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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 9, 1966

Texas Baptist Educators
Favor Cooperative Efforts

By Bert O. Tucker
Baptist Press Staff Writer

DALLAS (BP)--Educators attending a Texas Baptist College and University Workshop have recommended creation of an office for cooperative inter-institutional ventures to coordinate joint projects among the nine Texas Baptist colleges and universities.

About 150 presidents, administrative officers, and faculty members of the Texas Baptist schools developed a series of recommended steps for programs to mutually benefit all nine of the Baptist colleges and universities in Texas.

Specific recommendations coming from the three-day conference call for creation of an office which would work full-time on interests of inter-institutional cooperation, possibly through the Christian Education Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas which sponsored the sixth annual workshop.

Other proposals were for cooperative ventures in the areas of student recruitment, faculty enlistment, graduate study programs, fund-raising, cost analysis and group purchasing, visiting specialists and scientists program, and standardization of degrees and credits.

At present, the nine Texas Baptist colleges and universities with an enrollment of nearly 13,000 students and about 800 faculty members, have no formal association for inter-institutional cooperation.

During the three-day workshop at Lakeview Methodist Assembly in East Central Texas, major addresses were delivered by the executives of two federations of colleges on the theme of "strengthening Christian education through inter-institutional cooperation."

Featured speakers were Landrum P. Bolling, president of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., and chairman of the board which in 1961 founded the Great Lakes Colleges Association; and Paul Parker, executive director of the Mid-Florida Colleges Association, of which Stetson University, a Baptist school, is a member.

The Texas Baptist educators were given a wide picture by the two guests of the benefits of college federations. Then the conference participants divided into small groups to hammer out concrete projects through which they could jointly cooperate.

The Great Lakes Federation, comprised of 12 colleges and universities in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, and the Mid-Florida Association with five member schools, are among a growing number of "campus combines" across the nation.

The associations of schools are emerging to counter rising costs in securing speakers, buying supplies, maintaining quality administrations, and meeting insurance discounts, expensive library advances and complex grades and credits exchanges.

One midwestern colleges association, for example, cut the cost of ten schools' annual insurance rates from a total of about \$100,000 to a "package" rate of just over \$50,000.

Basic theory behind the college organizations is that economy, academic excellence and practical educational projects can best be accomplished through cooperation.

There are about 100 such college organizations in the United States today.

Sen. Ervin Plugs For
Judicial Review Bill

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., (D., N. C.) plugged the Judicial Review Bill in a letter to the New York Times, and both the letter and a Times editorial, "Clarifying School Air," as a result have been printed in the Congressional Record.

Ervin, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, was co-sponsor with Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) of the Judicial Review Bill.

The legislation, passed by the Senate in July and presently before the House Judiciary Committee, would permit review by the courts of the constitutionality of certain federal grants and loans to religious institutions.

In his letter, Sen. Ervin praised the New York Times for its editorial entitled "Void In School Policy," which pointed out "the confusion which surrounds the operations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in New York."

Enactment of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 was accomplished, said Sen. Ervin, "only after assurances were given Congress by administration officials that programs initiated under that act would be operated in a manner which would do no violence in the principle of separation of church and state."

Sen. Ervin said that the issue of government aid to church-related organizations has been "a divisive force in our society and in the Congress." He further declared that it has "erected communications barriers among our religions and fostered intolerance."

During the earlier debate on the Senate floor the North Carolina Senator said: "Some of us who are sponsors of this bill feel there are serious doubts as to the constitutionality of many recent education and poverty programs. Others are confident that these programs meet the test of the First Amendment.

"But one thing on which we all agree: the courts must be given the opportunity to decide. Only then will this century-long controversy end," he declared.

Neither the Senate bill as passed in July nor an independent version has been introduced in the House. Prospects for the bill in the House this year are considered by many observers as negligible.

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Oklahoma Baptist Cagers
Win Friends in Orient

9/9/66

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--For 48 days this summer, the starting five of the Oklahoma Baptist University basketball team showed people in Southeast Asia how they won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship in the United States.

And they won a lot of friends while they were doing it, according to a report published in the Daily Oklahoman in Oklahoma City.

The team members from the Baptist school here gave numerous demonstrations and clinics in addition to their exhibition games, showing people from Karachi, West Pakistan to Hong Kong how to play the sport that is sweeping that part of the world.

They played 18 games on the tour of Southeast Asia without a loss. The closest game ended with the Oklahoma Baptist team winning by a 40-point margin.

Part of the reason was the team's overall height. Half of the players are taller than 6½ feet, while their oppositions' tall men averaged about 5 feet 8.

But the tour wasn't all basketball. A lot of it was just meeting people and talking to them.

"Our boys would spend 30 to 40 minutes after each game just walking around the court, shaking hands and talking," said OBU's coach Bob Bass of Shawnee.

"One of the favorite things they liked to do was stand next to one of the taller boys just to see how tall he really was," he added. "Most of them could walk right under the arms of our boys.

Sponsored by the U.S. State Department, the tour's main theme was to give clinics and demonstrations so that the game of basketball will develop faster in the Orient.

"I think we all learned a lot from this trip," Bison Coach Bass said. "It cost probably \$35,000 to \$40,000 for the whole tour and I think it was worth every penny, not only to the boys who went but to the United States as well."

