

November 22, 1965

**New Mexico Baptists
Deplore Federal Aid**

HOBBS, N.M. (BP)---A resolution deploring "the use of millions of dollars in federal funds to support religious institutions" was adopted by the 53rd annual Baptist State Convention of New Mexico meeting here.

The resolution also urged "Baptist colleges, universities and other institutions to refrain from taking government financial aid."

In one of the most strongly-worded resolutions on federal aid considered by any of the 28 Baptist state conventions meeting this fall, the New Mexico Convention also urged Baptists to "work to the end that such aid will be reduced by other religious groups and denied to all."

"Be it resolved that we re-affirm our belief in freedom of religion and the separation of church and state," the resolution said.

The resolution apparently was aimed at decisions being made by Baptist colleges and conventions in other states, since the New Mexico convention does not own a school.

Immediately following the convention during a meeting of the New Mexico Executive Board, Harry P. Stagg announced he would retire as executive secretary of the convention effective Sept. 30, 1966.

Stagg, who will be 68 the day following his retirement, has been executive secretary of the convention since 1938.

During the board meeting, C. Eugene Whitlow, pastor from Alamogordo, N. M., was elected president of the board.

The convention had earlier re-elected John H. Parrott as president. Parrott is pastor of First Baptist Church, Roswell, N. M., and is also president of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other new convention officers include J. E. Hopkins, pastor, Farmington, N. M., as first vice president; and Ted Roberts of Albuquerque, second vice president.

A record convention budget totaling \$1,209,689 was adopted, including \$591,979 expected in Cooperative Program contributions from the churches of New Mexico. Twenty-seven per cent of the \$591,979 will go to world-wide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

A record 1,445 messengers and visitors registered for the convention, held at First Baptist Church, Hobbs.

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**South Carolina Denied
Furman Federal Grant**

11-22-65

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)---The South Carolina Baptist Convention authorized a two year study on whether its institutions should accept federal grants or tax monies, and declared a two-year moratorium on federal aid until after the study.

The convention also denied Furman University here, the right to accept a federal grant of \$611,898 for construction of a new science building, and instructed the convention's General Board to provide financing the construction.

The board will either borrow the money, raise the funds in a drive among individuals and churches, or provide the funds in a redistribution of the Cooperative Program budget.

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Adopting a recommendation from its reference committee, the convention made an appeal to individuals and churches for extra gifts immediately to make up for the \$611,898 grant they refused Furman University.

In an amendment to the recommendation of the General Board and reference committee's proposal, the convention also authorized the board to either borrow the money, or to make a recommendation at the 1966 convention on redistributing Cooperative Program funds to pay for the building.

A special 17-member committee was authorized to study the matter of federal aid to South Carolina Baptist institutions. The committee would be composed of nine laymen and eight pastors.

The committee, to be appointed by the convention's committee on committees, would consult with all state convention agency heads, and would work in cooperation with the Baptist Education Study Task Committee (BEST) which is doing a broad-base study of education for the Southern Baptist Convention.

All recommendations of the committee would be brought first to the convention's general board. It would make a progress report to the convention next year, and the final report in 1967.

The convention approved a statement which said that the Furman trustees, in accepting the \$611,898 federal grant, had violated both the convention's constitution and "the historic principle of separation of church and state."

Following the convention, the chairman of Furman's board of trustees said that he did not believe the trustees had violated the church-state separation principle, and that "we are confident that the proposed two-year study will determine that our position is correct."

Board Chairman Eugene Proctor said that he believed however, the convention-adopted recommendation "is an honorable and working solution to Furman's immediate problem of financing the science building. This proposal should restore the harmony and fellowship among South Carolina Baptists, about which we are very much concerned."

"We are eager to endorse any arrangement which will provide for the cost of constructing Furman's science building, and will do so in a way which will protect the honor and integrity of all who are involved," Dr. Proctor said.

The convention adopted its Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee report, calling for "love and understanding and good-will among people of different races."

"This is pre-eminently the task of Christians and the Christian church," the report said. "Thus we call upon Christians of our state and nation to supply that necessary spiritual dimension of love and good-will in this crucial area of our life."

