

December 21, 1963

**Texas President Warns
Of Government Control**

DALLAS (BP)--The president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Abner V. McCall, warned that if the government controls religion, "as it is slowly doing," then religion will be dead, but not buried.

McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., made the statements in a sermon on religious liberty at the largest Southern Baptist church, First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Government financial aid means government control, McCall said, and government control means less personal freedom and liberty.

McCall, cited the College Aid Bill recently passed by both Houses in Congress as "a further encroachment of government in religious liberty."

The College Aid Bill, already signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, provides for direct grants and loans to church-related colleges and universities for academic facilities.

McCall pledged that Baylor University, largest Baptist university in the world, will not seek aid through the never-ending list of grants, loans and other financial assistance available from the government.

"It is impossible to run a school, hospital or orphans' home without some type of control from Austin (the Texas state capital) or Washington," he said.

McCall decried the tendency for government to take over welfare work done by the churches in the past. "About 90 per cent of the work done by the church in education, hospitals, orphanages and other non-profit fields has been up to the government in recent years," he said.

Churches did not rush to the aid of flood victims in the recent tragedy in Los Angeles, Calif., McCall said. "Instead town officials issued an appeal to Washington to declare it a disaster area."

If the trend for Christians to turn over the church's work of social service to the government continues, the church will become "only a shell and will lose the influence it has gained through the ages," McCall said.

As the people depend less on the church and more on the government, the importance of the church will be steadily diminished.

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**\$45,000 Bequest
Bolsters Lottie Moon**

(12-21-63)

LAWTON, Okla. (BP)--A \$45,000 bequest was reported here as part of the gifts by a church here taking its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Donald Potts, pastor of Central Baptist Church, said the money for overseas missions was left in the will of Mrs. A. T. Howell, who was active in Woman's Missionary Union work. The women's organization promotes the annual Christmas-time offering for foreign missions.

During her lifetime, Mrs. Howell was an avid supporter of the Lottie Moon offering, according to the pastor.

Mrs. Howell died July 5, 1961. She was a charter member of Central Church. The \$45,000 bequest represents the bulk of her estate, Potts said.

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Retired Chemists'
Experiment Works

DELAND, Fla. (BP)--An experiment with retired chemists is working out successfully at a Baptist college here.

Stetson University, pleased with results of the experiment, announced it would further encourage retired chemists to continue their research in college laboratories.

A number of retired scientists have participated already.

When Stetson's proposed \$2 million science building is erected, the chemistry department hopes to include special research facilities for these retired scientists. Present space limits the extent of this program.

In exchange for using the college facilities, retired chemists are helping students with their chemistry, working on technical programs and leading informal scientific discussions.

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Vocational Aid Bill
Passed By Congress

(12-21-63)

WASHINGTON (BP)--A third major education program got Congressional approval in the Senate passage of the Vocational Education Bill. The President's signature makes the bill law.

The measure, a compromise between differing Senate and House versions passed earlier this year, won Senate approval in a vote of 82-4. The House had already passed the compromise bill.

The conference report on the bill would (1) expand the current vocational education program by an additional \$1.6 billion over a four-year period; (2) extend for two years the program of aid to federally impacted areas by authorizing an additional \$319.6 million; and (3) extend for one year the student loan provision of the National Defense Education Act by increasing the amount available in loans and increasing the amount available to students in any one college.

Congress passed earlier this year a Medical School Aid Bill and a College Aid Bill. Both of these make funds available to church institutions.

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Space Adequate Despite
Atlantic City Demands

(12-21-63)

By the Baptist Press

Despite what is believed to be an unusually heavy demand for rooms this far ahead of the Convention, there are still plenty of hotel and motel rooms available in Atlantic City, N. J., for the 1964 Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Jubilee Celebration to follow.

This was reported by John H. Williams, Nashville, who handles Convention arrangements for the SBC Executive Committee.

Atlantic City sources told Williams there are 13,000 rooms available in Atlantic City--all, he said, within a "reasonable distance" of the Convention Hall--and only 4685 have been reserved by persons for the SBC or the American Baptist Convention.

The two Conventions hold their sessions separately but on the same dates, just ahead of the Baptist Jubilee Celebration next May.

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Certain hotels on Boardwalk are full, but some others on Boardwalk still have space, it was reported. Hotels a block or two off Boardwalk report adequate space remaining.

The same applies to motels--although some are reserved to capacity, others are not.

Advance information is that 1471 persons already have indicated they will attend the American Convention, reserving 837 rooms, and 7268 have already shown their plans to attend the SBC, reserving 3848 rooms, according to Williams.

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Baptist Heads Latin
American Relations

(12-21-63)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Thomas C. Mann, the Texan selected by President Johnson to administer the United States' Latin American policies, is a Baptist.

Johnson has named Mann, presently the American ambassador to Mexico, to serve both as assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs and as special assistant to the President in the field of Latin American relations.

Mann, a native of Laredo, Tex., a city on the Mexican border, holds degrees in both arts and law from Baylor University, a Texas Baptist institution. He, his wife and his son, Clifton, are members of the Briggs Memorial Baptist Church in Washington.

In a letter to Ambassador Mann, the President said he is determined to achieve "an American community of nations moving forward together in progress and freedom."

That, he said in essence, is Mann's job.

During his 20 years in the foreign service, Mann has served in Greece, Guatemala, El Salvador, Venezuela and Mexico. He also has served previously but briefly, during the Eisenhower administration, as an assistant secretary of state.

He is the fourth Baptist holding an important place on President Johnson's White House staff.

Bill D. Moyers, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, works as one of Johnson's closest advisors though he still retains his title as deputy director of the Peace Corps.

Brooks Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is assistant to the President in the field of intergovernmental relations, and Richard Reuter, a New York Baptist, is special assistant to the President with responsibility for the Food for Peace program. Both Hays and Reuter were named by President Kennedy and continued on the staff under President Johnson.

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Jeffrey To Direct
Athletes Fellowship

(12-21-63)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--A Southern Baptist lay preacher and insurance underwriter has been named executive director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an inter-denominational organization. The new director is James N. Jeffrey, former athlete at Baylor University (Baptist), Waco, Tex., who has been living in Fort Worth. The fellowship offices are in Kansas City, and Jeffrey will move here.

Jeffrey has spoken at a number of college and seminary campuses during religious emphasis weeks and at other times. He played football at Baylor in 1949 and 1950. As a halfback, he was named to the all-Southwest Conference team.

During his Air Force enlistment he played for service teams and was a member of the service All-American squad.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsors meetings in high schools, colleges and elsewhere among youth. It holds three or four summer conferences which attract athletes and coaches. Members of the fellowship give of their spare time to speak to youth groups.

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