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Baptist Elected Bible
Society Vice President

NEW YORK (BP)--A prominent Southern Baptist attorney in Atlanta, E. Smythe Gambrell, has been elected a vice president of the American Bible Society here.

Gambrell is a partner in the law firm of Gambrell, Harlan, Russell and Moye, and a former professor of law at Emory University, Atlanta. He is a native of South Carolina.

Gambrell, a nephew of the late J. B. Gambrell who was a prominent Texas Baptist leader and editor, is a member of the Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta.

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Furor Erupts As Baptist
Opposes Nuns in Schools

9/9/66

By C. C. Risenhoover
Baptist Press Staff Writer

BOERNE, Tex. (BP)--An uproar over Catholic nuns' teaching in the public school here while wearing their religious habits came close to the point of ecclesiastical fist-cuffs in this city of 2,200.

The furor erupted when George McWilliams, pastor of the local First Baptist Church, released a statement to the press which threatens imminent action against two Benedictine Nuns who now are teaching in the Boerne school, wearing their religious habits.

McWilliams, a Church of Christ minister and two retired Army officers called the press conference and handed out their prepared statement.

In the statement McWilliams said that both Catholic priests in Boerne had previously agreed that if there "was any serious disharmony in the community, the nuns would quickly refrain from teaching in the public schools."

Gus Staff, one of the priests, exploded when he was informed of the statement.

"He's a liar. He's a liar and I'll sue him if the statement is put in print," Staff said. "I ought to punch him in the puss for saying that. He started the whole darn mess. He's the only one agitating this thing."

The other priest, James Lockwood, pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Boerne, also denied that he had made any agreement regarding the nuns.

McWilliams said there is no religious prejudice involved, but contends that the nuns wearing their religious habits in the school is a violation of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions.

In Dallas, the secretary of the Christian Life Commission for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Jimmy R. Allen, said the whole issue needs to be clarified constitutionally. The commission deals with church-state matters for Texas Baptists.

"The issues involved in hiring persons of distinctive religious garb to teach in the public schools of Texas needs to be clarified constitutionally," said a statement issued by Allen.

"The Boerne situation is very similar to the one in Bremond, Tex. some time ago. That one ended in a severance of garbed nuns teaching in public schools, but no real interpretation of the issues," continued the statement.

"It would be highly beneficial in our pluralistic society to have this issue decided on its merits. This question is not centered in bias against any religious group, but is of concern for a relationship between church and state which will protect the religious conscience of the citizen. Every friend of public schools has a stake in the decision," Allen said.

McWilliams said the constitutions and the interpretations thereof allow any qualified teacher to teach in a public school in Texas regardless of religion.

"This is right," he said, "but it is the silent, yet striking and unmistakable teaching of sectarian religion in the wearing of the religious symbolic garb in public schools that we object to. It is most important that our fundamental heritage be maintained by complete separation of church and state.

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McWilliams, who is president of the Boerne Ministers Association, said he called a meeting of ministers in August to discuss nuns teaching in religious costume.

"I told my fellow ministers present that this event would be a breach of the federal and state Constitutions on the matter of separation of church and state if these nuns wore their religious habits into the classroom."

McWilliams said he told the ministers present that this act would cause a serious division and disharmony in the community.

"At this point we were all assured by the two Roman Catholic priests that they did not want this and that the Catholic Benedictine Sisters did not want this either. Moreover, they (the priests) said if there was any serious disharmony in the community that the nuns would quickly refrain from teaching in the public schools."

McWilliams was accompanied at the press conference by Marvin Perkins, Church of Christ minister, and two retired Lieutenant Colonels, John Hopkin Jr. and Milton Hawkins.

Perkins said that 50 members of his congregation signed a petition protesting the nuns' wearing their robes in the classroom.

The petition was presented to the Boerne Independent School Board, who ruled there was nothing illegal involved where the nuns and their dress habits were concerned.

At a public hearing of the school board on Aug. 8, McWilliams made a verbal statement that if the nuns were hired to teach and allowed to wear their religious symbolic habits it would be a violation of the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution (as made effective by the Fourteenth Amendment) and the Constitution of the State of Texas.

McWilliams said the school board hired the nuns with no restriction on dress in spite of many protests at the meeting.

Staff, the Catholic priest, said the school board based their decision to hire the nuns without restriction on dress on an opinion by Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr.

Referring to rumors of a court injunction against the nuns, Staff laughed: "They don't have a prayer."

McWilliams said he was only interested that "steps be taken to stop the nuns' teaching in their habits."

"The Supreme Court has held," said McWilliams, "that the very existence of our country is staked on the faith that separation between the state and religion is best for the state and best for religion."

The Baptist pastor said he was for all qualified teachers in the public schools and expressed a sincere desire that the issue be settled amicably.

"My son married into a fine Catholic family," said McWilliams. "We are very proud of him, but this is a different matter."

One of the nuns, Sister Henrietta, told newsmen that she and Sister Thekla were "not upset about it all. Amused would be a better word," she said.

The Associated Press reported that the nuns were hired by the school board to help relieve a teacher shortage, and that the board said the nuns "will continue to teach in their habits."