



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

FEATURING

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Prayer Amendments Are Based On False Issues

By W. Barry Garrett

The second major drive for a constitutional "prayer amendment" in two years is dead, until the resurrection next year.

The first was in 1964 with seven weeks of hearings before the House Judiciary Committee on the Becker amendment. The second was Sept. 21, 1966 when the Senate killed the Dirksen amendment.

An analysis of the Senate vote on the Dirksen proposal is quite revealing. The Southern Democrat and Republican coalition is apparent.

Of the 22 Democrats who voted for Dirksen's amendment, all but four were south of the Mason-Dixon line. Out of the 30 Republicans in the Senate who voted, only three opposed the amendment.

This is the same coalition that worked so effectively so long against civil rights legislation and federal aid to education.

Could this mean that the state's rights issue, anti-Supreme Courtism and political maneuvers enter significantly into the picture?

Another interesting fact is that all the Senators in the states that were involved in the Supreme Court decisions on religion in public schools (New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland), stood by the court and voted against the Dirksen proposal, except the Republican Senator from Pennsylvania.

It has been widely charged that the Supreme Court "threw God out of the schools," that children no longer have the right to pray, and that religion is a forbidden subject in schools.

Senator Birch Bayh (D., Ind.) who conducted the hearings in the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments, declared that such charges are "ridiculous."

A look at the Supreme Court decisions reveals the issues:

The New York Regents' Prayer Case had to do with a state-composed prayer that was to be recited by school children. The Pennsylvania and Maryland cases involved state and school board requirements for reading the Bible and recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

In the first case, official prayers were ruled unconstitutional. In the second, required and officially sponsored devotions were forbidden.

The Supreme Court denied hostility to religion. It said in *Engel v. Vitale*, "It has been argued that to apply the Constitution in such a way as to prohibit state laws respecting an establishment of religious services in public schools is to indicate a hostility toward religion or toward prayer. Nothing, of course, could be more wrong."

The court continued, "It is neither sacrilegious nor anti-religious to say that each separate government in this country should stay out of the business of writing or sanctioning official prayers and leave that purely religious function to the people themselves and to those the people choose to look to for religious guidance."

The conclusion of the Supreme Court in *Abington v. Schempp* sums up the attitude of the court: "The place of religion in our society is an exalted one, achieved through a long tradition of reliance on the home, the church and the inviolable citadel of the individual heart and mind. We have come to recognize through bitter experience that it is not within the power of government to invade that citadel, whether its purpose or effect be to aid or oppose, to advance or retard. In the relationship between man and religion, the state is firmly committed to a position of neutrality."

September 23, 1966

2

Baptist Press Feature

"Though the application of that rule requires interpretation of a delicate sort, the rule itself is clearly and concisely stated in the words of the First Amendment!"

A recent review of the Supreme Court decisions relating to religion, made by Walfred H. Peterson, director of research for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, reveals that the First Amendment and religious freedom are more clear now than at any time in our nation's history.

-30-

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**Glock Urges Baptist
War on Anti-Semitism**

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NASHVILLE (BP)--The co-author of a book on Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism urged Southern Baptists to launch a frontal assault against anti-Jewish attitudes within the denomination.

Charles Y. Glock, speaking before an informal group of Southern Baptist Convention leaders here, issued a call for Christian churches to educate their members in an effort to dispell negative views of the Jewish people.

"The danger lies in the fact that there is so much attitudinal and latent prejudice against Jews, that these people would be complacent if Jews were ever attacked. This is what happened in Germany with the Hitler tragedy," said Glock, a Lutheran layman.

The book, Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism by Glock and Rodney Stark, both of the University of California, gave a scholarly sociological treatment on the effect of Christian beliefs on anti-Semitism.

Several Baptists attending the meeting here challenged the authenticity of the survey on the basis that the number of Baptists surveyed, 79, was too small to be representative of the entire denomination. The survey, conducted in a four-county San Francisco (Calif.) Bay area, was based on answers from 2,326 Protestants and 525 Catholics.

Glock replied that a nation-wide representative sampling of 1,976 interviews tended to validate the San Francisco survey. The national study ranked 12 religious groups in four categories (high, medium high, medium, and none) indicating anti-Semitic beliefs, and 43 per cent of the 187 Southern Baptists in the national survey were ranked "high". American Baptist and Evangelical and Reformed church members in the survey were also ranked as 43 per cent in the "high" category.

Glock also suggested that Southern Baptists conduct their own survey on anti-Semitism, on a nation-wide, in-depth basis. "If you did," he said, "I think you would find that the results would agree with our study with an eight per cent variable."

