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February 24, 1966

EDITORS: Here is the roundup story on the SBC Executive Committee meeting, Feb. 23. Separate stories giving more details on specific actions follow.

Budget Is Major SBC Item
From Executive Committee

NASHVILLE (BP)---The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention here adopted major recommendations, including a \$24.2 million budget proposal for 1967, to be submitted for action at the Southern Baptist Convention, May 24-27, in Detroit, Mich.

The 58-member committee adopted statements outlining in detail the programs of four Southern Baptist agencies, and voted to recommend to the convention that the denomination's Christian Life Commission "to undertake appropriate communication with the motion picture industry" regarding morality trends in movies.

In other major actions, the Executive Committee authorized an attitude and opinion survey on changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention, and tabled for one year a bylaws change which would have altered the basis for representation on SBC commissions and agencies.

St. Louis, Mo., was recommended as the meeting place for the 1971 sessions of the convention, proposed for June 1-4, 1971.

Final consideration of the major action must come from the convention when it meets in Detroit, May 24-27.

Most of the all-day meeting of the Executive Committee and two days of sub-committee meetings was spent in working out proposals for the 1967 SBC Cooperative Program budget goal, the denomination's unified plan of missions giving.

The recommended \$24.2 million goal for 1967 would be an increase of \$2.4 million over the already-approved Cooperative Program budget goal for 1966.

Biggest portion of the increase, \$1.4 million would go to foreign missions; with a \$200,000 increase proposed for the six Baptist theological seminaries, and a \$541,450 increase for home missions.

The proposed \$24.2 million goal would include an allocation of \$2,249,500 already approved by the SBC for capital needs of convention agencies, and a \$21,950,500 goal for operating needs of SBC agencies. The operating budget would be \$995,250 more than the 1966 operating budget.

In separate action, the committee recommended a \$530,000 convention operating budget in addition to the \$24.2 million Cooperative Program budget goal. Only \$200,000 from the Cooperative Program budget would go to the operating fund, the remainder coming from interest and dividends and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The proposed survey on attitudes and opinions of Baptists concerning a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention was recommended by the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee, assigned earlier to recommend procedures for studying the possibility. The SBC meeting in Dallas last June requested the Executive Committee to study the matter.

The Dallas convention also referred to the Executive Committee a proposal by television actor Gregory Walcott of Hollywood, Calif., calling for establishment of a "diplomatic unit" to Hollywood motion picture and television producers and distributors.

A recommendation from the committee's program subcommittee was adopted, which would assign the SBC Christian Life Commission to "discover and interpret Baptist views on theater-type films through constant study, conferences, seminars, and publications." The commission was also requested to communicate with the motion picture industry "as needed on points of concern to the churches." Final approval would have to come from the convention in Detroit.

Program statements were adopted outlining the scope of responsibility and work of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and American Baptist

Theological Seminary Commission. Program objectives, already approved by the convention, for nine other SBC agencies were also adopted.

A committee report recommending that the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards serve as the channel agencies for aiding people in disaster areas was adopted by the Executive Committee. The committee reported that the Foreign Mission Board had already allocated \$100,000 for such emergency relief, and the Home Mission Board has allocated \$50,000, to be added to a previous budgeted amount of \$50,000. The Home Board is moving toward a goal of \$250,000.

Although the committee meeting was void of controversy, there was some debate over a proposed bylaws change concerning representation of state Baptist conventions on SBC boards and agencies.

Some objected because the proposal would have rotated representation from Baptist state conventions with less than 100,000 members on SBC commissions and institutions. Proponents however, argued that it was not democratic process for the ten small states, with a combined total membership of less than 500,000, to each have one representative on the agencies when 11 other state Baptist conventions each have over 500,000 members---more than the combined total of the ten small states.

The proposal to change the bylaws was tabled until the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 1967.

Wording changes in the SBC constitution, already approved by the convention and Executive Committee last year, were adopted on second reading and recommended for final consideration by the convention in Detroit.

A portrait of Duke McCall of Louisville, Ky., former executive secretary of the Executive Committee, was unveiled during the meeting. McCall became head of the Executive Committee 20 years ago at the age of 32, serving until 1951 when he was named president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Other actions of the 58-member committee included:

--approval of a charter change for the SBC Annuity Board to provide perpetual existence rather than for 50 years; subject to final convention approval.

--authorization of grammatical changes in the SBC constitution, conditional to final approval of the Executive Committee;

--adoption of the Robert's Rules of Order definition of full term of office in filling vacancies on expired terms; subject to final convention approval;

--appointment of four SBC leaders to serve as proxies on the Baptist World Alliance Executive Committee in case elected SBC representatives cannot attend;

--permission to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, to use portions of a \$260,000 previously-allocated capital needs item for renovation of Fort Worth Hall instead of for a Children's Building; subject to convention approval;

--authorization for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to use \$60,000 in capital funds for Mullins Hall renovation instead of Barnard Hall renovation; subject to final convention approval;

--extension of one year on a study of the ministry of downtown Baptist churches;

--authorization for American Seminary Commission to use interest from capital reserve funds for operating funds;

--authorization of loan repayment requirements for the SBC Radio-Television Commission;

--approval of a change in fiscal year for the Radio-TV Commission; subject to final convention approval.

