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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**Arkansas Baptists To Vote
On Relinquishing Hospital**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--Arkansas Baptists will vote in November on a proposal to sever official ties with the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center here so that the hospital will be free to accept federal loans and grants.

The Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention voted to recommend to the full convention on Nov. 8 that the convention sever its connection with the medical center.

Board members approved, apparently unanimously, a request from the hospital trustees that a non-profit association be formed of present and past trustees who would assume control of the hospital and elect a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

Although the hospital would continue to use the name "Baptist" in its name, the official ownership and control of the medical center would be transferred from the state convention to the private association.

The convention's annual budget allocation to the hospital would be diverted to other purposes, to be determined by the full convention in November if the recommendation is adopted.

If the convention in November approves the recommendation of its Executive Board, the Arkansas hospital would be the first state-wide Baptist-owned institution in the Southern Baptist Convention to sever ties with the state convention so it could accept federal funds.

In July, the hospital trustees issued a lengthy statement saying that the medical center will lose a minimum of \$150,000 per year as a result of Medicare programs, and that the only alternative is to accept federal grants and loans.

"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 hospital trustees' statement.

The recommendation was presented to the board by James Linder, a Little Rock attorney and a member of the hospital board.

Debate on the recommendation lasted for about 30 minutes, with several board members reportedly supporting the idea of keeping convention ownership and control of the hospital, but allowing it to accept federal grants and loans as a state convention institution.

A substitute motion was presented by J. C. Meyers of North Little Rock which would have given the convention a choice between (1) allowing the hospital to accept federal aid as a state convention institution, (2) setting up the private association as recommended by the board, and (3) continuing the hospital as a convention-owned institution and continuing the current policy preventing the hospital from accepting federal funds.

The board, however, voted down the substitute motion, and approved instead the proposal of the hospital board.

Some board members pointed out during the discussion, however, that nothing would prevent someone at the convention in November from making a substitute motion suggesting any of the other combinations of alternatives.

In its statement issued July 28, the hospital board offered four possible solutions to the financial dilemma it faced: (1) giving the trustees authority to accept federal grants as a convention-owned institution; (2) setting up a private corporation which could accept federal grants and lease the hospital to the convention for operation; (3) incorporating the current board of trustees and releasing the hospital to the corporation; and (4) setting up the private association as approved by the Executive Board in its latest action.

The trustees' statement said that it was the feeling of many that the first suggestion (allowing the convention-owned hospital to accept federal grants) was preferable, but they implied that such a proposal would probably have a slim chance of passing on a vote of the full convention.

The recommendation of the board will be presented as a part of the Executive Board report to the convention on the morning of Nov. 8, with time for discussion scheduled at that time, and a final vote to be taken later during the convention, which meets Nov. 7-9 at the Second Baptist Church in Little Rock

Education Act Snags
On Parochial Aids

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Legislative muddle on public aid to parochial schools is proceeding from the House Committee on Education and Labor in its reports on the proposed Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments of 1966.

The committee in its Aug. 5 report recommended a two-year extension of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

At the same time, it reviewed its original statement of "legislative intent" regarding aid to pupils attending parochial schools. It spelled out "certain limitations" in the original act that would control the services to parochial school pupils.

However, the advocates of relaxed regulations in favor of parochial school pupils objected so strenuously to the new statement of legislative intent, that the whole future of the federal aid to education program appeared to be in jeopardy.

Yielding to such pressure, the Education and Labor Committee resorted to an unusual tactic of issuing on Aug. 22 a supplementary report to its report of Aug. 5. This new statement beclouds the clear statement of the first report. Hence, the church-state problem of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is considerably intensified.

The new compromise report of the committee plainly declares: "It should be made clear that the committee in its reference to the First Amendment...has made no judgment respecting the limits the Congress may legislate in providing support for educational programs benefiting children in nonpublic schools."

The new supplementary report on the legislative intent of Congress opens many new and unspecified doors for regulations and guidelines from the Office of Education favoring parochial schools. In addition it serves notice that more extensive attempts can be made in Congress to provide further legislative aid to nonpublic education.

In its report on the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 the committee made it clear that public aid to nonpublic school pupils should be given through public agencies and under public control. This policy is repeated in the initial report on the new proposed amendments act of 1966.

During the past year unclear and ambiguous regulations and guidelines were developed by the Office of Education and practices developed in the states that appeared to violate the expressed intent of Congress.

To complicate matters, the Education and Labor Committee in its first report on the Amendments Act of 1966 apparently rebuked the Office of Education for its laxity in aids to parochial school pupils.

Then in its amended report it reversed its emphasis and made it mandatory that public agencies increase their contacts with private school administrators to develop larger programs of public aids to their pupils.

Specifically, the new report says, "The committee will expect that the administration of Title I by the Office of Education will be pursued with strong requirements to assure that there is meaningful and cooperative discourse between public and private school administrators in devising projects in which the special educational needs of educationally deprived children who do not attend public school can be met."

The new report then lists 29 "commendable and worthwhile projects to aid parochial pupils" that have been developed the last year. There is no indication that any effort has been made to examine these projects in the light of the constitutional prohibitions of the First Amendment or of the legislative intent of Congress in 1965.