The convention adopted a record \$4 million budget, which allocated nearly \$1.7 million to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In other action, the convention authorized a \$1 million commercial loan to the new Baptist College at Charleston, S. C., for the school's building program, and approved another \$500,000 loan request from the Bethesda Baptist Home, to build a 40 to 50 bed infirmary.

A record-breaking registration of 3,366 messengers and visitors was recorded. The crowds were so big that the convention had to move from the Pentleton Street Baptist Church to the Greenville Memorial Auditorium for the business session when the federal aid question was considered.

The convention voted to return to the Greenville auditorium next year, Nov. 15-17 for its annual meeting.

Scholarship Fund Created
By Indiana Baptist Board

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)---The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana meeting here established a student memorial fund to assist young people from Indiana Baptist churches in preparing for religious vocations.

The first memorial under the fund will be in memory of Donna Peterson, a student at Vincennes University, Vincennes, Ind., who died recently of cancer. She was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Don Peterson, pastor of Gateway Baptist Church, Newburgh, Ind.

Elected new chairman of the board was Carver Tinsley, pastor of State Street Baptist Church, Hammond, Ind. Max Hornby of Evansville was re-elected clerk.

A record year in missions giving was reported, with Cooperative Program gifts surpassing the 1964 receipts of \$188,507 as of Nov. 12. In other action, the board set the state goal for the Annie Armstrong offering for Home Missions at \$12,000.

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Maryland Baptists Deplore
Racism, OK Student Work

11-22-65

BALTIMORE, Md. (BP)---The Baptist Convention of Maryland meeting here adopted a resolution deploring racism in the name of Christianity, and instructed its state mission board to provide for a full-time state Baptist Student Union director.

The resolution denounced "those who promote in the name of Christianity, racial hatred, smear tactics, character assassinations, guilt by association, violence and would-be patriotism."

Although no organizations were called by name, the resolution said that such groups, under the guise of Christianity, are completely contrary to the spirit of Christ.

A motion from the floor proposed a full-time Baptist Student Union (BSU) director, and the convention also adopted a 1966 budget which includes a new BSU and church music department. Until now BSU work has been a sideline of the Training Union secretary, Sam A. High.

Robert W. Dorr, pastor from Baltimore, made the motion, saying it would be a mistake to build a Baptist college in Maryland and yet "do so little for the students we already have."

In the convention president's address, C. C. Anderson of Silver Springs, Md., said that more than one-third of American's college students are on campuses in the 11-state Maryland Baptist Convention geographical area. Dorr said his motion was prompted by Anderson's remarks.

A record \$714,000 state Cooperative Program budget was adopted, allocating 40 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world-wide missions causes.

Elected president was C. Marion Hale of Kensington, president of a construction company which specializes in building churches.

Messengers were obviously impressed, said observers, by addresses on home missions by Glendon McCullough of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board personnel office, Atlanta, and by Miss Elizabeth Roberts of Lakeland, Fla., the first Home Mission Board US-2 worker assigned to Maryland.

Miss Roberts, describing her experiences in the two-year United States missions assignment, said she was once lifted by the nape of her neck by a street gang member in front of a church. She said she is leaning heavily on the Holy Spirit for courage, but believes US-2 workers could use Judo and Karate training.

Financial reports on support of a proposed new Maryland Baptist College were presented by the chairman of the board. The president of the college, Conwell A. Anderson, has recently resigned because of differences of opinion with trustees on the proposed junior college status of the school.

The convention voted to meet next year in Kensington, Md., Nov. 14-16.

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Governor Praises Baptist
Convention KKK Resolution

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)---The governor of North Carolina, Dan K. Moore, praised the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for passing a resolution deploring the Ku Klux Klan during its annual convention.

The governor's praise came in a telegram to Convention President Carl E. Bates of Charlotte, and to W. Perry Crouch of Raleigh, general secretary-treasurer of the convention.

