

November 24, 1963

**Hospital Agency Wants  
No Federal Activity**

CHICAGO (BP)--The Southern Baptist Hospital board has asked the American Hospital Association to "curtail its activities in seeking government participation in the work of the voluntary hospital."

The request was made in a statement read into the proceedings of "an invitational conference for hospital governing boards," held here.

The theme of the conference, attended by one hospital trustee and one administrator from each state, was "Community and State Situations of Concern to Hospital Trustees." The meeting was sponsored by the American Hospital Association.

Representing Louisiana and Florida respectively were: Rufus H. Zachry, pastor of the Metairie Baptist Church, New Orleans, and president of Southern Baptist Hospitals, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention; Raymond C. Wilson, administrator of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans; Hardy M. Harrell, Jacksonville insurance executive and formerly chairman of the hospital agency's executive committee, and Lawrence R. Payne, administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville.

Their statement expressed firm disapproval of any trends toward injection of "unnecessary government control" at any level as a threat to the voluntary hospital system. The complete text of the statement follows:

"The Southern Baptist Hospital board is deeply concerned about the opportunities of the voluntary hospital in the future and requests the including of this statement in the records of this meeting. We believe this is the consensus of other Baptist hospitals as well.

"Our concern is primarily with the intervention of government at any level in the operation of voluntary hospitals. Baptists have a long history of belief of separation of church and state. As citizens of the United States we subscribe wholeheartedly to the free enterprise system in business and industry.

"The federal government has made and continues to make tremendous inroads into the right of private business and industry, to choose whom they will employ and whom they will serve. If this involuntary control of business and industry is exercised, how can the voluntary hospital hope to escape?

"We believe that man's God-given right of choice should not be exploited by federal or other levels of government.

"We believe that the dignity of the less fortunate who are ill can best be preserved, and their needs best met, by voluntary hospitals.

"We believe that the best possible relationships between patient and physician, and patient and hospital which serves him, should exist. This relationship can exist only when the right to choose exists.

"We believe the voluntary hospital in the future should continue to go as far as possible in the ministry of healing the hurts of mankind without the intervention of any unnecessary outside influences.

"We respectfully request the American Hospital Association to curtail its activities in seeking government participation in the work of the voluntary hospital."

Missouri Secretary  
Has Heart Attack

KENNETT, Mo. (BP)--Earl O. Harding, 51, executive secretary, Missouri Baptist Convention, had a heart attack here, where he was preaching in a revival at First Baptist Church. (Date of attack: Nov. 19.)

Attending doctors described the seizure as moderately severe and are waiting for the results of further tests to determine the full extent of the attack.

Harding had come to Kennett on the weekend before to begin a revival meeting. On Sunday morning, he appeared to be at his best and in good health.

Barring complications, he was expected to remain in Dunklin County Memorial Hospital at Kennett for at least a week before a possible move to a hospital in Jefferson City, where the Missouri Baptist Convention has its headquarters.

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9 States To Hike  
Percentage To SBC

(11-24-63)

(Editor's Note: This is a resume of state Baptist convention actions.)

By the Baptist Press

Nine state Baptist groups will give a larger percentage of their Cooperative Program income to support work carried on by the Southern Baptist Convention nationally and worldwide.

One or two states appeared to have reduced their budget goals and their percentages to the SBC.

This financial picture emerges from a preliminary study of actions this fall at 28 state Baptist conventions or associations cooperating with the SBC. It is based on news reports given to Baptist Press.

The Cooperative Program supports state and SBC work. As the state budget goes, so moves the SBC budget. Messengers to the 28 state bodies adopt the percentage division of funds between state and SBC activities.

About one-third of the total state budgets reaches the SBC. The other two-thirds supports state missions. The actual amount, state by state, ranges from 43 per cent to only 15 per cent.

Involved is approximately \$60 million in Cooperative Program receipts which the 32,500 Southern Baptist churches will send next year to their state offices.

Size of the SBC share does not necessarily hinge on the size of the state budget, according to 1963 actions, which apply to 1964 budgets.

