

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-3355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

June 8, 1966

REGIONAL OFFICES**ATLANTA** Walker L. Knight, Editor/161 Spring Street, N.W./Atlanta, Georgia 30303/Telephone (404) 523-2593**DALLAS** R. T. McCartney, Editor/103 Baptist Building/Dallas, Texas 75201/Telephone (214) RI 1-1996**WASHINGTON** W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226**Stetson Trustees Decline
Request For Grant Delay**

DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--The board of trustees for Stetson University here has turned down a request from the Florida Baptist Convention's State Board of Missions to delay accepting a federal grant until after completion of a state Baptist study on separation of church and state.

Trustees for the Baptist school issued a statement here responding to a resolution adopted in April by the Florida Baptist State Missions Board asking the school to delay accepting the federal grant until after November.

In their statement, the trustees said that any attempt to postpone the decision "would have caused the university to lose more than \$850,000 in gift money."

In February, the private Baptist school decided to accept a federal grant of \$501,926 to reduce the amount of a \$1.2 million federal loan on construction of a new science building.

The trustees' decision came during the midst of a one-year study by a special Florida Baptist Convention committee on the church-state separation implications of acceptance of federal grants and loans by Baptist institutions. The committee is scheduled to report on findings of its study Nov. 8-10, 1966, during the Florida Baptist Convention in Pensacola.

"The trustees of Stetson regret that it was necessary to decide whether to accept or reject the available federal grants before the special Florida Baptist Convention committee had completed its study," said the statement issued by the school's trustees here.

The statement also said that the special Florida Baptist study on church-state relations is only one of three current Baptist studies on this subject. The statement said the other two were (1) the Baptist Education Study Task, a nation-wide Southern Baptist study on Christian higher education to continue through June of 1967; and (2) a continuing study by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs "which has been studying this topic for more than 10 years."

The Stetson trustees' statement added that the ninth Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, Oct. 6-8, 1965, focused one section on the question of government grants to Baptist colleges.

"All three groups in that section gave consent to the idea that government funds may be received by Baptist schools, provided all possible caution is exerted to avoid government control," the Stetson trustees said. "Four basic stipulations to prevent possible controls were specified."

The trustees' statement said that the trustees "concluded that if they followed the recommendations of the permanent Southern Baptist Convention committee, studying this same subject, they would be acting as good stewards of the responsibilities which the Florida Baptist Convention has heretofore placed upon them."

An official of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, however, denied that the findings of the Religious Liberty Conference were official recommendations for making policy decisions.

"The entire series of Religious Liberty Conferences have been consultations that attempt to hear all viewpoints and approaches to church-state relations," said James M. Sapp, director of the 1965 Religious Liberty Conference and director of correlation services for the Joint Committee.

"Their findings have never been official for policy making, either for the Baptist Joint Committee or Baptist agencies or conventions," he said.

-more-

Sapp pointed out that a paper distributed following the conference quoted by the Stetson trustees "represents nothing more than a report of conclusions arrived at by participants of the ninth annual conference on religious liberty. The views expressed have no official status and are not to be construed as being binding upon anyone," Sapp said in quoting a section of the paper.

Sapp further said that "The Baptist Joint Committee has taken no official action nor made any official pronouncement with respect to federal grants and loans by Baptist institutions."

The Stetson trustees concluded their statement with an offer to meet with the members of the Florida Baptist Convention State Missions Board in joint session "so that together we can study these perplexing problems in advance of the November convention."

In Jacksonville, Fla., the executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention commented that the State Missions Board does not meet for another session until Sept. 8-9, and that he expected no response from the board until then.

"The die is cast," said John Maguire, executive secretary-treasurer of the Florida convention. "They've made their decision and nothing more can be done."

Maguire expressed his own personal convictions concerning the Stetson decision in his weekly column in the Florida Baptist Witness, official state Baptist newspaper.

"I believe that the cherished position of Baptists on the matter of separation of church and state has been, and is now, being threatened," said Maguire. "Furthermore, this principle is being put in grave danger by the acceptance of government grants on the part of Baptist institutions and agencies. This cherished and God-blessed position, if once lost, will be hard if not impossible to redeem.

"Therefore," he said, "I must state that I am unalterably opposed to any Baptist agency or institution...accepting grants from the federal government. Let God's people bring God's money to finance God's work," he concluded.

