

May 24, 1963

Detroit Convention
Condemns Race Bias

DETROIT (BP)--Delegates to the American Baptist Convention's 1963 session here were almost unanimous in condemning racial discrimination.

Their other resolutions, on a list filling 11 mimeographed pages, sought the end of nuclear weapons testing, smoking, and legalized lotteries. They dealt with the United Nations, conversation with Roman Catholics, arms control and foreign aid.

"We reaffirm our stand that not only should all American Baptist churches be open to all followers of Jesus Christ regardless of their race but that we should earnestly and actively seek to win all unchurched persons within our community to Christ and to the fellowship of the church," it said on race.

Further, the 8000 registered delegates urged the "continuation and strengthening of the (federal) Civil Rights Commission..."

They commended Martin Luther King, Ralph Abernethy "and others who are in the forefront of the non-violent struggle for justice and peace and assure them of our support." This came in a section of the race resolution devoted to "demonstrations against racial segregation."

The delegates agreed "it has been shown by medical research that smoking is a factor in lung cancer and certain cardio-vascular and respiratory illnesses." They urged serious consideration, especially by youth, of "the dangers involved in the use of tobacco."

"In these crucial and perilous times we reaffirm our belief in the United Nations as an instrument for the establishment of peace and the elevation of man," the American Convention resolved.

(A week earlier, the Southern Baptist Convention had been asked to show in its literature that the United Nations is "an instrument of war" to balance any reference to it as "an instrument of peace.")

"We welcome," the American Convention here continued in its resolutions, "evidences of good will and a new willingness for conversation and cooperation coming from Roman Catholic sources recently, and we encourage American Baptists to respond in a Christian spirit to the opportunities for an increase in such cooperation and dialogue on equal terms at the local level."

"Mutual disarmament under adequate controls" was reaffirmed as the Convention's "ultimate goal." It asked for "continued support, financial and moral, of the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency."

It endorsed federal aid to foreign countries. This applied even to Poland and Yugoslavia "in recognition of their efforts to shape their own independent destinies."

The government was commended "for its persistent efforts to reach an accord for the cessation of nuclear weapons testing..."

A dramatic service that closed the 1963 Convention included the dedication of 29 foreign and 14 home missionaries. The Convention adopted its largest budget in history--\$11,680,000 for the next year. It also adopted a capital funds program for missions.

Francisco Leaves
For Latin America

(5-24-63)

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Clyde T. Francisco, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here has left for a series of lectures at five Baptist seminaries in Latin America.

Francisco is making the trip at the initial request of the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a week of lectures on the books of Jeremiah and Job.

The Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention asked him to extend his visit to include lectures at Baptist seminaries in Cali, Colombia; Santiago, Chile; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Asuncion, Paraguay.

The lectures are designed to acquaint Latin American seminary students and faculties with research and new areas of Old Testament studies in this nation.

He is accompanied on the five-week trip by Mrs. Francisco.

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Harold Stassen Heads
American Convention

(5-24-63)

DETROIT (BP)--Harold E. Stassen of Philadelphia, former assistant to President Eisenhower and ex-governor of Minnesota, has been elected president of the American Baptist Convention.

Now practicing law, Stassen is a life-long Baptist and currently is a member of the American Convention's policy-making General Council.

Stassen has served as deacon in the Second Baptist Church, Germantown, Pa., and in Chevy Chase Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.

One of those congratulating Stassen on his election was K. Owen White of Houston, newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. White appeared as fraternal delegate to the American Convention session here and spoke briefly.

White told the delegates he was licensed to preach by an American Baptist Convention church in California.

He said, "Baptists are a people of the Book, and God has blessed our ministry."

The Houston minister described the New Life Movement in Japan in which he and other Southern Baptist preachers took part this spring. He told the American Convention delegates, "We look forward to our joint meeting (next May) in Atlantic City. Pray for us and we shall remember you in our prayers."

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Hardin-Simmons Names
Officer For Degree

(5-24-63)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University here voted to confer the honorary doctor of laws degree on its executive vice-president, George L. Graham, during 1963 commencement exercises.

Graham is being honored for service to Hardin-Simmons, including more than a year as chief executive officer during the period the Texas Baptist University was without a president.

J. C. Hunter Jr., Abilene, vice-chairman of the board of trustees, told the board that Graham can consider the doctorate "an earned degree."

Graham has been associated with Hardin-Simmons since 1956, first as executive assistant to the president and since 1960 as executive vice-president.

