

February 20, 1963

**Lawyer Says Court
Holds To Separation**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--Congress will find it almost impossible to write a constitutional federal aid to education bill, a Richmond attorney and Baptist lay leader said here.

"It's going to be impossible to write a bill without parochial implications in it," Lewis Booker said. Booker is chairman of the religious liberty committee of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

He said, "The trend of the United States Supreme Court is to preserve the wall of separation of church and state. The court is very sensitive to church-state separation," he added.

Booker agreed with W. Barry Garrett of Washington the federal aid to education bill is one of the major church-state issues now before Congress.

Both men addressed the annual Southern Baptist Press Association meeting here.

Booker said the Supreme Court justified Sunday blue laws, which restrict activity on that day, on economic grounds. When the states disestablished the church, they did not repeal the blue laws which were left, he said.

These "early laws were to promote and enforce Sunday worship. All acts prior to the Revolutionary War were clearly religious in nature," Booker continued. The fact they remained after the church and state separated put the laws on an economic base rather than religious.

"The ground on which blue laws are most vulnerable is the first amendment to the United States Constitution, not the 14th," he said.

Booker said a church ought to pay a real estate tax. "I think exemption is unconstitutional and unwarranted," he added. He predicted the Supreme Court "is probably going to say Bible reading is unconstitutional."

Garrett, associate director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, included the Bible reading question among three major church-state matters on Capitol Hill.

Garrett said the Supreme Court will rule later on suits attacking Bible reading in public schools.

"The treatment of religion as an American heritage required by law is one of the church-state issues," Garrett said. He covered the Bible reading and prayer questions in this area.

The third major church-state issue, according to Garrett, is the "problem of stimulating church contributions by tax policies." He said the Baptist agency he works for does not have enough facts yet to make a statement on Kennedy's desired income tax changes. One of the Kennedy proposals would apparently reduce the amount someone could deduct for gifts to churches and charity.

Garrett said a new poll indicates more and more Protestants favor a federal aid to education bill that would include sectarian schools. Why?

"The shift is due to two things," he explained. "The bigoted, anti-Catholic opposition is one. The other is the top-flight job parochial supporters are doing to sell the public on their views. They keep saying it and printing it, week after week."

Laymen's Luncheon
Set For Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The first Baptist laymen's fellowship luncheon to occur during a session of the Southern Baptist Convention will meet here May 8.

"As Kansas City Baptist laymen, (we) felt that a local group of men should honor laymen visitors who have come to represent their churches as messengers during the Southern Baptist Convention," said Dr. David F. Eubank, local physician.

Dr. Eubank is chairman of the world missions committee of the Brotherhood of Kansas City Baptist Association.

Theme of the meeting is "Men and Missions." Paul M. Stevens, Fort Worth, director, SBC Radio and Television Commission, will speak.

-30-

Church-State Group
Intensifies Program

(2-20-63)

ATLANTA (BP)--An intensified educational program, to meet "the most serious church-state controversy the United States has known for the past 150 years," has been announced by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU).

President Louie D. Newton of Atlanta said the organization would lend its "strong support" to the efforts of President John F. Kennedy to uphold the first amendment and the U. S. Supreme Court.

He specifically mentioned the Supreme Court for "so properly and unequivocally interpreting the first amendment in a way that prevents sectarian inroads on the federal treasury."

Newton said the stepped-up education program will include "public meetings, church meetings, TV-radio and press releases and college and seminary dialogs and seminars."

He said, "This program will be vigorously pursued by POAU with special attention to those states where clerical pressures for church school subsidies have been most keenly felt."

He mentioned Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan and Rhode Island as states currently facing serious possible breaches of the wall separating church and state.

Newton said the determination of Roman Catholic bishops to block any federal school aid which does not include assistance to their private institutions "has precipitated the most serious church-state controversy the U. S. has known for the past 150 years."

He said, "It demonstrates the need for a wider and more pervasive program to reach the public with information as to the value and significance of our American tradition in church and state. If we fail in this, separation of church and state may well be buried under an avalanche of government subsidies for church schools."

The group announced employment of Edward Terry, Protestant minister of Portland, Ore., as staff associate in the organization field.

Another organization man and a legal attorney, authorized at the group's conference in Denver, will be announced soon.

-30-

Student Workers Study
Church-Related Calls

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)--State Baptist student secretaries will try to find ways they can help enlist and encourage youth who want to enter church-related vocations.

