

September 9, 1965

13 Speak Against, 3 For
Aid At Georgia Hearing

By John J. Hurt Jr.

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention's first hearing on the issue of federal grants for its colleges drew only 75 people here. 13 opposed and three favored such aid in testimony given.

Both the number of persons attending the hour-long session and the number who spoke were a disappointment to some observers. Three other hearings were to be held around the state--at Madison, Statesboro and Cordele.

At Cartersville 11 ministers declared their opposition to the grants and two favored them. Of laymen who spoke, two opposed federal aid and one was for it.

Allen B. Comish of Columbus, Ga., chairman of the Georgia convention's education commission, explained the hearings are "a serious effort to find the thinking of Georgia Baptists concerning federal grants for our schools."

Furman B. Hendrix of Cartersville, a layman, testified first at the hearing here. "If our schools are of God, we ought to support them," he said. "If not, we ought to apologize for them." He argued the convention entered the education field to "get Christ out to a lost world."

Jerry Holland, Dalton, Ga., preacher, appealed for "improving our educational status" since "education is invaluable to our denomination." He said he feared "federal grants are interfering with Baptist purposes" and opposed such aid.

An Atlanta pastor, Bryan Robinson, contended the Baptist witness would be "damaged" with grants, and control from the government is "inevitable."

A layman trustee of one Georgia Baptist school called attention to the "crisis" facing the colleges. In his presentation, Claude Poindexter of Atlanta, also said Georgia Baptists may have to concentrate on supporting two or three colleges rather than six.

Brantley Seymour, Roswell, Ga., minister, was the first to speak without reservation for grants. He said he saw "no conflict" and favored loans along with grants for research and other special causes.

An associational missionary, Herbert Wilson, brought a statement from the Emerson, Ga., church opposing grants. Wilson voiced personal opposition to grants since it would mean a "sacrifice of Baptist distinctives."

One speaker favored closing some colleges if the convention can't support all of them. He was Dale E. Clark, Taylorsville, Ga., pastor, who said a subsidy to build only science facilities represents a subsidy to the whole.

W. H. Geren, East Point, Ga., pastor, supported his argument in favor of grants by calling attention to his experiences as a Navy chaplain. He said government and church cooperated there without conflict or compromise.

Another preacher, Troy Acree of Cumming, Ga., was concerned about "control of individual members" which appears on the horizon since tax policies may change gift patterns.

A Columbus, Ga., layman, Albert Hogan, was convinced Baptist people would respond and furnish the money needed by the colleges if their need was promoted. He preferred, he said, to pay his own bills.

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Not only would it violate principle and conscience to take federal grants, but it would also be costly because voluntary support would decline, according to an Atlanta pastor, Hugh Brooks.

A third person believed some schools could close if necessary for the convention to carry on its higher education without tax aid. Denny Spear, Atlanta pastor, called for rejection of grants. He said it was "not beyond my thinking that God might have martyrdom for principles" in store for Baptists.

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Florida 1966 Budget
Contains Increases

9-9-65

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Raising its sights by \$200,000 over this year, the Florida Baptist state board of missions worked out a budget of \$3.1 million to submit to the Florida Baptist State Convention for 1966.

56 per cent of Cooperative Program receipts from churches will remain in Florida. 44 per cent will go to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and world missions, education and benevolent work.

Already having one of the highest percentages of its budget going from a state convention to the national body, Florida Baptists will be asked to make still another increase in that percentage.

The 1965 budget sends 43 per cent to the SBC, compared with 44 per cent proposed for 1966. The Florida convention has been moving for several years toward a 50-50 distribution of Cooperative Program receipts between statewide, and national and world objectives.

The budget for the 1965 fiscal year in the Florida convention has been \$2.9 million through the Cooperative Program.

The state mission board will present the fiscal 1966 budget to the convention in session in November. It will also ask the convention to approve construction of a nursing home at the Baptist retirement center in Vero Beach, Fla.

A pilot program to establish a chair of Bible at the University of South Florida, located in Tampa, was authorized. The 1966 budget proposes \$2000 for the program.

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Arizona Hikes Share
Of Income For SBC

9-9-65

PHOENIX (BP)--The tentative Cooperative Program 1966 budget for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention provides for 21 per cent to be sent on to support work of the Southern Baptist Convention nationally and worldwide.

As passed by the state convention executive board here, the 1966 budget through Cooperative Program receipts from churches is \$388,000. In 1965, the Arizona convention has been sending 20 per cent of its Cooperative Program receipts to the SBC. This means an increase in the percentage to the SBC next year.

The budget must now be okayed by the convention itself at its session this fall. The 1965 Cooperative Program budget for Arizona is \$392,000.

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The total budget for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention is \$675,108, as proposed for 1966. This includes the Cooperative Program receipts from churches, plus money from nationwide Baptist agencies for jointly supported missions and religious education.

The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention is a statewide organization of Southern Baptists. The Southern Baptist Convention is a nationwide body with cooperating churches in all 50 states and with over 2000 foreign missionaries.

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California Assistant
Stricken, Hospitalized

9-9-65

LOS ANGELES (BP)--Ralph E. Longshore, assistant executive secretary of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, was hospitalized here Sept. 7 with an apparent heart attack.

Longshore, who has offices in Fresno, was in Los Angeles for a speaking engagement when he became ill. Doctors have not determined the extent of the attack.

Longshore, who came to California in 1963 from a post with the Alabama Baptist State Convention, was admitted to California Lutheran Hospital.

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