

September 21, 1963

Asks New Policy On
Foreign Church Gifts

WASHINGTON (BP)--Contributions to foreign charitable and religious programs by American citizens should be deductible from federal income taxes, according to Rep. Thomas B. Curtis (R., Mo.).

The congressman's views were made known in a speech to the House of Representatives as he introduced a bill to make contributions to foreign charities tax deductible.

The nondeductibility of such gifts was called Curtis's attention by a constituent and his wife who make contributions to "Christ Church in Japan."

Present law confines such deductions to contributions given to organizations in the United States, any possession of the U. S., the District of Columbia, or under special provision by U. S. law.

In his inquiry to Mortimer M. Caplin, commissioner of internal revenue, Curtis learned the basis of exemption of taxation of gifts to domestic organizations. In a report of the House Ways and Means Committee in 1936 the reasoning of Congress was set forth in the following words:

"The exemption from taxation of money or property devoted to charitable and other purposes is based upon the theory that the government is compensated for the loss of revenue by its relief from financial burden which would otherwise have to be met by appropriations from public funds, and by the benefits resulting from the promotion of the general welfare. The United States derives no such benefit from gifts to foreign institutions and the proposed limitation is consistent with the above theory."

However, the report continued, "if the recipient is a domestic organization, the fact that some portion of its funds is used in other countries for charitable and other purposes (such as missionary and educational purposes) will not affect the deductibility of the gift."

Curtis declared the situation is different in 1963 from what it was in 1936. In recent years the nation has been engaged in many foreign aid programs such as mutual security programs, point 4, Peace Corps, student exchanges and others.

The Missouri congressman strongly urged the Ways and Means Committee to reconsider the current national policy on foreign contributions. His point emphasized the use of foreign religious and charitable institutions to bolster American foreign policy. He said:

"We have written a great many tax incentives into our internal revenue code to encourage the development of certain policies. This could well be an area where the Congress should take a long look to determine whether or not this impediment to contributions to foreign charities should be changed or eliminated."

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Kansas City Group
Buys Apartments

(9-21-63)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Temple Foundation, a charitable organization connected with Temple Baptist Church here, has acquired the 160-room Berkshire Apartment Hotel here for \$1 million.

Rutherford L. Decker, president of the Foundation and pastor of the church, said his group would continue to operate the hotel as a transient facility.

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The foundation is also planning to build a \$4 million retirement and nursing home in the downtown area, near the church site.

Decker said changes in the ground floor of the hotel will cost about \$125,000. Included in this would be an expanded lobby and closing of the hotel's cocktail lounge.

Decker was prohibition party candidate for President in 1960.

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Analyst Says \$819,951
Extra Due For Missions

(9-21-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Action at Kansas City cutting the size of capital funds in the Cooperative Program budget of the Southern Baptist Convention may provide an \$819,951 bonus to foreign and home missionaries next year.

A Convention financial analyst gave this estimate at the 1964 Southern Baptist Communication Conference here. He is John H. Williams, Nashville, financial planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee.

He said the \$819,951 is expected above the \$19.2 million needed from the 32,000 SBC churches to meet 1964 operating budgets and capital needs of SBC agencies.

The 1963 Convention at Kansas City trimmed capital needs from \$5.5 million in the current budget to \$3.3 million in the 1964 budget. This was to restore the missions advance money which has been missing for several years, years in which the Convention failed to meet its budget goal.

The advance section, providing the bonus, is entered only after the Convention pays its agencies their operating and capital needs for the current year and any overdue from a past year.

Williams said 1964 receipts were expected to reach \$20,044,579 through the Cooperative Program. (These receipts do not include about \$40 million more in Cooperative Program funds kept for state Baptist convention uses.)

Of this \$20 million plus, \$14,626,500 would be used to meet the 1964 operating budgets of the agencies. Another \$3,372,000 would meet their 1964 capital needs, and \$1,226,128 would finish 1963 capital obligations still remaining.

Of the \$819,951 advance, or bonus, three-fourths (\$614,963) would go to foreign missions and the balance--\$204,988--to home missions.

For several years, Cooperative Program receipts for SBC agencies have taken care of operating budgets but have not been large enough to take care of capital needs provisions.

Cooperative Program income for Southern Baptist Convention agencies this year will almost reach \$19.5 million, the financial analyst reported.

