

February 15, 1964

**Protestants Favor Only
Limited Federal Aid**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Opposition to federal support of the educational programs of parochial schools was voted by the National Study Conference on Church and State in session here.

However, the conference approved "under some well-defined circumstances" government support of health and welfare programs of church-related agencies and schools.

Delegates from 24 Protestant and Orthodox communions in a 2100-word report on "Separation and Interaction of Church and State" agreed on the following:

1. "A strong commitment to religious liberty as man's natural right and indispensable condition of a free society,
2. "Recognition that ours is a pluralistic and not simply a Protestant society,
3. "Acceptance and support of Supreme Court decisions insofar as they prohibit officially prescribed prayers and required devotional reading of the Bible in public schools,
4. "Recognition that the court's decision underscores the responsibility upon the family and the church for religious education,
5. "Opposition to any proposal such as the so-called Christian amendment which seeks to commit our government to official identification with a particular religious tradition,
6. "Rejection of over-simplified formulations such as that which seeks to make religion exclusively a private matter or to make all public matters secular, and
7. "Awareness that the functions of church and state must be clearly defined as separate, yet relationships should be flexible enough to encompass the increasing areas of interaction."

The conference was called by the National Council of Churches and was directed by the department of religious liberty, Dean Kelley, secretary.

The opinions of the conference expressed only the views of the delegates present and do not necessarily represent those of the National Council nor of the denominations represented. Delegates were present from several denominations not affiliated with the Council, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thirteen Southern Baptists participated in the conference. Several Southern Baptists could not remain through the entire conference, but of those who stayed most voted against portions of the report that seemed to open doors to government support of church agencies of any kind.

The Southern Baptists present were: Jimmy R. Allen, Dallas; W. Richard Bates, LaMirada, Calif.; Jerry Dawson, Plainview, Tex.; W. Barry Garrett, Washington; Kenneth L. Hansen, Jacksonville, Fla.; Walker Knight, Atlanta; Albert McClellan, Nashville; Erwin L. McDonald, Little Rock; Robert T. Miller, Waco, Tex.; R. Robert Otto, Macon, Ga.; Harold G. Sanders, Middletown, Ky.; James E. Wood, Waco; J. Terry Young, Fresno, Calif.

C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, served as a consultant.

The conference took note of the changed relations between church and state in present-day America. The situation is different from what it was in the early days of the Republic, the conference said.

At that time, it continued, "the nation which adopted the first amendment at the same time considered itself both Christian and Protestant and saw no contradiction in passing laws which required Sunday observance, prayer and Bible reading in the public schools."

Now, however, the conference said, due to the "enrichment of immigration," the development of a "pluralistic" society, the growth of health and welfare services of the government and expanding church programs in the same areas, crucial questions have been raised "concerning both separation and interaction between church and state."

Among areas requiring further study, the conference pointed out, are:

1. "The role of the state in promoting programs affected with a religious interest,
2. "The ways in which the state exercises its responsibility to advance religious liberty,
3. "Whether and under what conditions the church may legitimately accept public monies in church-related programs of health and welfare, and
4. "Whether and under what conditions the church may legitimately accept public monies in church-related programs in elementary, secondary and higher education."

A section of the report approved by the conference, but which registered a recorded dissent of over 25 per cent of those voting, said "under some well-defined circumstances, government may legitimately support specific programs of church-affiliated health and welfare agencies."

Specifically, the limitations placed on these government-supported programs of church agencies were:

- A. "That government programs must not be aimed primarily at the support of religious institutions or objectives,
- B. "That any support of church-affiliated agencies must be an incidental part of a large program directed to appropriate public interests,
- C. "That the agency does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, or national origin, and
- D. "That reversionary clauses, limited to a fixed and reasonable period, be written into all contractual arrangements to insure that funds, buildings and equipment are not diverted from the purposes from which they were originally acquired."

The conference was divided into 12 study sections. Each section made a report to the conference as a whole, but the reports were only "received" and were not approved or disapproved. Divergent and conflicting views were sometimes expressed in the section reports.

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Space Taken Fast
In Atlantic City

(2-15-64)

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. (BP)--The housing bureau here reports through January that 6,236 rooms have been assigned for May meetings--4,912 for the Southern Baptist Convention and 1,324 for the American Baptist Convention.

Speaking in terms of persons, 11,551 have been assigned rooms. This includes 9,234 Southern Baptists and 2,317 members of American Baptist churches.

The bureau said only three hotels along Boardwalk have rooms available; one of these is out of single rooms.

There is only one hotel off Boardwalk not completely filled, but a number of motels still have space available.

The housing bureau, through which requests for accommodations for the 1964 SBC session and the Baptist Jubilee Advance celebration to follow should be made, may be addressed at 16 Central Pier, Atlantic City.

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Men Of 2 Conventions
Announce May Session

By the Baptist Press

A special fellowship and inspirational session for Baptist men the afternoon of May 22 has been added to the big Baptist celebration planned in Atlantic City, N. J.

The event in the grand ballroom of Convention Hall between 2 and 4:30 p.m. is expected to attract about 5,000 men, said George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The meeting is sponsored by the SBC Brotherhood Commission and by American Baptist Men, a division of the American Baptist Convention.

Theme of the fellowship will be "The Witnessing Role of Men in Christianity."

Highlights of the meeting include addresses by two laymen from the two Baptist conventions.

Also participating will be John A. Dawson of Chicago, president of the men's department of the Baptist World Alliance; Roy Collum Jr. of Philadelphia, Miss., chairman of the SBC Brotherhood Commission; and Charles Smith of Springfield, Ill., president of American Baptist Men.

Among the men attending will be messengers from at least five other Baptist bodies--Baptist Federation of Canada; National Baptist Convention of America; National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; North American Baptist General Conference, and the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

The Baptist celebration will last a week.

It opens on May 18 with the annual meetings of the National Council of American Baptist Women, Southern Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and other features.

American Baptists and Southern Baptists then start their annual Conventions in separate sections of Convention Hall.

After the men's fellowship, all Baptists attending will gather in 40,000-seat Convention Hall for the three-day Baptist Third Jubilee Celebration, commemorating 150 years of organized Baptist work in North America.

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Mission Board Elects
Moffatt Photographer

(2-15-64)

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has named Gene Edward Moffatt of Nashville, Tenn., as its photographer-technician.

Moffatt, 37, is a practicing photographer and minister with experience in visual aids, radio, and television. He has also served as an associate pastor in Texas, and as a pastor in Tennessee, Indiana and Virginia.

Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission agency, said in recommending Moffatt, "I believe he has the attitude, motive, talent, experience and training to enable him to preach missions with his camera."

He will begin work April 1 in the department of promotion of which J. C. Durham Jr., is secretary.

In Nashville, he has done special assignments for Broadman Films department of the Sunday School Board of the SBC, and he has served in a number of missions in the city.

A native of Memphis, Moffatt is a graduate of Union University (Baptist), Jackson, Tenn. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

His wife is the former Joyce E. Arnold of Forrest City, Ark. They have three children.

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