Conceding that Southern Baptists might not be as bad as they were pictured in the study, Glock said that the book did not attempt to emphasize denominational differences as significant but rather that anti-Semitism is present in every denomination.

"If we get into denominational bickering about the results, we won't make much progress," he said.

He added that the study points up that Christians in many cases are not really concerned and troubled if someone is anti-Semitic. "As long as it (anti-Semitism) is latent under the surface, there is a danger that it might become acute.

"All of the Germans weren't in Buchenwald killing Jews, but they didn't violently object when the German regime began the mass slaughter of Jews," he said.

The meeting closed with a brief address by Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, director of the department of interreligious cooperation of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League, New York.

"It isn't enough to merely refrain from saying evil things about Jews," Rabbi Bernards said. "It requires a positive, concerted approach in every religious group to make headway."

Rabbi Bernards proposed that the SBC and the state Baptist conventions provide an opportunity for Jewish scholars, rabbis, social scientists, to meet with representatives of the SBC to grapple together with the whole problem.

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Golonka Reelected
By Polish Baptists

9/23/66

CHICAGO (BP)--Elias L. Golonka, assistant secretary of language missions for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been elected to a second three-year term as president of the Polish Baptist Convention of the U.S. and Canada.

The Polish convention met in Chicago recently. Ten churches and missions, not including English-speaking congregations of Polish background, comprise the convention, which voted in 1962 to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Evangelical Bigotry Charge
Leveled By Catholic Attorney

By C. C. Risenhoover

BOERNE, Tex. (BP)--Battle lines have been drawn for what may be a winter-long courtroom campaign on the question of church-state separation in this community of 2,200.

Attorneys for the pastor of the local First Baptist Church, George McWilliams, and others objecting to two Catholic nuns' wearing religious garb in Boerne's public school classrooms have petitioned 38th District Judge Marvin Blackburn for permission to take courtroom depositions of the two Benedictine sisters.

A hearing on the petition request is scheduled in Boerne's District Court on Oct. 7.

The McWilliams group is being represented by Boerne lawyers Gordon Hollon and Lyndon Olson while the nuns are represented by San Antonio lawyer Pat Maloney.

Though it has been repeatedly stated that a shortage of teachers for the public school impelled the board of trustees to hire the nuns, McWilliams said no such shortage existed.

Maloney said he did not believe the opposition was acting in good faith and promised stout opposition to the deposition petition.

"Our position is that we don't want to get caught in a crossfire of evangelical bigotry," said Maloney. "We want to follow every procedure of law in obtaining any depositions from the sisters."

Maloney said the petition is too vague and general and might expose the nuns "to every kind of barb and inquiry."

The petition filed essentially states the necessity for testimony to predicate and ascertain whether or not the nuns wear a religious garb in the Boerne public schools, and what the garb means."

Maloney said he would carry the nuns case all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Purpose of the depositions, if obtained, would be for presentation to the board of trustees of the Boerne County Line Independent School District.

If the petitioners do not get satisfaction from the Boerne board, they may carry their objections to J. W. Edgar, state Commissioner of Education, then, if necessary to the state board.

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Medical Contributions
To Panama Impractical

9/23/66

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has requested that churches and individuals quit mailing drug donations to Dr. Daniel Gruver, doctor-missionary to the San Blas Indians in Panama.

Until recently the donations have been a great help, Gerald Palmer, language missions director for the board, said.

But he said the increased volume of drugs has forced Canal Zone Post Office authorities to enforce a long-standing but long-ignored law calling for high duties on imported drugs.

Palmer said the duty raised the cost of the donations above the price of drugs available through local sources, which currently are meeting the needs.

-30-

Dallas College Names
Lambert Vice President

9/23/66

DALLAS (BP)--Kenneth Dale Lambert, assistant comptroller of Hardin-Simmons University (Baptist), Abilene, Tex., has been named vice president of business affairs at Dallas Baptist College here.

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Lambert assumes the post effective Oct. 15, according to an announcement by Fred White, acting president of Dallas Baptist College.

A Baptist deacon, Lambert is a graduate of North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., and has been at Hardin-Simmons for the past year.

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Mississippi Baptists
To Vote on Federal Aid

9/23/66

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention, in its meeting to be held here Nov. 15-17, will consider a recommendation that favors allowing the convention's institutions to accept federal loans, but opposes federal grants.

The recommendations will come from the convention's special church-state study committee, which asks that Mississippi Baptist institutions not accept government grants for construction of buildings or acquisition of property.