The State Student Directors Association of Southern Baptists appointed a committee at its meeting here. The committee, headed by Ralph B. Winders of Jackson, Miss., will suggest ways to help these young people.

Others on the committee are Aubrey L. Hawkins of Atlanta and Maurice Willis of Montgomery. Winders directs Baptist Student Union work in Mississippi, Hawkins in Georgia and Willis in Alabama.

The association heard reports here from two Southern Baptist Convention workers in the field. They were Henlee H. Barnette, Louisville, professor of Christian ethics, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Lloyd T. Householder, Nashville. Householder is church-related vocations counselor for the SBC Sunday School Board.

Barnette reported on the biblical doctrine of vocation, and on the changing role of the church-related vocational worker. Householder advised the student directors on church-related vocational guidance.

Winders discussed a survey he made of three groups: (1) pre-college age students with commitments to church-related vocations; (2) college students with the same commitment, and (3) persons now working in church-related vocations.

The association elected Udell Smith of Alexandria, La., president. He directs student work for Louisiana Baptist Convention. The only other officer is the secretary. This year he will be Joe H. Webb, Jacksonville, who serves the Florida Baptist Convention.

-30-

Mexican Missions Tour
Open To Baptist Men

(2-20-63)

MEMPHIS (BP)--Would you like to see Baptist foreign mission work firsthand?

Thirty Baptist men will get that opportunity Sept. 9-20 when they make a 3,200-mile tour of 15 mission points in Mexico.

The occasion is the sixth tour of Mexico mission points sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in cooperation with the Convention's Foreign Mission Board.

The men will pay all their expenses during the tour, including travel to and from San Antonio, Tex., point of departure.

Lucien E. Coleman Sr., associate secretary of the Brotherhood Commission and tour director, said the men will visit Saltillo, Matehuala, San Luis Potosi, Queretaro, Mexico City, Taxco, Toluca, Morelia, Zopoco, Uruapan, Guadalajara, San Juan de Los Logas, Zacatecas, Durango and Torreón.

Serving as guide and interpreter will be Wyatt W. Lee, veteran missionary to the Mexican state of Jalisco.

Baptist men who would like to visit the mission points as part of the tour should notify their state Brotherhood departments, Coleman said.

-30-

Jehovah's Witnesses
Appeal Liberty Case

WASHINGTON (BP)--The United States Supreme Court has been asked to rule whether it invades the religious liberty of school students to require them to stand for the singing of the national anthem.

Attorneys for a group of Jehovah's Witnesses in Arizona have told the court the "Star-Spangled Banner" contains references to God which are set in a context with which they disagree.

They argue the reasoning which the court applied to the regents' prayer in the public schools of New York should be applied also to use of the national anthem.

A group of children have been expelled from Pinetop, Ariz., elementary school because they insisted on remaining seated while their classmates rose during the morning exercises.

A suit was brought in Federal Court in Phoenix, to compel the school board to readmit the children, but it was thrown out of court when Arizona moved for dismissal on the ground it was merely a disciplinary matter of students conforming to classroom rules.

The Arizona attorney general said they were not required to join in singing the anthem, but merely to stand while their classmates did.

The Witnesses say their position is based on the biblical story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who refused to kneel when Nebuchadnezzar's trumpets sounded. To stand up is just as much an act of obeisance as to kneel, they contend, and the verses of the "Star-Spangled Banner" make it, in their opinion, "an officially composed anthem of worship of God."

The Witnesses reminded the Supreme Court that the regents' prayer was ruled unconstitutional, even though students did not have to recite it and could be excused from the classroom while it was being said. They contend the Arizona requirement that students stand for the national anthem goes much farther in violating freedom of conscience.

In 1943, in a case which aroused sharp controversy, the Supreme Court held the State of West Virginia could not exclude members of Jehovah's Witnesses who refused to salute the American flag during classroom exercises.

The U. S. Supreme Court has at least three alternatives in dealing with the plea. It can grant the Witnesses a hearing, can order the lower Federal Courts to do so or can agree with the U. S. Court of Appeals that the constitutional issue "of no consequence" and that it is merely a public school disciplinary problem.

-30-

Baptisms Down; Still
SBC Passes 10 Million

For Immediate Release

(2-20-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Membership in Southern Baptist churches topped the 10 million mark in 1962, according to the annual release of statistics for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The mark was passed early in the year, with the total reaching 10,193,052 at year's end, said J. P. Edmunds of Nashville. Edmunds is secretary of research and statistics for the SBC Sunday School Board.

