

# BAPTIST PRESS

## A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE

Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE  
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July 16, 1965

Baptist Leader Hits At  
Senate Communism Study

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A Baptist leader here said that a study on "The Church and State Under Communism" released by the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security is "rather superficial" in its treatment of the subject.

Joseph Nordenhaug, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, pointed out that in relation to the Baptists in Russia the incorrect use of language and the sources quoted in the Senate committee report are not satisfactory.

Specifically, the report says of the Baptists in Russia, "No information is available on the fate of the Baptist Church since 1960."

Nordenhaug said that he has been connected with the Baptist World Alliance only since 1960 and that he has compiled a file eight inches thick on the Baptist situation in Russia. He added that as far as he knows those who prepared the special study made no contact with the Baptist World Alliance for information about Baptists in Russia.

The special study was prepared by the Law Library of the Library of Congress. It was released by Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D., Conn.), vice chairman of the Senate subcommittee.

In a foreword to the publication the Senator says that it gives "a detailed account of various forms of harassment and persecution to which the religions of the U.S.S.R. have been subjected."

In a previous study "the present legal situation of the church in the U.S.S.R. was discussed," Dodd recalled. Following closely on the heels of the Russian study was another one on the situation in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Commenting on the series of studies, Dodd said in a foreword to the fourth volume that "it is to be hoped that the present series of studies will help to establish the truth about the status of religion under communism."

A further objective Dodd hoped for was that the study "will throw some light on the efforts of clerical authorities in communist countries to extend their sphere of influence and control over related communities in other parts of the world."

Russian Baptist leaders attended the Congress of the Baptist World Alliance both in Rio de Janeiro in 1960 and in Miami Beach in 1965. Yakov I. Zhidkov, president of the Baptist Union of the U.S.S.R., served as a vice president of the Alliance for the past five years.

Since 1960 Russian Baptist leaders have attended meetings of the executive committee of the Baptist World Alliance. Several Baptist leaders from other parts of the world have visited Baptists in Russia in recent years.

Confronted with the charge that the Baptists from Russia attending the Baptist World Congress in Miami Beach are communists, Ivan Motorin in a press conference flatly denied that there are any communists in the Baptist churches in Russia.

He said that anyone who becomes a church member cannot be a communist. Motorin is chairman of the Moscow Baptist Congregation and a staff member of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists.

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According to the Baptist World Alliance there are 550,000 Baptists in 5,400 congregations in Russia. The Senate subcommittee study says that there are "about 3,000,000" Baptists in Russia.

The difference in figures is explained by a Baptist World Alliance spokesman. The 550,000 are baptized adults. The 3,000,000 include Baptist "sympathizers" or those who are connected with the families of members.

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President Asks For  
National Teacher Corps

(7-16-65)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Legislation calling for a National Teacher Corps to help teachers in city slums and rural poverty areas has been introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives.

The proposal is a follow-through on a speech President Johnson made at the National Education Association convention in New York on July 2. The Administration's bill was introduced by Rep. Carl D. Perkins (D., Ky.), chairman of the House General Subcommittee on Education.

The Teacher Corps would recruit both experienced teachers and college graduates not yet experienced in teaching. They would join the corps for up to 2 years of service. The teachers and teacher-interns would be made available to schools in areas with high concentrations of low-income families. Their salaries would be the same as other teachers in that school with similar qualifications and experience.

The group would be the educational equivalent of the Peace Corps or VISTA, the volunteer program of the war on poverty.

The purpose of the corps, as stated in the bill, would be:

1. To "strengthen the educational opportunities available to children in areas having concentrations of low-income families;" and

2. To "encourage colleges and universities to broaden their program of teacher preparation" by attracting and training qualified teachers and inexperienced teacher-interns who would be made available to local educational agencies for teaching in such areas.

Under the bill the U. S. Commissioner of Education would be authorized to enter into arrangements, either grants or contracts, with institutions of higher education or state or local educational agencies, to provide up to three months of training for members of the Teacher Corps.

The Commissioner would also work with local and state educational agencies and with institutions of higher education, to furnish experienced teachers and teacher teams (experienced teachers and teacher-interns) "to local educational agencies, for service... in the schools of such agencies having concentrations of children from low-income families."

Members of the Teacher Corps would be "under the direct supervision of the appropriate officials of the local educational agencies to which they are assigned."

The bill would establish in the U. S. Office of Education a National Teacher Corps. The director and deputy director of the corps would work under the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner could appoint an Advisory Council to advise and consult on the criteria for selection of teachers and teacher-interns and other matters.

In his speech before the National Education Association calling for a National Teacher Corps, President Johnson cited the number of education measures which have become law since he has been President. He stated that in his State of the Union message next year he would "offer more new proposals to improve the education of all Americans."

"We are not going to stop until every child in this great and beautiful land of ours can have all of the education, of the highest quality, which his or her ambition demands and his or her mind can absorb," the President said.

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Resolution On Fourth  
Faith Not Being Pushed

WASHINGTON (BP)-- A resolution in the United States Senate officially to recognize the Eastern Orthodox Church as the fourth major faith in the U.S.A. faces no immediate action, according to information from the Senate Judiciary Committee staff.

This resolution, if approved, would make it mandatory that all references by federal agencies to major faiths in the U. S. include the Orthodox Church.

Sponsored by Senators R. Clifford Case (R., N.J.) and Jacob K. Javits (R., N.Y.) the resolution has been offered as a routine matter for several years. It is referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee of which Sen. James O. Eastland (D., Miss.) is chairman.

An investigation by Baptist Press, however, reveals that no action is scheduled on the proposal. In fact, it has not even been assigned to a subcommittee for consideration.

Commenting on the proposal, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, asked why such a resolution should be considered. "The United States government does not 'recognize' any faith," he said. "Why should the Eastern Orthodox Church be singled out for special recognition?"

It is customary in some circles in referring to the religious faiths of America to say, "Protestants, Catholics and Jews." This, however, is not a legal standing.

There is no law to prohibit a person or government agency from saying that there are four or five or six major faiths. This is a matter that is governed in the United States by statistical facts or by social usage.

Religious News Service points out in a recent story that "more than half of the states have passed resolutions recognizing Eastern Orthodoxy as a major religious faith." The story further said that "Senate action on the present resolution probably would spur several others to follow suit."

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New Law Aids  
Older Americans

(7-16-65)

WASHINGTON (BP)-- President Johnson has signed into law the Older Americans Act of 1965, which he termed a "new day" for Americans 65 years of age and older.

He said the legislation will be the "seed corn providing a start of an orderly, intelligent and constructive program" to meet the needs of the elderly.

The new law authorizes \$17.5 million for fiscal 1966 and 1967 for grants to states and to public and private nonprofit organizations for developing programs for the aged and training personnel to work with the aged.

It provides for grants or contracts with public or private nonprofit organizations and agencies for study, development, demonstration and evaluation projects related to the needs of the elderly.

The Older Americans Act creates a new Administration on Aging in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. A Commissioner on Aging will be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Senate.

Similar measures have been introduced in previous sessions of Congress. President Kennedy, in 1963, made similar requests, based on recommendations and findings of the 1961 White House Conference on Aging.

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