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**Baptists Hear of Minister's
Role in Racial Leadership**

By Walker L. Knight

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--How does a Christian minister determine whether or not he should be active in leading his community in race relations?

This thorny problem was tackled by John Claypool of Louisville, Ky., during a conference on Southern Baptist work with National Baptists at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly here.

Claypool, pastor of the Crescent Hill Baptist Church, said the decision to get involved should come after the minister answers three questions:

What is the role of the pastor in the community?

What is the scope of God's concern and activity?

Who is doing the work of God today?

Dealing with the first question, he asked another: "Is the minister called and paid by the church and therefore must serve only its institutional life, working in the gathered church in order to keep the institution running with little or no outside contacts?"

He indicated that any minister following this line of thinking confuses the role of the church in the world today.

"The church must be within the world, for it is the world that God loves and for which he gave his son," he explained.

"The tendency of Southern Baptists is to get so involved in the church that it becomes an escape from the world, a sub-culture of private world in which members can structure their entire lives," he added.

Discussing the question of the scope of God's concern, Claypool said God is interested in all his material creation, desiring that man might bring his total personality to its highest expression.

"Anything that holds man back is contrary to God's concern," he said.

Claypool, chairman of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, in answering the question "Who is doing the work of God today?" said: "God works in two ways today: first through agents and secondly through instruments."

He defined "agents" as those who consciously apprehend God and are trying to do his will within the world, such as the church.

"Instruments" are those who are not conscious of what God is doing and are those groups and individuals who are not consciously religious. He said the Old Testament offers numerous examples of God's use of such instruments.

"Whenever the agents of God refuse to be obedient to his purpose, God uses these instruments to accomplish his purpose," Claypool said. "When the church has failed, God has always used some groups outside."

He indicated God today is judging the churches when instruments do more in liberating man from oppression than his agents.

The minister, according to Claypool, if he is to work in the community, must ask where the work of God is being done. "Then he may have to align himself with groups which are not perfect.

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"Southern Baptists' excessive concern for purity has often been simply a rationalization against getting involved, for the price of involvement is coming in contact with the imperfect."

He did warn ministers to be careful in becoming involved with certain groups which might simply use him or his name.

Claypool himself has answered these questions in the affirmative. He participated in the organization of a joint pastor's conference with Negro and white pastors, has been active in a conference on religion and race, and has served on the mayor's committee under the Human Relations Council in Louisville. Several Negroes are members of the church where Claypool is pastor.

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Dirksen Sees Prayer
Vote By Labor Day

8/24/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.) has informed the Senate that on August 30 he will offer his "prayer amendment" to the Constitution as an amendment to a UNICEF resolution that will be called up on that day.

This announcement was made by Sen. Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.), Senate majority leader, who reviewed the weekly legislative program for the Senate.

The United Nations Children's Fund resolution has been proposed by Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D., Md.). It would designate Halloween as United Nations Educational Fund Day.

Dirksen, sensing from the beginning of his move for a "prayer amendment" that it might never get out of the Judiciary Committee, vowed that one way or another he would force a vote in the Senate on the question this year.

He now says that the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on his proposal before Labor Day.

Hearings were concluded on Aug. 8 on the "prayer amendment" by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments, headed by Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.). The subcommittee has made no report or recommendation following the hearings.

If Sen. Dirksen fails to get a two-thirds majority vote, which is required for a constitutional amendment, this will in all probability kill the issue for this session of Congress, according to staff members of the judiciary subcommittee.

Few, if any, Washington observers see any chance for the passage of the Dirksen amendment, either in the Senate or in the House of Representatives.

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Brooks Hays Named
Politics Professor

8/24/66

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Brooks Hays, former President of the Southern Baptist Convention who campaigned unsuccessfully this year in the Arkansas governor's race, has been named distinguished professor of practical politics at the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst.

Hays will continue to teach at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., as a visiting professor of political science for about four days each month.

He will teach four days each week at the University of Massachusetts under a program founded by a Ford Foundation grant in 1961, according to the Arkansas Gazette.

Hays was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1958 to 1960, and was a U. S. Congressman from Arkansas for 16 years, 1942-1958.

He ran for governor of Arkansas this summer but lost in the Democratic Primary to Jim Johnson, a segregationist, and to Frank Holt, both former Supreme Court Justices. Johnson won the run-off election and will face Winthrop Rockefeller, the Republican candidate, in the general election.

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Expect Change, Chafin
Tells Evangelism Leaders

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Change is the order of the day, Baptist evangelism leaders were told here, and effective Christian evangelism will take place as it adapts to the context in which it occurs.

"The secret of success of evangelism is not everyone, everywhere doing the same thing but a witness always given in the context of each community or society," Kenneth Chafin of Louisville said.

Asking for the adoption of a posture of helpfulness, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor called for a complete familiarity with today's changing world.

"Too often we are guilty of trying to use what could have been easily understood in the First Century but has difficulty being understood in the Twentieth Century," he explained.

He asked for a sensitiveness to the nature of communities where evangelism takes place, and he chastized churches which move out of changing areas as being slow to have this sensitiveness.

"The churches which move are usually more worried about what is going to happen to them than what is happening to the community," he said.

Chafin suggested Southern Baptists should be more sensitive to their assets. "If Southern Baptists fail, and we can fail, it will not be because we lack assets, but because we fail to come to grips with what God wants us to do."

He cited as assets the people, buildings, money, and wholesome attitudes toward evangelism that the denomination has.

The evangelism leaders were also asked to help the members of the denomination get a hearing with outsiders. "We do our writing, our preaching, and our witnessing almost entirely within our own groups."

"Also some of us are not too sure the gospel can make it unless we have stained glass windows, and organ, and a group of deacons stomping down the aisle with a collection plate," he said.

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Cuba Missionaries Said
Having Health Problems

8/24/66

LONDON (BP)--Two Southern Baptist missionaries imprisoned in Cuba are having health problems, information reaching the Baptist World Alliance London office has indicated.

Herbert Caudill and David Fite, Southern Baptist missionaries imprisoned in Cuba on charges of currency violations in April of 1965, were both reportedly in ill health at the La Cabana Fortress across the bay from Havana, Cuba.

Reports say that eyesight is failing in Caudill's remaining eye due to cataract growth.

Caudill had previously lost the sight in one eye because of cataracts and a detached retina. He flew to the United States in 1964 for eye surgery and returned to Cuba shortly afterwards.

Fite was described in the reports as being in "deteriorating health." Fite is the son-in-law of Caudill.

Word from Havana indicates that nearly all the Cuban Baptist churches are still open, and that Baptist work there is progressing in spite of some hinderances in educating children, the Alliance reported.

About 35 Cuban Baptist pastors are also in Cuban prisons, cutting leadership in the Baptist churches nearly in half, reports indicate. About 40 Baptist pastors continue to preach in the churches, some of them holding as many as six places of service.

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