This means the Southern Baptist Convention has passed The Methodist Church as the largest Protestant denomination in America.

Edmunds said the membership gain was 214,564 during 1962, a 2.2 per cent increase. The number of converts baptized totaled 381,510, a drop of 21,805 from the previous year.

-more-

The number of SBC churches rose to 32,892, a net gain of 294 during 1962. They are located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. There are 15,651 open country churches; 4340 in villages; 3706 in towns, and 9195 in cities.

Sunday school enrolment, reported by all but 397 churches, was 7,570,455. The increase was 63,609, as Southern Baptists continued to lead all denominations in total enrolment.

An enrolment increase of 23,212, to a total of 2,747,581, was shown for Training Union, a Sunday evening study group for all ages. Vacation Bible school enrolment increased to 3,176,559, a gain of 87,838. Choir enrolment (all ages) in the churches spurted to 791,477, an increase of 76,373.

Enrolment for Woman's Missionary Union was 1,489,352, down 7,282 from the previous year. Brotherhood enrolment (men and Royal Ambassador boys) decreased by 24, resulting in a total of 628,063.

The value of church property continued its steady climb, reaching \$2,567,836,860, a rise of over \$182 million or 7.7 per cent.

Mission giving increased in percentage more than total gifts. Mission gifts increased 8.3 per cent to \$91,433,845, whereas total gifts rose 7.9 per cent to \$540,811,457.

The \$7 million and \$39 million increases in mission gifts and total gifts, respectively, were the largest ever recorded in the Convention's history, according to Edmunds.

-30-

(Statistical table follows)

For Immediate Release

Table of 1962 SBC Statistics

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Per. Cent Change</u>
Churches	32,892	32,598	294	0.9
Membership	10,193,052	9,978,488	214,564	2.2
Baptisms	381,510	403,315	-21,805	-5.4
Sunday school enrolment	7,570,455	7,506,846	63,609	0.8
Training Union enrolment	2,747,581	2,724,369	23,212	0.9
W.M.U. enrolment	1,489,352	1,496,634	-7,282	-0.5
Brotherhood enrolment (Men and RA)	628,063	628,087	-24	*
Vacation Bible school enrolment	3,176,559	3,088,721	87,838	2.8
Choir enrolment	791,477	715,104	76,373	10.7
Church property value	\$2,567,836,860	\$2,385,175,418	\$182,661,442	7.7
Total gifts	\$540,811,457	\$501,301,714	\$39,509,743	7.9
Mission gifts	\$91,433,845	\$84,434,006	\$6,999,839	8.3

*Less than -.01

Research and Statistics Department
Baptist Sunday School Board
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville 3, Tennessee

New Orleans Announces
Music Doctor's Degree

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary have voted here to offer a doctor of church music degree.

In their annual meeting, they also added Woman's Missionary Union courses to the seminary catalog. Two professors were promoted.

Kenneth Hartley and George C. Herndon were named associate professors at the meeting. Hartley is convenor of graduate studies in the school of church music. Herndon is registrar.

In voting a doctoral program in the school of church music, trustees set in motion projects to implement this decision. Before students will be admitted to the degree program, the music library will be upgraded and the faculty of the school will be expanded. No date was set for first admissions to the doctoral program.

General and specific Woman's Missionary Union programs will be added to the curriculum. Previously education in this field has been interspersed among several departments, notably church administration and adult religious education.

The budget adopted for the 1963-64 year was set at \$1,116,500. This represents an increase of \$78,500 over the current budget. Revenue to meet the anticipated needs of the institution will come from the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention, endowment, gifts and student fees and rentals.

The board reelected T. Odus Winn, New Orleans oil company executive, president.

-30-

Noel M. Taylor Heads
State Secretaries

(2-20-63)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--Noel M. Taylor of Carbondale, Ill., is the new president of the state executive secretaries group among Southern Baptists.

Taylor is executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Vice-president is Grady C. Cothen of Fresno, executive secretary, Southern Baptist General Convention of California. Fred D. Hubbs, Detroit, is secretary of the group.

Hubbs is executive secretary, Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

They were elected at the group's annual meeting here. Executive secretaries and their associates from the 28 Baptist state conventions attended the meeting. The state bodies cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The group this year discussed the work of the executive secretary--his private life, his dealings with the churches, his handling of tensions which arise in his work, his exchange of ideas with other state Baptist leaders and Southern Baptist Convention officers, and his planning Baptist advance.

-30-