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**Louisville Pastors Object
To Taxation on Clergymen**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Baptist ministers in the Louisville area have vigorously protested an occupational tax levied here, charging that the tax implies that clergymen are being "licensed" for the privilege of performing their ministry.

The Louisville-area Long Run Baptist Minister's Conference and the Long Run Baptist Association have threatened to pose a test case on the constitutionality of the occupational tax levied in Louisville and Jefferson County.

The tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent on each dollar earned in the county, unlike an earlier occupational tax of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent levied in 1958, does not exempt ministers.

Phraseology of the tax bill implies that clergymen are being taxed or "licensed" for the privilege of performing their ministry, charge Louisville area Baptist pastors, who argue that the bill is thus a violation of the principle of religious freedom.

According to Doyle L. Wetherington, chairman of the group's public affairs committee, their attempts to clarify the constitutionality of the tax bill with city and county officials have been misunderstood.

"We are not trying to get out of paying the tax," Wetherington stated. "As citizens we ministers are interested in supporting our schools just like everybody else."

"Some of us paid and are still paying the first tax voluntarily, even though we are exempt," continued the pastor of the Midlone Park Baptist Church here.

"But the second tax involves the principles of religious liberty and separation of church and state; these matters are much more important to us than paying a few cents in occupational tax each week."

The parts of the tax bill which raise questions as to its constitutionality when applied to ministers, said Wetherington, is the word "license" and the statement that the fee is to be levied on "every business, trade, occupation, and profession... based on the exercise of activities thereof."

In a letter to County Judge Marlow W. Cook, Wetherington stated that these phrases "place the county in the position of licensing ministers in the performance of their preaching visiting, ministering."

C. R. Daley, editor of the Western Recorder published here, stated in an editorial on the subject that "The occupational tax in Jefferson County should be clarified."

"If it is but a tax on income, a minister should pay it without complaint and the wording of the tax measure should be changed to make this clear," Daley continued.

"If it is considered the payment of a license fee, a minister should not pay it and should fight it vigorously on constitutional grounds," the editorial said.

After failing to initiate any action on the bill in the city-county fiscal court, the public affairs committee of the Long Run Minister's Conference presented a resolution on the matter to the Long Run Baptist Association executive board. The resolution, which was unanimously adopted, reads as follows:

"That unless some satisfactory conclusion is reached with the city-county fiscal authorities within the next 60 days regarding the term "license" in the occupational license fee, the Long Run Association institute a test case to determine the constitutionality of the terminology used in the 'resolution and order of the Fiscal Court...' in its application to ministers."

The resolution was then referred back to the public affairs committee, which will seek legal counsel before implementing action. Assistance in the case by Protestants and Other Americans United, Washington, D.C., has already been pledged by Franklin C. Salisbury, general counsel of the organization.

Millionaire Texan Speaks
At Seminary Convocation

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Millionaire Texas businessman H. L. Hunt of Dallas, in the annual convocation address at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, said that the Christian church in America would be one of the biggest losers if Communism ever took over society.

Hunt, a staunch political conservative, said that Communism is the greatest menace the United States has ever known.

The Texas oilman emphasized in his convocation address that Christianity, the church, clergy and congregations rank number one among the losers should the socialists, athiests, and communists take over society.

"Theology can not and will not survive under the enemy's vicious rule," Hunt said, warning that all would be losers and the loss would be total.

The 77-year-old president of Hunt Oil Company and Hunt's Food Products offered several sures to save the country from what he termed its greatest enemy.

Hunt maintained that if a contingent of the nation's clergymen would incorporate into th ir sermons a message for liberty, the tide of atheism and Communism could be overcome.

He also suggested eloquence and the art of oratory employed by patriotic youths, and a movement for making patriotism fashionable.

At a press conference in New Orleans, Hunt introduced two young ladies as members of the Youth Freedom Speakers, a Hunt-backed organization comprised of young people speaking out for America, reported the New Orleans Times Picayune.

Hunt is a member of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Tex., and is one of the richest men in the world. Some reports say that he is the richest man in the world, but Hunt told the local newspaper here he doesn't know just how much money he has.

The Times-Picayune added that Hunt is "sometimes called a super-patriot and a prominent member of the ultra-conservative front."

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Bronze Star Presented
To Baptist College Prof

9/19/66

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Major Robert Spoede, 39-year-old assistant professor of military science at Hardin-Simmons University here has been honored at the Baptist school with the presentation of the Bronze Star medal for his service in Viet Nam.

Major Spoede joined the Hardin-Simmons Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program this summer after a one-year hitch in Viet Nam.

The citation was presented at the Baptist school during special ceremonies attended by ROTC cadets.

Major Spoede was cited "for distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operations against a hostile force (Viet Cong) in the Republic of Vi t Nam..."

Major Spoede served in Viet Nam from June, 1965 to June, 1966.

The citation further read:

"Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counter insurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems."

The citation continued: "The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Viet Nam to assist that country in ridding itself of the Communist threat to its freedom."

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Medical Research Funds
Awarded Baptist Schools

WASHINGTON (BP)--The National Institutes of Health has awarded funds for clinical research centers to two Baptist medical centers.

Baylor University will receive \$502,134 to establish a new 28-bed general clinical research center at the Baylor School of Medicine in Houston.

The Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. will receive \$282,920 for a six-bed clinical research center in the North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

The awards are two of six totaling \$1,258,574 announced by the U. S. Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

Among the problems to be investigated in the Baylor center are graft rejection in kidney transplants, respiratory virus diseases, and blood flow to the heart muscle in patients with heart disease.

Studies at Bowman Gray will include research in metabolism in pregnancy, leukemia, emphysema, and responses to various anesthetic agents.

The new awards bring to 91 the number of general clinical research centers in the nation with a total complement of 1,124 beds. Including these grants, the total awarded under this program since its inception six years ago is over \$134 million.

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CORRECTION

9/19/66

On Baptist Press story mailed 9/12/66, (page 3), 15th graph of the story, 2nd sentence should read: At the time of his appointment, he (Amberson) was pastor of the Chapel Wood Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind. (NOT First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, Ala., as sent!) Then add following sentence: He also has held pastorates in Scottsboro, Ala., Springfield, Mo., Venus, Tex., and Sylacauga, Ala.

--Thanks, Baptist Press