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Wayne Oates June
Baptist Hour Speaker

(5-24-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--A seminary professor who was instrumental in starting a chaplaincy program in Kentucky state mental hospitals was named guest speaker on "The Baptist Hour" during June.

Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion and pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, substituted for Herschel H. Hobbs on the Southern Baptist radio worship program.

Hobbs, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, will return to "The Baptist Hour" as speaker in July.

Oates, a former pastor and hospital chaplain, has served on the Southern Seminary faculty since 1944. He is the author of 10 books, most of them dealing with religion and mental health.

"The Baptist Hour," produced by the SBC Radio and Television Commission here, is broadcast weekly over 495 radio stations in 35 states and 13 foreign countries.

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Commission Now Has
Convention Recording

(5-24-63)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Tape recordings of messages, music and business actions at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention held in Kansas City, Mo., are available from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here.

A five-tape special package which contains 10 hours of recordings is being offered by the Radio-TV Commission at \$12.

The special five-tape package includes seven major addresses to the Convention, seven addresses to the Pastors' Conference, five testimonies to the Woman's Missionary Union, four brief messages or business sessions from the Convention, two solos and one choir number.

In addition, any item from the three meetings is available on tape from the Commission at the rate of \$5 an hour (3 3/4 IPS or 7 1/2 IPS) or two hours for \$7 (3 3/4 IPS only).

The five-tape special features the following individuals: President H. H. Hobbs, Mrs. Martha Branham, Grady C. Cothen, Paul M. Stevens, James L. Sullivan, Leobardo Estrada, Wayne Dehoney, Kenneth L. Chafin, the William Jewell a cappella choir, R. G. Lee, the report of the special Committee on Faith and Message, Foy Valentine, Malcom B. Knight, W. A. Criswell, Jess C. Moody, James Carraway, John Walsh, Carl E. Bates, D. J. Rollins, John R. Claypool, Mrs. Mabola Ayorinde, new President K. Owen White, Charles Howard, Vance Havner, Mrs. R. L. Mathis' election, and Mrs. Rosalind Lam.

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Negro One Of Four
Wake Forest Honorees

(5-24-63)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Wake Forest College here announced it would award four honorary degrees during spring graduation exercises. One is to a Negro.

Those selected and the degrees they would receive are Luther H. Hodges, U. S. secretary of commerce, doctor of laws; Carlyle Marney, pastor of Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., doctor of literature; Dr. George W. Paschal, physician of Raleigh, doctor of science; and Kenneth R. Williams, president of Winston-Salem Teachers College here, doctor of laws.

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Hodges was governor of North Carolina from 1954 until 1960, and was appointed President Kennedy's secretary of commerce in 1961.

Marney is author of a number of books, including "Faith in Conflict," "Structure of Prejudice" and "Beggars in Velvet." Before coming to Charlotte he held pastorates in Paducah, Ky., and Austin, Tex.

Dr. Paschal is chief of the department of surgery at Mary Elizabeth Hospital, Raleigh. He is an alumnus and also a former Wake Forest College trustee.

Williams was chaplain and a member of the faculty at Winston-Salem Teachers College for 25 years before becoming president in 1961. He is the first Negro to be elected to the board of aldermen in Winston-Salem since 1900.

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Baptists From Erin
Reelect President

(5-24-63)

BELFAST (BP)--L. E. Deens, 73, was inducted for his third term as president of the Baptist Union of Ireland near the beginning of the five-day assembly of the union here.

Only one other person was ever elected to the office three times. He was Deens' predecessor in the pastorate of the Grosvenor Road Baptist Church in Dublin, where Deens has served 38 years.

This year, Deens, who was assembly president 1932-33 and 1945-46, completes 50 years as a Baptist minister in Ireland. In addition to pastoral work, he taught homiletics in the Baptist Theological College in Dublin.

Deens' presidential address noted, "We Irish Baptists are all of us keenly interested in evangelism. This ought we to do. But we must not leave this other undone."

"Conversion is not the end, either for ourselves or for our converts. And in the long run the success of our evangelistic efforts will be determined by the reality and depth of our spiritual experience."

The Baptist Union of Ireland, which gives strong emphasis to conservative doctrine, does not belong to the Baptist World Alliance or other international bodies. It reports 71 churches, with a total membership of 6,082.

Most of these are in Northern Ireland, with less than 300 members in the Republic of Ireland (Eire, in the South). Foreign mission work is conducted in Peru, where there are 17 Irish Baptist missionaries.

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