--approval of a \$350,000 loan request by Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, against future capital needs budgets already approved for 1967 and 1968;

--adoption of a resolution expressing gratitude for the contributions of Noel M. Taylor, former executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Carbondale, Ill.;

--adoption of resolutions expressing appreciation to two retiring state Baptist editors: E. S. James of the Baptist Standard in Dallas, Tex.; and S. H. Jones of the Baptist Courier in Greenville, S. C.

--authorization of expressions of tributes and esteem for two deceased Baptist leaders, W. R. Pettigrew, pastor from Louisville, Ky.; and Leon Macon, editor of the Alabama Baptist, Birmingham; and for Harold Seevers, former chairman of the Executive Committee who resigned recently as pastor in Mobile, Ala., because of blindness.

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Opinion Survey Set
On SBC Name Change

2-24-66

NASHVILLE (BP)---An attitude and opinion survey among a group of Southern Baptists has been authorized here in an effort to determine sentiment toward the possibility of changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Executive Committee of the convention authorized the quick opinion poll aimed for completion before the Southern Baptist Convention meets May 24-27 in Detroit, Mich.

A motion adopted at the convention meeting last June in Dallas requested the Executive Committee to study the possibility of changing the denomination's name.

The opinion and attitude study would be one of the first major steps in the long-range study, which probably will not be completed before the May meeting.

Opinions have already been expressed in two different surveys concerning a possible name change. The two surveys were in connection with proposed Southern Baptist plans for the decades of the 1970's as part of "70 Onward" committee research.

In a survey of 715 denominational leaders, about 77 per cent agreed that the Executive Committee should continue to explore the possibilities of "a change in the name of our convention until a suitable name is found."

In a later survey of about 1,000 pastors, laymen and women, however, only about 43 per cent said they agreed with the statement, "We ask the Executive Committee to continue to explore the possibilities of a change in the name of our convention until a suitable name is found."

The proposed survey, to be conducted by the Baptist Sunday School Board Research and Statistics Department, would basically ask three questions: Do you believe the name of the convention should be changed? If you lived in a Baptist "pioneer area," would you change your opinion? and, If you think the name should be changed, what name would you suggest?

Discussion and comment on the possibility of changing the convention's name has provided much grist for the denomination's newspapers.

Although the arguments are sometimes complex, in general those who favor a name change feel that the word "Southern" is not representative of the nation-wide scope of the denomination, and that the "Southern" tag hurts Baptist work in areas where the image of the South, especially in race relations, is poor.

Those who favor keeping the present name contend that the SBC title is a worthy, respected name, and that there are too many legal and technical difficulties by switching names.

Charles Chaney, a Baptist pastor from Palatine, Ill., made the proposal at the convention in Dallas that the possibility of a name change be studied. His motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

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Newton Elected
POAU President

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--Louie D. Newton of Atlanta was re-elected president of Protestants and Other Americans United (POAU) for a fifth two-year term. Newton, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and one of POAU's founders, is pastor of the Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Dick H. Hall, Jr., vice president of Atlanta Baptist College, was re-elected vice president. Bishop Edwin R. Garrison of the Dakota Methodist Conference, was named the other vice president. John S. Thompson, investment broker of Washington, D. C. was re-elected secretary and Admiral Harold C. Fitz, also of Washington, was re-elected treasurer.

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\$24.2 Million SBC
Budget Recommended

NASHVILLE (BP)---A record \$24.2 million 1967 world missions budget goal for the Southern Baptist Convention has been recommended and adopted by the convention's Executive Committee here.

The budget, an increase of \$2.4 million over the 1966 Cooperative Program unified budget, must get final approval from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets May 24-27 in Detroit, Mich.

A total of \$21,950,500 will be recommended to the convention for operating needs of 16 Southern Baptist agencies and organizations, as part of the \$24.2 million goal.

Remainder of the goal includes \$2,249,500 already adopted by the convention as 1967 allocations for capital (building) needs.

Biggest item in the proposed 1967 budget is a \$11,780,300 allocation to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The SBC Home Mission Board would get \$4,024,200 if approved by the convention, and the six Southern Baptist seminaries would receive \$3,833,000.

The two mission agencies would receive larger-than-usual increases under the 1967 proposal, since a new concept in budgeting for the missions boards was used in determining the 1967 budget proposal.

During the past few years, the convention budget goal has been set lower than the anticipated income for the year, with provisions that all funds received over the operating budget would be divided between the Foreign and Home Mission Boards.

The Executive Committee, however, recommended that the 1967 Cooperative Program budget goal be set at a higher level of anticipated income projected for 1967, with substantial increases in the budgeted amounts to the two missions agencies.

