

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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Baptist Joint Committee
Moves To Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will move its offices to newly leased quarters on Capitol Hill, according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director.

The new location is the third floor of the Veterans of Foreign Wars building, at 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E. The five-story, white marble office building overlooks the United States Capitol. It is located one block from the Supreme Court building and two blocks from the Library of Congress.

The move, effective July 1, was authorized by the Baptist Joint Committee at its semi-annual meeting in March with final details to be worked out. At the same time, the Committee okayed a new program of study and research to begin in the fall and the employment of a research director.

The new research program called for relocation of the entire operation of the Committee. For the past several years the Committee has occupied the fourth floor of the Baptist Building here.

Walfred H. Peterson, the new director of research, will begin his work with the Committee on August 1. This brings the executive staff of the Baptist Joint Committee to four full-time men. In addition to the executive director and the research director, there are two other associates in the work. W. Barry Garrett is associate director for information services, and James M. Sapp is associate director for correlation services.

Carlson said the new location on Capitol Hill will increase the effectiveness of the work of the Baptist Joint Committee. Close proximity to the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, the Capitol, and the Senate and House office buildings will be especially valuable to the research and information programs, he said.

No more space was available at the already crowded Baptist Building in Washington for the rapidly expanding services of the Baptist Joint Committee for its sponsoring conventions. The move, according to Carlson, does not rule out possible future working together with the Baptist World Alliance and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention for any Baptist center that may develop in the Nation's Capital.

The Baptist Joint Committee is composed of public affairs committees from eight Baptist denominations in the United States and Canada. They are the American Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist General Conference, North American Baptist General Conference, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, Baptist Federation of Canada, National Baptist Convention, and National Baptist Convention, Inc.

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Asks Treatment For Drug
Addicts Instead of Jail

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Both Administration and Congressional leadership have introduced legislation which would provide a federal program of treatment rather than criminal punishment for narcotics addicts.

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Henry H. Fowler, secretary of the Treasury, and Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, U. S. attorney general, jointly proposed the Administration's legislation putting more emphasis on rehabilitating rather than just imprisoning narcotics violators. The proposals follow closely the measures outlined by President Johnson in his anti-crime message to Congress in March.

A few days earlier Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R) and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D), both of New York, had introduced a package of four bills calling for a plan to deal with the narcotics addiction problem in the United States. Companion bills also received bipartisan support in the House of Representatives.

The Javits-Kennedy proposals would provide a three-year, \$75 million federal treatment program. The Administration proposals carry no price tag but would authorize appropriation of "such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act."

The legislation proposed by the Administration would:

1. Establish a civil commitment procedure to treat certain addicts facing criminal prosecution for narcotics or other offenses.
2. Offer a treatment program for addicts who have been convicted of crimes but are ruled capable of rehabilitation.
3. Ease some of the mandatory penalties which presently bar parole, especially for youthful offenders. Marijuana offenders would become eligible for standard parole.

These recommendations are similar to the bills introduced by the two New York Senators. The Javits-Kennedy package of proposals also would:

1. Establish a federal-state two-thirds, one-third matching grant program to provide job training, family counseling and psychiatric treatment. Up to 20 per cent of the funds could go as direct 100 per cent grants to private, nonprofit organizations.
2. Create a federal-state two-thirds, one-third matching grant plan for construction of medical treatment facilities, especially outpatient clinics.

Excluded from the civil commitment proposals would be persons charged with crimes of violence and those who sold narcotics for profit alone. Also excluded would be those with two felony convictions, those who have been committed twice for narcotics addiction, and those on probation or parole.

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New Program Would Feed Children Through Summer

(6-16-65)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A special summer lunch program for children, which would give free lunches to children not able to pay, is called for in legislation introduced by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff (D., Conn.).

Ribicoff, one time secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, pointed out that there are over 1,600,000 children who received lunches in 1964 under the National School Lunch Act at little or no cost to the pupils. He questioned how these children are being fed when school is not in session.

These children need "the nutritional advantage of at least one decent, well-balanced meal a day" during the summer, he said. He said the situation is particularly deplorable in the Nation's Capital where 40 per cent of the public school children rely on free lunches. A summer lunch program is being drafted for the Washington area, to be financed by anti-poverty funds. Ribicoff would make such a program nationwide.

The bill is cosponsored by 18 other Senators. It would permit public recreation centers, public or private nonprofit day camps, public or private nonprofit neighborhood child centers, public or private nonprofit summer camps, or any other public or private nonprofit activity concerned with health or recreation of children, to serve lunches to children during summer recesses. It would also include children attending summer school.

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Under the National School Lunch Act of 1946 the Department of Agriculture furnishes funds to the states for purchase of food and distributes surplus foods and commodities directly to the schools. The schools in turn agree to operate on a nonprofit basis, to provide free lunches to those not able to pay, and to meet the nutritional standards set up by the Agriculture Department. These three conditions would also have to be met in Ribicoff's proposal.

The Connecticut Senator said he conceives of his program as "part of the war on poverty and not an exclusive school activity." The various recreation centers where lunches would be available would include community action programs organized under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Ninety per cent of the funds for the lunch program would come from the federal government. The other ten per cent would come from the locality.

In states which do not permit the state agency to disburse public funds to private nonprofit summer youth centers, the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to withhold funds from the state and distribute them directly.

"Throughout our land, children are going hungry during school except for school lunches. And once school is out of session, they just go hungry," Ribicoff said. This fact is the "largest single justification and a clearly indisputable argument" for extending the regular school lunch program to cover summer activities, he stated.

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Baptist School Gets
College Housing Loan

(6-16-65)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A Baptist college will receive a \$475,000 college housing loan, according to announcement from the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency here.

Oakland City (Ind.) College, affiliated with the General Association of General Baptists, was approved for the loan for construction of student housing facilities. The project will include a new dormitory for women and a cafeteria-type snack bar for the student body.

Thirteen church related colleges and universities were approved for a total of \$11,161,000 in college housing loans in a two month period. Besides the Baptist school these include Lutheran, Evangelical Reformed, Presbyterian, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Assembly of God.

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