The committee report of Aug. 5 limited the programs of aid to parochial school pupils under Title I of the 1965 Education Act to "remedial, health and therapeutic services." It defines these services and specifies that they are to be offered by public personnel on public premises where possible.

It further specifies that "the public agency is not to pay the salary of nonpublic school personnel nor to assign personnel to nonpublic schools on a full-time basis." It prohibits "teacher aids", paid by public funds, from performing services in parochial

schools, except "in connection with a remedial or therapeutic service being performed by a public employee under public auspices." Definitions and specifications for "mobile equipment" available to private school teachers were also limited in the first report.

The new report at best confuses the clear statement of the restrictions on these programs, services and mobile equipment.

The original intent of Congress in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for the church-state policies was spelled out in a five-fold formula, which remains the rule but which is given a loose interpretation in the new committee report. These five provisions are:

- "1. Library resources, textbooks, and other instructional materials are to be made available to children and teachers and not to institutions.
- "2. Such materials are made available on a loan basis only.
- "3. Public authority must retain title and administrative control over such materials.
- "4. Such material must be that approved for use by public school authority in the state.
- "5. Books and material must not supplant those being provided children but must supplement library resources, textbooks, and other instructional materials to assure that the legislation will furnish increased opportunities for learning."

The Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act of 1966 is now before the Rules Committee of the House for clearance for floor debate.

The Senate has not yet reported on its version of the Amendments Act. The original education act expired June 30, 1966 unless extended by this session of Congress.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: Following is a wrap-up story on the actions of the Arkansas convention board meeting. See separate story on page 1 reporting the significant action on ownership and control of the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center.

---Baptist Press

Arkansas Board Approves
Bond Sale, 1968 Budget

8/31/66

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A record budget, a proposal for bond sales at a Baptist university, and a recommendation that ownership be relinquished on a Baptist hospital were key business actions taken by the Executive Board of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention meeting here.

The board voted to recommend all three proposals to the full convention when it meets in Little Rock, Nov. 7-9.

An increase of \$200,000 over the 1966-67 budget, the board will recommend a 1968 budget of \$2,366,092 to the convention. The budget will allocate \$779,584 to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program plan of financing world-wide missions.

Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., presented a request from the school asking for permission to sell up to \$2 million worth of first mortgage bonds to construct badly needed buildings on the Baptist school's campus.

The main features of the \$2 million building program would be enlarging a science building and a library, and improving and enlarging student housing facilities. If the convention approves, the bonds will be sold as needed to pay for construction authorized by the university trustees.

The board also voted to recommend that the convention sever its ties with the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center, and that a non-profit association be formed from the hospital's present and past hospital board members; and that properties and control be relinquished by the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

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The hospital earlier had issued a statement asking that the private association be created so that it could accept federal grants and loans without violating the Baptist convention's principle of separation of church and state.

The 72-member board meets here semi-annually to conduct business between sessions of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

-30-

Southwestern Seminary
Opens On New Schedule

8/31/66

FORT WORTH, Tex. (BP)--Orientation, testing, and registration began at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here two weeks earlier than usual in order to allow completion of classes for the fall semester before the Christmas holidays.

In addition to the new schedule, the seminary opened with four new professors and five new staff members.

New Professors and their fields are: Clyde Fant, preaching; LeRoy Ford, programmed instruction and principles of religious education; Scotty Wayne Gray, music theory; and Miss Rennie Vee Sanderson, Southern Baptist missionary to Japan who is guest professor of music for the coming year.

New staff members include Keith C. Wills, director of libraries; Robert P. Taylor, former chief of Air Force chaplains, director of institutional resources; Mrs. Doris Norton, dean of women; Adam Hall, director of food services; and Billy Keith, news director.

-30-

Gardner-Webb Trustees
Approve 15-Year Plan

8/31/66

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C. (BP)--A 15-year visionary master plan of development for Gardner-Webb College was approved "in principle" by the Baptist school's board of trustees here.

The plan outlines details for new housing complexes, entrance, traffic patterns, expansion of present facilities, acquisition of land for the campus, and beautification projects.

It was prepared and presented by Landscape Architect Robert H. Rucker, resident site planner for the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and for 10 years consultant site planner for Baylor University, the nation's largest Baptist school, in Waco, Tex.

The master plan projects facilities for a senior college with an enrollment of 5,000 to 6,000 students. Gardner-Webb is a junior college with a current enrollment of about 1,200.

If Rucker's plans are followed, the town of Boiling Springs would once more regain a reason for its name. The town's springs ceased to "boil" several years ago when plans to use dynamite to make one large spring from several failed and resulted in stopping the springs from "boiling."

Rucker proposed a new entrance to the college with three large pylons, representative of the Trinity, placed near a fountain, designed as a boiling spring activated by use of compressed air.

Another of Rucker's recommendations suggested that the college buy the site of the Boiling Springs Baptist Church and turn the new educational building into a school of religion. He also proposed that the existing church auditorium and old educational wing be demolished to make room for a college chapel.

Numerous other buildings and proposals were included in the 15-year master plan, which was approved only "in principle."

-30-