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**Hospital Requests Freedom
To Accept Federal Grants**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--The Arkansas Baptist Medical Center here has requested the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to sever its ties with the hospital in order to free the medical center to accept federal grants and loans.

In a lengthy statement issued by the hospital's board of trustees, the hospital said it will lose a minimum of \$150,000 per year as a result of Medicare and that the only alternative is to accept federal grants.

The hospital trustees recommended four possible solutions, and the operating committee of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention's Executive Board has already approved one of the alternatives.

The full Executive Board meeting Aug. 23 will consider a proposal that a non-profit, private, self-perpetuating association composed of present and past members of the hospital's board of trustees be created, and that official ties with the state convention be severed.

The association, composed entirely of Baptists, would meet annually and elect a board of trustees to operate the hospital, if the recommendation is approved by both the Executive Board and the state convention, which meets in November.

It is apparently the first time that a hospital owned by a Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated state Baptist body has asked that it be freed from convention control to accept federal grants.

Earlier this year, a Baptist hospital in Miami, Fla., asked that its ties be severed with the Miami Baptist Association, but the hospital was owned by the association rather than the state convention.

"The crisis which has existed in the operation of Baptist hospitals for the past 20 years has now been intensified by the implementation of Medicare," said the statement from the Arkansas hospital's board of trustees.

The trustees cited income from hospital patients as providing 85 per cent of the \$500,000 monthly cost of running the hospital, and said only one per cent comes from the state Baptist convention.

They proposed that the convention, in relinquishing control of the institution, transfer the \$85,000 to \$100,000 annual appropriation to the hospital to other Baptist causes.

Medicare, which went into effect July 1, has "drastically reduced" the income from patients as a result of the cost formula which the government is using to pay for Medicare patient hospitalization, the trustees said.

"The formula does not make sufficient provision for charity or bad debts, the purchase of equipment, the remodeling of existing buildings, the payment of mortgages, or the construction of new facilities," said the statement.

"The government's position is that the formula should not include in its payment of hospital bills an amount for capital expenditures since provision is made under the Hill-Harris Act (formerly Hill-Burton) for these needs,"

"With income continuously reduced by Medicare patients and our inability to accept federal grants, Baptists of this state cannot continue to operate this hospital at its present standards," said the statement.

Citing a moral obligation to maintain modern equipment and buildings as well as competent technical and professional personnel, the hospital asked that the convention free the hospital to accept federal grants.

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It acknowledged that accepting federal grants "would not be acceptable to some Arkansas Baptists," and cited two reasons for opposition to federal grants---fear of control of the federal government, and "a matter of conscience in regard to the principle of separation of church and state."

In answering the arguments, the trustees stated that "this hospital is now controlled with government regulations exactly in the same manner as those institutions which have accepted federal grants.

"These controls include policing of civil rights to the extent of forbidding the administration to transfer patients even at their request, regulation as to the square feet in patients' rooms, the number of nursing hours per patient, authority to regulate the type of construction, and a close scrutiny by the government of the level of medical practice in existence within the institution.

"The denomination has lost its ability to maintain separation of control even though it has not accepted federal grants," the trustees said.

"On the matter of conscience, it is felt by many Arkansas Baptists that the hospital is not a church but an institution which serves the public in a community and state in the name of Baptists. For this group, it is felt that accepting federal grants to enhance the care given to the community and state is not a violation of the principle."

Four possible solutions to the dilemma were suggested by the trustees: (1) allowing the trustees permission to accept federal grants as a state convention institution; (2) setting up a private corporation which would own the hospital and accept federal grants, with the convention leasing the hospital from the corporation; (3) releasing convention control to the present board of trustees which would become a private, self-perpetuating board; (4) creating the "association" which would elect the trustees and own the hospital.

All but the first of the solutions suggested that the convention relinquish ownership and control of the hospital. The trustees said that many favored the first suggestion since it would not disturb the relationship of the hospital with the denomination, but added that this plan "would not be acceptable to some Arkansas Baptists."

In an editorial in the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, weekly publication of the convention, Editor Erwin L. McDonald said he favors permitting the hospital to accept federal grants without relinquishing convention ownership and control.

McDonald said he did not see this "as a violation of the letter and spirit of the First Amendment" to the Constitution because he believes the hospital is cooperating with the government "and would receive federal funds as payment for services rendered--services which the government feels are essential to the welfare of its people."

The final decision will be made by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention when it meets in Little Rock, Nov. 7-9.

The convention is in the midst of a one-year committee study of the principle of separation of church and state, and the committee is scheduled to bring a report to the convention in Little Rock "setting out guidelines concerning this problem."

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Widow of Missionary
To Visit In Africa

7/29/66

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Mrs. Juanita Harper, widow of Southern Baptist missionary Winfred O. Harper who drowned in 1958 off the East African coast of Tanganyika, will attend the tenth anniversary of the East African Mission in Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, which she and her husband pioneered in 1956.

Harper, a native of German, Tex., drowned in the Azanian Sea during a holiday outing with other Southern Baptist missionaries stationed at Dar es Salaam. He was 37.

Mrs. Harper, who has served as administrative secretary of the Corpus Christi Baptist Association for the past six years, is going to Africa by invitation of the East African Mission and the Foreign Mission Board.

Mrs. Harper will be accompanied on the journey by her son, Richard, and her daughter, Beth.