Said Gov. Moore: "I want to personally commend the Baptist State Convention for its unanimous approval of the resolution decrying the bigotry, prejudice, intolerance, and ill-will which characterizes the Ku Klux Klan."

The telegram continued: "In so doing, I believe the convention has voiced the opinion of a great majority of North Carolinians. I welcome the assistance of the convention in exposing the nature of the Klan. I appreciate the convention's continued interest in the promotion of tolerance and understanding among all citizens of North Carolina."

Praise also came from the state chairman of the North Carolina Good Neighbor Council, David S. Coletrane, who commended the convention for "condemnation of the KKK for its untimely and un-Christian propaganda of racial hate and ill will throughout North Carolina."

The Convention-adopted resolution protested the "Klan's perverted use of the Christian Cross, making the symbol of eternal love into a symbol of contemporary hate."

It also praised Gov. Moore and the "meaningful program of the Good Neighbor Councils."

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Seminary Breaks Ground
On New \$600,000 Library

11-22-65

NEW ORLEANS, (BP)---Ground was broken for a new \$600,000 library at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here during the annual meeting of the seminary's board of development.

The new building, which will house 14,000 volumes and double the capacity of the present library, was proposed by the development board of 60 laymen and women in 1961. Board members have secured a major portion of funds for the project.

An architectural blending of the seminary's French colonial design with a modern trend will be used in the new structure. The building will contain open stacks, an evangelism conference and research center, seminar rooms, secluded study and research areas and large reading and work rooms.

Two floors will be completed by 1967 during the initial construction stages. A third floor will be added later.

The board of development also discussed a projection of long range development goals for the 75-acre campus. Members of the board met with student committees to discuss the need of a recreation center on campus.

The 60-member board includes representatives from 11 states and 40 cities. President is Wallace Johnson, Memphis, Tenn.

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Mississippi Baptists
To Study Federal Aid

11-22-65

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)---The Mississippi Baptist Convention apparently averted a floor fight over federal aid to Baptist institutions by adopting a compromise motion calling for a one-year study of the church-state issue involved.

The convention "suggested" that the agencies and institutions of the convention refrain from accepting federal funds until the study is completed and accepted by the convention.

In effect, the compromise motion tabled four different resolutions on the church-state separation issue.

The convention did not actually tell the Mississippi Baptist institutions that they

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could not accept federal aid until the study is completed, but gave an "expression of opinion" to the trustees, which control the institutions.

A 24-member committee will study the church-state issue for one year, publish its findings a month before next year's convention, and report back to the convention which must give it final consideration.

None of the four Mississippi Baptist colleges have accepted federal grants for building construction, and three have refused to sign the "compliance" agreement which requires non-discrimination policies in order to receive any federal money. The trustees gave church-state separation reasons for refusing to comply.

William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss., has signed the compliance clause, but has not received federal grants. Some of its students, however, are participating in government student loan programs.

In significant action, the Mississippi convention created a Christian Action Commission and voted to employ a director to work full-time in the areas of alcohol, narcotics, moral and social problems, church and state, Christian citizenship, and Christian home life.

The commission would be similar in many respects to the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, although it is not called such. Mississippi thus would become the second state in the SBC to create a full-time staff to deal with social and moral issues. Texas is now the only state with a Christian Life Commission.

In other action, the Mississippi convention adopted a record \$3,240,000 Cooperative Program budget for 1966 and approved plans for construction of a new \$1.25 million convention office building in Jackson to be completed in 1967.

The budget allocates \$1,069,200 for Southern Baptist Convention causes, an increase over last year's allocation of \$899,000.

The new state convention building will be a four-story structure located in downtown Jackson just one block from the present building.

Also adopted was the report of the convention's long range study committee which called for a constitution change enlarging the state convention board from 77 members to 100 members. Approval of two consecutive conventions is required before the constitutional change can be put into effect.

Re-elected to a second term as president of the convention was Earl Kelly, pastor from Holly Springs, Miss.

A recommendation from the convention's education commission was approved, giving authority to state Baptist colleges to lease college-owned property to private parties to build dormitories at no cost to the institution. The dormitory occupants would be under college supervision, however.