Maguire also told the Baptist Press that 60 Baptist churches in the state had written to his office instructing him to withhold their mission gifts to Stetson.

Although Stetson, a private Baptist institution with a self-perpetuating board of trustees, is not owned by the Florida Baptist Convention, it receives about \$400,000 per year through the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget plan. The 60 churches instructed the convention not to send their money to Stetson through the normal budget channels.

The statement from the Stetson trustees said they were "grateful for the generous support that the convention has been able to provide for the operating funds of the university out of the limited Cooperative (Program) funds contributed.

"The inadequacy of these funds to also provide badly needed new buildings, however, made it necessary for the trustees to seek funds for construction from other sources," said the Stetson trustees.

-30-

Southwestern Seminary
Names Preaching Prof

6-8-66

FORT WORTH (BP)--Clyde Edward Fant Jr., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ruston, La., will join the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here as associate professor in the preaching department, effective July 1.

Fant was named to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Gordon Clinard, now pastor of the First Baptist Church, San Angelo, Tex.

An honor graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Fant studied at Tubingen, Germany under a Fulbright scholarship. He received the bachelor of divinity degree and the doctor of theology degree from Southwestern Seminary where he will teach.

Fant was pastor of the Belcher (La.) Baptist Church from 1959-63, and has served since 1963 in Ruston, La.

-30-

Court Decision Rests
On Nature of School

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Maryland court ruling that grants to three church-related colleges are unconstitutional runs up "a bright red flag for many who are now making policies for education," according to a Baptist leader here.

C. Emanuel Carlson, in an analysis of the recent decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals concerning sectarian colleges, said that denominational educators "will need to study the Maryland opinion with care." Carlson is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington.

The case involved direct construction grants totalling \$2½ million by the Maryland legislature to four church-related liberal arts colleges.

A Maryland Circuit Court in 1965 ruled that the grants were "valid" and "constitutional." The Court of Appeals decision overturns the lower court ruling.

"The highest court of Maryland has now ruled that the grants to an institution are secular or sectarian depending upon the nature of the institution involved," Carlson said.

The grants went to the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore and St. Joseph College in Emmittsburg, both Roman Catholic schools; to Western Maryland College, Westminster, a Methodist school; and to Hood College, Frederick, Md., affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Of the four, only Hood College was found to be eligible for the grant. The Methodist and Roman Catholic schools were held to have received unconstitutional grants from the state of Maryland.

The Maryland court took its stand on its own reading of the U. S. Supreme Court's interpretations of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution.

The case is being appealed to the Supreme Court and might be accepted by it for review. Refusal of a review would amount to an approval of the Maryland reading.

With the provision of federal grants to public and private institutions under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, the Maryland case could have sweeping effects.

Baptist colleges and state Baptist conventions are seeking guidelines concerning the federal funds being made available to private schools. A number of Baptist schools have received loans. Some are in controversy over construction grants.

The court set up six criteria for sorting out the four colleges:

(1) The stated purposes of the college; (2) college personnel, including the governing board, administration, faculty, and student body; (3) the college's relationship with religious organizations and groups; (4) the place of religion in the college's program, including physical surroundings and religious observances sponsored by the school; (5) "outcome" of the college program; and (6) work and image of the college in the community.

The court made specific application of these criteria to each of the schools.

Carlson said a precaution should be observed regarding the scope of the Maryland ruling in that the grants involved were construction grants to the institutions themselves. Such aids as student and faculty aid, research projects and special purpose or category grants were not considered.

"The whole idea of public purchase of services from private institutions is not touched by the rationale of the case," Carlson observed.

The court reaffirmed past approvals of state grants to private institutions when "money is appropriated and expended for a public use." "Hence the Maryland court sustains its own use of the 'child benefit theory' as applied for welfare purposes," he said.

The Baptist leader raised questions about the future revision of college policies in relation to being "sectarian" or "secular." The basic question, he said, is how the colleges actually relate to the purposes and mission of the church.

"What roles will the churches need to plan for themselves in the field of higher education, and what kinds of schools are needed for those roles?"

-30-

Negro Seminary Awards
Quarles Honorary Degree

PRENTISS, Miss. (BP)--A Negro Baptist seminary has awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree to Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention board, Jackson, Miss.