New Mexico and Maryland offer a comparison. Maryland has a Cooperative Program budget of \$562,000, of which 40 per cent is going to the SBC. New Mexico will send only 27 per cent of its \$565,000 to the SBC.

Generally, however, young and struggling state conventions are found in 15 and 20 per cent category, such as Colorado Baptist General Convention where the SBC 1964 share is 15 per cent.

States where the work is more solidly established give a higher percentage to the SBC. Oklahoma, Florida, Maryland and Georgia all voted to give 40 per cent or more of their Cooperative Program 1964 budgets to the SBC.

And, of course, budgets in long-established state conventions are larger normally than in young conventions.

States use their money, their two-thirds, to support many institutions, or to embark on building programs. These were in the 1963 news picture.

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Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, whose share to SBC will be 20 per cent in 1964 compared with 18 per cent this year, arranged to buy land for a Baptist hospital to be built in Tucson.

Florida State Baptist Convention, plugging toward a 50-50 division of Cooperative Program income, announced an effort to meet a Ford Foundation matching gift of \$1.5 million to Stetson University (Baptist) at DeLand. Its percentage went up from 41 to 42 per cent.

Both Florida convention and the Baptist Convention of Maryland voted to establish Baptist junior colleges in their states.

The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana made a slight increase in its yearly forwarding to the SBC--from 26 per cent now to 26.1 per cent in 1964. Its messengers learned state executive offices probably will move into their new building outside Indianapolis in January.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia, moving from 36 to 37 per cent of its budget to the SBC, considered the need for more homes for the aging.

Other states reporting an increase in SBC share of the Cooperative Program include the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, from 41 to 42 per cent; Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington, from 17 to 18 per cent, the Alaska Baptist Convention, from 26 to 27 per cent, and the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, from 27 to 30 per cent.

Gauging the news appeal by out-of-state interest, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina probably attracted most attention.

North Carolina in its 1963 session (1) failed to permit non-Baptist and out-of-state trustees for Wake Forest College, (2) passed a resolution opposing capital punishment for crimes, (3) elected a new general secretary and (4) vetoed a proposal for a new Baptist state office building in Raleigh.

Less turmoil over doctrine was evident in the fact that while the Oklahoma convention adopted a resolution on the subject, it was evidently the only state.

Race statements were most outspoken in Hawaii Baptist Convention and in Maryland. Hawaiians called for integration of churches and church institutions throughout the SBC. Maryland urged its affiliated churches to receive Negro members.

Kentuckians will survey integration of churches and church-related schools and hospitals there. Georgia Baptist Convention voted support of its university, Mercer in Macon, which has admitted Negro students.

South Carolina Baptist Convention asked Furman University trustees to delay admitting Negro students to that Baptist school. The convention wants to find a policy to apply to Furman and to its three other schools as well.

District of Columbia Baptist Convention received a Negro church into fellowship.

Church-state matters got an airing. California Baptists opposed a bill in Congress giving federal aid to church-related colleges.

Arkansas Baptists debated whether Hill-Burton funds to construct a hospital addition through a private corporation was "subterfuge" for direct acceptance. The corporation would lease the hospital addition to a Baptist agency. The expansion was approved by a narrow margin of votes.

Kentucky Baptist Convention approved the United States Supreme Court ruling outlawing required Bible reading and prayer in public schools but disapproved extreme interpretations of it.

New colleges were planned in several states. Maryland moved ahead with a proposed Baptist junior college. Florida also voted to establish a Baptist junior college. South Carolina Baptists heard of progress toward a new college near Charleston.

Laymen serve as presidents in three states. Mississippi Baptist Convention reelected a dentist. The Baptist General Convention of Texas elected the layman president of one of its schools--Baylor University--as convention president. A direct descendant of Roger Williams serves the District of Columbia.

A new state convention is soon to be formed. It will break off from the Arizona convention and will include Southern Baptists in Utah and Idaho. It will probably come into existence Jan. 1, 1965.

Oregon-Washington and Kansas conventions established "firsts" in their 1963 convention sites. Both serve a larger area than one state. The Oregon-Washingtonians met in Vancouver, B. C., the first time in Canada. Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists met in suburban Omaha, the first time in Nebraska.