During a Cooperative Program rally preceding the Executive Committee meeting, several state Baptist leaders expressed opinions that the "advance" section of the budget does not stimulate giving as some Baptist leaders had anticipated, and that it might be better to set the goals at a challenging level rather than for Baptist church members to think that "the budget has been reached so the convention doesn't need any more."

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, said during the rally that the budgets in the past have been set at the lowest possible estimated amount. "If we had not gone beyond the SBC budget in 1965 to provide the mission boards with advance funds, the Foreign Mission Board would have taken a drastic cut," Routh said.

Routh also said that there are pressures from every direction for more financial support. The individual, the church, the Baptist state conventions, and every SBC agency all can build strong cases for their particular needs, he said. "We must determine where the greatest needs lie and how we can spend our dollars where they will do the most good."

The program committee of the Executive Committee recommended that each SBC agency be given in 1967 a three-per-cent "cost of living" increase. Two agencies, however, requested no increases.

Much of the budget planning session time was spent in hearing the budget requests of the various Southern Baptist agencies.

The six Southern Baptist seminaries presented a plea for a \$4.25 million allocation to enable them to each increase faculty salaries to a level comparable to other theological seminaries in the nation.

The seminaries asked for an increase of \$617,000. The committee, however, felt that a \$200,000 increase was the maximum possible.

Increases of \$1.4 million were approved for the Foreign Mission Board, and of \$541,450 for the Home Mission Board.

The SBC Radio-Television Commission was granted a \$77,000 increase to \$977,000 by the committee. The commission had requested a \$335,000 increase.

Other allocations as recommended by the Executive Committee are:

Convention operating budget, \$200,000 (no increase);
 Annuity Board (relief), \$250,000 (no increase);
 Southern Baptist Foundation, \$61,800, increase of \$1,800;
 Southern Baptist Hospital, \$36,000, increase of \$1,000;
 American Baptist Seminary, \$90,600, increase of \$2,600;
 Brotherhood Commission, \$226,100, increase of \$21,100;
 Christian Life Commission, \$100,000 increase of \$10,000;
 Education Commission, \$94,000, increase of \$6,000;
 Historical Commission, \$90,500, increase of \$7,500;
 Stewardship Commission, \$83,000 (no increase);
 Public Affairs Committee, \$104,000, increase of \$6,000.

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Commission May Assume
 'Diplomatic Unit' Task

2-24-66

NASHVILLE (BP)---The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission here may be asked next May to interpret Baptist views on motion pictures and communicate with movie industry.

Such a recommendation was adopted by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention after a proposal that the denomination establish a "diplomatic unit" to Hollywood was referred to the 58-member committee by the convention meeting in Dallas last June.

In a meeting here, the Executive Committee decided not to propose a new Baptist agency to fulfill the function, but rather to suggest addition of the assignment to the already-existing Christian Life Commission, which deals with social, moral and ethical issues.

The recommendation will be submitted for consideration by messengers (delegates) to the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit, May 24-27. Final decision will rest upon the convention.

The commission would be asked "to discover and interpret Baptist views on theater-type films" and to communicate appropriately with the motion picture industry.

A report approved by the Executive Committee suggested that the commission discover and interpret Baptist views on movies "through constant study, conferences, seminars, and publications."

After discovering Baptist views, the commission would communicate "with the motion picture industry as needed on points of concern to the churches."

According to the committee's report, "The focus of communication with the industry is at the point of ethics."

The commission would seek "to convey to the influential people in the industry, the Christian, ethical and spiritual insights that will add to the quality of their productions."

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, said that he did not expect such a proposal to assume major proportions in the immediate future, since there was no allocation of budget funds to enable much program expansion in this area.

The proposal for a "diplomatic unit" in Hollywood was made by Gregory Walcott last year at the convention in Dallas. Walcott, then a vice president of the convention, is a Hollywood television and motion picture actor and an active Southern Baptist layman.

Walcott's proposal was to create a Baptist "diplomatic unit" in Hollywood which would advise producers, script writers, directors and actors of Baptist concerns for the quality and moral content of movies and television shows. The committee reported that although much of the film industry is located on the West Coast, "many important decisions are made by writers and producers in other places.

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St. Louis Recommended
For 1971 Convention

NASHVILLE (BP)---A recommendation that the Southern Baptist Convention meet in St. Louis, Mo., for its 1971 sessions will be presented to the convention when it meets May 24-27 in Detroit, Mich.

The SBC Executive Committee voted to recommend that the 1971 convention meet June 1-4, 1971 in St. Louis.

Sessions would be held in the Kiel Auditorium, which seats a maximum of 14,243, and 10,680 in the main arena.

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C O R R E C T I O N

Editors: If you use the headline of BP story mailed Feb. 23, page 3, about new assistant executive secretary being named at California Baptist Foundation, please correct spelling in heading of man's name. It should be "Oglesby" as given correctly in story. Headline should read: California Foundation / Names Oglesby Assistant.

--Thanks, Baptist Press.