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Illinois Baptist
Decrys Race Riots

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--An editorial in The Illinois Baptist published here has deplored racial violence in Chicago, saying that such riots hurt rather than help the Negroes' quest for freedom and civil rights.

"This lapse into street fighting takes the Negro from the role of the underdog striving through legitimate means to secure his rights, and casts him into the role of the lawless," the editorial said.

"No one volunteers to march with him down this road," wrote L. H. Moore, editor of the weekly publication of the Illinois Baptist State Association (Southern Baptist).

Moore said that the Negro movement, before Watts and Chicago, Cleveland and New York, had "won the sympathy of a great many Americans in all sections of the nation."

"Much of this sympathy was dissipated as the mobs of lawless Negroes took to the streets in rioting," he said.

"Violence is the same whether it is in rural Mississippi or in Chicago's West Side," the editorial said. "It can end only in death and destruction."

Moore charged that the riots were "triggered by irresponsible and lawless elements", and observed that the violence "negated much of the gains won by responsible Negro leadership."

The editor also observed that the riots "cast some doubt upon the understanding on the part of such Negroes of the real issues involved."

"If the Chicago riot could be cooled off by the installation of water sprinklers on fire hydrants and the promise of swimming pools and parks, one wonders how serious is the cause they espouse.

"After all, generations of Americans have been reared without sprinklers, swimming pools and parks, and have achieved a good place in life despite this privation."

"The same proposals cause one to wonder how wise is a city which looks at such slight concessions as the answer to racial problems," the editor wrote.

"One thing is certain, the violence that is sweeping these cities is not good for America," the editorial concluded. "It is still true that those who take the sword shall perish by the sword, whether they be white or black."

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Baylor Names New VP
For Medical School

7/29/66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Dr. Raymond D. Pruitt has been named vice president for medical affairs and chief executive officer of the Baylor University College of Medicine, located in Houston.

Dr. Pruitt's appointment was announced by Joe L. Allbritton, chairman of the Baylor medical school's board of trustees, following the creation of the vice presidency position by the Baylor University board of trustees in Waco, Tex.

"The board is confident that under the leadership of Dr. Pruitt, Texas' only private medical school will continue to provide excellence in medical education, research and community service," said Allbritton.

A native of Wheaton, Minn., Dr. Pruitt came to Baylor University College of Medicine in 1959 as professor and chairman of the department of medicine.

He served previously as professor of medicine, chief of medicine for medical education of the Mayo Foundation Graduate School at the University of Minnesota; and from 1954 to 1957 was associate director of the Mayo Foundation.

Dr. Pruitt received a bachelor of science degree from Baker University in Kansas in 1933 and a bachelor of arts degree as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in 1936. In 1939 he received his degree in medicine from Kansas University and later achieved a master of science degree in medicine from the University of Minnesota in 1945.

In 1956 Dr. Pruitt was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Baker University, and in 1964 was selected outstanding alumnus by the University of Minnesota.

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NBC-TV To Film Show
On Baptist Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission has announced plans to video-tape a documentary film on the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, for television use by the National Broadcasting Company later this year.

Paul M. Stevens, director of the commission, will be in Switzerland this summer with the NBC-TV camera crew to interview John D. W. Watts, president of the unique theological center for Baptists of the world located near Zurich, Switzerland.

The film, said Stevens, will show the contrast and similarities between two international agencies in the Zurich area: the seminary, and Interpol, the renowned international police organization where knowledge from law enforcement agencies throughout the world is pooled in an intensive effort against organized crime.

The seminary, which has brought together students and professors from 29 nations, pools their skill in teaching a message which is "the world's most historically effective deterrent against evil," Stevens said.

Ruschlikon, located just outside Zurich, is sometimes referred to as "the Baptist center of Europe." Geographically, it is near the heart of the continent. Baptists from many countries turn to Ruschlikon for a theological education and for international fellowship, Stevens said.

The idea of such a school originated in 1908 at the first European Baptist Congress, meeting in Berlin. Plans lay dormant until World War II ended. In 1948, the Southern Baptist Convention purchased the Bodmer Estate with its 40-room mansion on the heights overlooking the beautiful Lake of Zurich.

Although the property is owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, it was decided initially that the seminary would be free to cooperate with any other Baptist bodies or mission boards within the fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance.

The board of trustees is made up of Baptists from many different European countries. Close cooperation is maintained with national Baptist unions in Austria, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and other countries in Europe.

The faculty represents three nationalities and the board of trustees includes representatives from 16 nations. Many of the students, who have come from 29 countries, have returned to their homelands upon graduation and are serving as pastors, missionaries, evangelistic workers, and teachers.

Baptists in America trace their history to a movement in England and Holland in the 17th Century, and hold many beliefs in common with the Swiss Anabaptists of the 16 century.

"Baptists, having begun in Europe, fled to America seeking religious freedom," commented Stevens. "Now, centuries later through the influence of the Baptist seminary at Ruschlikon, Southern Baptists are able to share their faith with their European Bretheren."

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Veteran Texas Educator
To Receive Baylor Honor

7/29/66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University will confer an honorary doctor of laws degree on one of its most distinguished graduates in summer commencement exercises here.

Grady St. Clair, president of Del Mar College at Corpus Christi, Tex., since 1961 and for more than 45 years an outstanding Texas educator, will be awarded the degree.

He currently is president of the Texas Association of Colleges and Universities and is a director of the American Association of Junior Colleges.

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