The expected \$19,460,756 "would represent an increase of 2.87 per cent over 1962," according to Williams.

The Convention this year requires \$14,217,500 to meet the operating needs of the agencies supplied from Cooperative Program income.

It needs another \$5,575,000 to meet the capital expansion funds distributed to certain agencies. This makes a 1963 total of \$19,792,500, about \$330,000 more than the expected income.

Operating budgets are paid in full to agencies before capital needs are met. At the start of 1963, there remained 1962 capital needs to be met before 1963 capital needs funds could be distributed.

Williams told the conference most economists believe "the gross national product will continue to rise next year.

"With this optimistic outlook..., it would appear that a 3 per cent increase in Cooperative Program receipts for 1964 would be conservative," he added.

"Such an increase would produce a total of \$20,044,579."

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Arizona Board Picks
Associate Secretary

PHOENIX (BP)--Roy F. Sutton has been chosen associate executive secretary-treasurer of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention. He was elected to the position by the Convention Executive Board which met here.

Sutton had been administrative assistant to Executive Secretary Charles L. McKay since June, 1961.

In addition to these administrative duties, he has served as director of the Baptist Loan Fund, a multi-million dollar aspect of Baptist work which includes both investments and building bonds for Baptist churches. He also was stewardship director.

This is the second time Sutton has held this position. In 1948-49 he was assistant executive secretary-treasurer under Willis J. Ray.

The Executive Board also voted approval to buy a 17-acre parcel of land in Tucson on which to build and equip a 125 to 150-bed hospital, "without encumbering the assets of the convention."

This recommendation must also be approved by the convention in its annual session in November.

The board heard proposed that Utah and Idaho be constituted into a separate convention to begin operating Jan. 1, 1965.

Arizona Southern Baptist Convention would therefore withhold 15 per cent of Cooperative Program gifts from churches in these states from the 1964 budget to give them capital to begin separate operation.

Utah and Idaho presently are a part of the Arizona convention area.

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Resolution Offers
Racial Sympathy

(9-21-63)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Outbreaks of racial violence prompted the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to pass a resolution here of sympathy for victims of violence and calling for prayer "to heal the rift."

The resolution cited no particular outbreak or scene of violence.

Earlier, a member of the committee, Charles A. Trentham of Knoxville, Tenn., had offered a resolution of sympathy mentioning by name the bombed Negro Baptist church in Birmingham where several children attending Sunday school were killed.

Alabama Baptist leaders, however, objected to "singling out Birmingham when it is a problem all across the country." Leon Macon, Birmingham, editor of the Alabama Baptist and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, offered a second resolution.

It did not mention the bombed church nor the city of Birmingham.

The resolution, as adopted unanimously later, said for the Executive Committee:

"We express our deepest sympathy to those families who have lost loved ones and to others who have been victimized by such racial strife....."

"We call upon the members of our churches throughout the land to pray for a turning to and sustaining of those Christian principles which alone can produce the balm of love that is sufficient to heal the rift in our world."

Trentham, proposing his resolution, declared, "Timing is important, A funeral (for one of the Sunday school children killed by the explosion) is being held today."

He also asked that Southern Baptists be encouraged "to contribute money" to rebuild the heavily damaged Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

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The resolution Macon offered called attention to "violence and other acts of lawlessness...committed in many parts of the country, (which)...resulted in loss of lives and property."

Before drafting the resolution which was adopted, a subcommittee conducted a closed hearing to which sponsors of the two resolutions and others wishing to testify were invited.

Mercer C. Irwin of Bogalusa, La., subcommittee chairman, was asked why the final draft did not mention the encouragement of gifts.

He said the Executive Committee could not promote an offering; only the Convention itself could do this.

Irwin added that money sent to a Baptist office designated for rebuilding the Birmingham church would go for that purpose.

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(See related story to follow from Washington.)

Text of racial resolution adopted by SBC Executive Committee:

BECAUSE racial strife has wrought tragedy and sorrow in many sections of our beloved nation and

BECAUSE this tragedy and sorrow lies heavily upon every Christian's conscience,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on September 18, 1963; that we express our deepest sympathy to those families who have lost loved ones and to others who have been victimized by such racial strife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That we call upon the members of our churches throughout the land to pray for a turning to and a sustaining of those Christian principles which alone can produce the balm of love that is sufficient to heal the rift in our world.

We would pledge our prayers and our energetic efforts to this end.

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