The honorary degree was presented by the Mississippi Baptist Seminary during its 23rd commencement service at Sophia Sutton Mission Assembly near Prentiss, Miss.

Three other honorary doctoral degrees were awarded to S. L. Richmond of Prentiss, director of the Sophia Sutton Assembly owned by the seminary; Mrs. J. E. Johnson of Prentiss, president of the Prentiss Institute here and owner of the home where the seminary was founded; and E. E. Spencer of Lorman, Miss., president of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi.

The seminary is composed of 22 centers with the central center in Jackson, Miss., and is governed by a board of 21 trustees, eleven of whom are white and 10 Negro.

The school is supported by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the Negro Baptist Conventions in Mississippi.

Fred B. Moseley, associate executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was principal speaker for the commencement service.

A record 90 graduates received diplomas during the ceremonies, and plans for a long-range building program for the seminary were announced.

The plans include construction of a new \$400,000 headquarters building on West Lynch Street in Jackson, Miss., as the first phase of the million dollar long-range building program.

The new building will house classrooms, administrative offices, audio-visual aids, a temporary chapel, business school, lounges, kitchen and dining room.

Trustees authorized borrowing funds for construction, slated for completion next spring, and mapped plans for a fund-raising campaign to repay the loan.

-30-

Photo being mailed to Baptist state papers

European Professor
Returns to Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A professor at the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary near Zurich, Switzerland will join the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty this fall. Samuel J. Mikolaski, former professor of theology at New Orleans will return to assume the same position.

A native of Yugoslavia, Mikolaski received his undergraduate training at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, a masters degree in philosophy from the Ontario university, a bachelors of divinity from the University of London, and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Oxford.

He was on the New Orleans faculty from 1960 to 1965 before going to Ruschlikon.

The theology professor has served as pastor of churches in Canada, England, and British Columbia. He has been professor of theology at Central Baptist Seminary, Toronto, and Northwest Baptist Theological College, Vancouver, British Columbia.

-30-

"What roles will the churches need to plan for themselves in the field of higher education, and what kinds of schools are needed for those roles?"

-30-

**Negro Seminary Awards
Quarles Honorary Degree**

PRENTISS, Miss. (BP)--A Negro Baptist seminary has awarded an honorary doctor of humanities degree to Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention board, Jackson, Miss.

The honorary degree was presented by the Mississippi Baptist Seminary during its 23rd commencement service at Sophia Sutton Mission Assembly near Prentiss, Miss.

Three other honorary doctoral degrees were awarded to S. L. Richmond of Prentiss, director of the Sophia Sutton Assembly owned by the seminary; Mrs. J. E. Johnson of Prentiss, president of the Prentiss Institute here and owner of the home where the seminary was founded; and E. E. Spencer of Lorman, Miss., president of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi.

The seminary is composed of 22 centers with the central center in Jackson, Miss., and is governed by a board of 21 trustees, eleven of whom are white and 10 Negro.

The school is supported by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and the Negro Baptist Conventions in Mississippi.

Fred B. Moseley, associate executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was principal speaker for the commencement service.

A record 90 graduates received diplomas during the ceremonies, and plans for a long-range building program for the seminary were announced.

The plans include construction of a new \$400,000 headquarters building on West Lynch Street in Jackson, Miss., as the first phase of the million dollar long-range building program.

The new building will house classrooms, administrative offices, audio-visual aids, a temporary chapel, business school, lounges, kitchen and dining room.

Trustees authorized borrowing funds for construction, slated for completion next spring, and mapped plans for a fund-raising campaign to repay the loan.

-30-

Photo being mailed to Baptist state papers

**European Professor
Returns to Seminary**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--A professor at the Ruschlikon Baptist Seminary near Zurich, Switzerland will join the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty this fall. Samuel J. Mikolaski, former professor of theology at New Orleans will return to assume the same position.

A native of Yugoslavia, Mikolaski received his undergraduate training at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, a masters degree in philosophy from the Ontario university, a bachelors of divinity from the University of London, and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Oxford.

He was on the New Orleans faculty from 1960 to 1965 before going to Ruschlikon.

The theology professor has served as pastor of churches in Canada, England, and British Columbia. He has been professor of theology at Central Baptist Seminary, Toronto, and Northwest Baptist Theological College, Vancouver, British Columbia.

-30-