Matthew.

It was published by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist churches from coast to coast were using it in their January, 1963 Bible study weeks.

Dr. Leavell was himself teaching the book titled "Studies in Matthew, the King and the Kingdom." He was doing it for a pastor friend, Luther Joe Thompson, at First Baptist Church, Chattanooga.

But early the morning of Jan. 15, the 71-year-old Baptist leader suffered a fatal heart attack here.

He was taken to New Orleans for funeral services. They were conducted in the chapel of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, named in Dr. Leavell's honor. Leavell served as president of the seminary from 1946 to 1958.

When he retired he became president emeritus.

Officiating at his funeral were Dick H. Hall, pastor, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., and H. Leo Eddleman, New Orleans Seminary president.

He was buried in Oxford, Miss., where he was born. The Leavell family, well-known because so many of them held positions in Southern Baptist life, had lived there.

Before becoming president of the seminary, Dr. Leavell was director of the evangelism division of the SBC Home Mission Board.

He also held the pastorates of First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga., and First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.

He has served as overseas Young Men's Christian Association secretary during World War I and was pastor of First Baptist Church, Oxford, and First Baptist Church, Picayune, Miss.

The 1961 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in St. Louis elected Dr. Leavell first vice-president. He presided at several sessions of the San Francisco Convention.

Dr. Leavell wrote several books during his ministry, many on evangelism.

-more-

Shortly after Dr. Leavell became president of New Orleans Seminary, he negotiated with real estate dealers for 75 acres for a new seminary campus.

On Sept. 3, 1953, the new seminary plant was dedicated. Dr. Leavell had witnessed the construction of 85 buildings, counting academic buildings, student housing, faculty residences and workshops.

Under Dr. Leavell's leadership the seminary grew in enrolment from 331 in 1946 to 1200 in 1958. The faculty increased from 10 to 39. The school gained full accreditation with the American Association of Theological Schools.

Dr. Leavell wrote in "The Sheer Joy of Living" that his family would eventually take his weary old bones to the family burying ground at Oxford, "but my heart is already buried under that chapel in the heart of the campus of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary."

Dr. and Mrs. Leavell made their home in Jackson, Miss., after he retired. He suffered a stroke in January, 1958 and retired in May of that year.

Survivors include Mrs. Leavell, the former Lillian Forbes Yarborough of Hattiesburg, Miss., whom he married in 1923. They also include a brother, Clarence Stanley Leavell of Memphis, and three daughters.

Members of the seminary faculty and trustees served as pallbearers.