

March 30, 1948

## BAPTISTS BOYCOTT SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERT

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.--(BP)--Almost two-thirds of the 5700 seats in Chattanooga's municipal auditorium were left vacant for an Easter night concert of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra because of organized opposition by Chattanooga Baptist churches.

The concert, broadcast on a national radio network, was scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday night, and Chattanooga Baptist ministers protested it would interfere with city-wide Baptist evangelistic services.

Whereas only 722 tickets had been sold late Saturday, the box office estimated actual attendance at close to 2000. Proceeds were to have gone to the Bonnie Oaks school here, a home for underprivileged children.

The opposition first was voiced by Dr. John A. Huff, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, a month in advance of the concert. It took strength a week ago in a united expression from all Baptist ministers in the city.

As plans were continued, the Baptist pastors asked their members to boycott the Detroit musicians. They also ran a paid advertisement in Chattanooga papers opposing the Sunday night engagement.

Henry Reichhold, financial sponsor of the symphony, had counter by saying the symphony would be in two parts, and agreed to announce during the 7 p.m. intermission period that church services were being held throughout the city by the Baptist churches.

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## A RECORD TO BEAT

ATLANTA, Ga.--(BP)--Rev. Stanley Smith, Baptist missionary to the Indians at Dania, Fla., has written Dr. J. B. Rounds, superintendent of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention:

"From January 1945 to December 1947, we have baptized 197 Indians, and all but six of them are tithers."

Comments Superintendent Rounds: "I challenge the white Baptists to beat this record."

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WALKING, TALKING DP  
VISITS MEMPHIS BAPTISTS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Talk about vouching for European displaced persons in the United States reached a concrete status here with the arrival of an accredited former DP who has 7000 healthy and able Balts, mostly farmers, waiting and praying for such an opportunity.

Adolph Klaupiks, born Russian but reared Latvian by choice, was visiting with Dr. R. Paul Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church, with his lists and recommendations. He shared the pulpit with Dr. Caudill to tell why these people dare not return to their homelands in areas now dominated by Russia.

"All is going too slow and too long," Mr. Klaupiks said in sincere, halting English. "Food is very meager, and its lack is beginning to affect these people, particularly their children."

Mr. Klaupiks took from his files a detailed example. It was the Feodore Shvetsov family group. With a picture he produced a letter signed by the Rev. John Elder, Presbyterian missionary at Teheran, Iran, for nine years.

The Shvetsovs, the letter explained, are Russian Baptists. "They are the solid and sound type of immigrant that as an American I am glad to help enter the States," Mr. Elder wrote. "Refugees from the Communist regime who made their way to Teheran, they are a very fine type, steady and industrious, clean in their habits, and religiously sincere and active. Here they have done both mechanical and repair work, and also farming. I am sure they will have no difficulty in making their way in America."

The family, like 3000 more Baptists and 4000 Protestants on his lists, would make "conscientious" workers for farmers and others, Mr. Klaupiks said. All brought here, he indicated, would fit gratefully and well into the "melting pot" that is America.

The direct emissary for DP's pointed out that passage of the Stratton Bill, allowing immigration of 100,000 annually for four years to this nation, must "be passed in some form" before he can get the bulk of his 7000 carefully screened DP's into this country.

At its St. Louis meeting last May, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted resolutions asking Congress to authorize the admission of 100,000 of these displaced persons annually for four years. The bill is still before Congress.