The report does, however, recommend that federal loans for the construction of facilities shall not be considered violative of the principle of separation of church and state, provided in the judgment of the trustees of the institution that the conditions imposed by the state do not violate the principle, are not detrimental to the institution or no undue governmental control is a prerequisite.

This special committee of 24, appointed by the convention at its meeting last November to study the current church-state issue and report its findings prior to this year's convention has released its report to the churches for study, according to chairman S. R. Woodson of Columbus, Miss.

The action by the convention last year also carried with it the suggestion that the agencies and institutions of the convention "refrain from taking any action in contract for federal funds until the study is completed and received by the convention."

According to the constitution of the convention, the control of the institutions is vested entirely in the trustees, but the convention took the unusual action in this case of giving an "expression of policy" to the trustees.

The convention has six institutions: Mississippi College, Clinton; Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain; Wm. Carey College, Hattiesburg; Clarke Memorial College, Newton; Mississippi Baptist Hospital and Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, both of Jackson.

Only one of the institutions, Carey College, has signed the federal assurance of compliance with the Civil Rights Act, and this was done prior to last year's convention action.

The committee is also recommending that it be continued for one more year for further study and cooperate with the Christian Action Commission of the convention in its deliberations

The committee through its recommendations declares that "the primary responsibility for providing financial support for Baptist institutions has been, and remains the obligation of those who own and operate the institutions."

The committee subsequently calls upon Mississippi Baptists to meet the current additional needs of the institutions by increasing gifts to their local churches, participating in approved programs of direct support for Baptist institutions, and by increasing the percentage of gifts through the Cooperative Program budget plan.

The committee report reaffirms the traditional Baptist belief in the principle of the separation of church and state by declaring that "this principle must be supported as a dominant element in maintaining religious liberty and personal freedom."

The report continues: "Scriptural principles and long-established Baptist beliefs in this area are unchanging, although some modifications have been made in the light of changing times.

"Baptist churches and institutions have no reasonable alternatives in their involvement in some government control, restrictions, and/or assistance. These involvements point up our dual citizenship, but do not restrict individual conscience in the exercise of religion.

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"These involvements include but are not limited to conforming to building codes, sanitation, safety and fire regulations, charters of incorporation, meeting standards of regulatory bodies and a large group of local, state, and federal regulations which are designed to provide for the common good, to protect the public, and which require acceptance.

"Baptist institutions are not 'churches' as such and do not define statements of faith or modes of worship, but should conform in operations and policies to the doctrines generally held by the convention which supports these institutions."

The recommendations further state that it is not in violation of the principle of separation of church and state for Baptist institutions to accept without undue restrictions certain government or state-provided services and benefits such as police and fire protection, public street maintenance, second class and bulk mailing privileges, purchase of power from subsidized utilities and various forms of tax exemption.

Participation by students in governmental services such as the National Defense Student Loans, GI benefits and other similar programs is approved in the recommendations subject to approved by the trustees.

The recommendations likewise put their approval upon government benefits available to faculty and staff members of an institution such as grants for study, Social Security, Medicare, Veterans benefits, unemployment and workmen's compensation subject to approval of the trustees.

The full committee held seven meetings in addition to many meetings held by sub-committees.

Vote of the committee on adoption of the report was not unanimous, with four of the 24 members voting against the report.

-30-

Survey Shows Majority
Prefer Late June SBC

9/23/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--Results of a survey taken during the Southern Baptist Convention in Detroit have disclosed that a slim majority of the 1,707 Baptists polled prefer to meet for the annual convention in late June rather than early June.

The statistical summary also disclosed that nearly 60 per cent of the Baptists polled did not plan to stay for the last session of the convention.

Using IBM ballot cards, 1,707 messengers attending the Thursday afternoon session of the convention in Detroit answered ten questions about their convention attendance.

Although about 54 per cent indicated that they preferred to hold the convention during the last two weeks in June, the poll did not indicate how many preferred a June meeting date over sessions in May.

An additional survey is to be taken by the SBC Executive Committee on this question before the Executive Committee makes a recommendation to the convention next June at Miami Beach on which month to hold the convention.

In other results, the survey disclosed that about 70 per cent traveled to the Detroit convention by car, an average distance (by all kinds of transportation) of 806 miles.

About 58 per cent of the respondents were ministers, and 71 per cent of the 1,707 persons were men. About 50 per cent said they traveled to the convention with a mate, 22 per cent alone, and 17 per cent with friends.

A total of 84 per cent said they were staying in hotels or motels, with average expenses of \$97. The printed survey, however, discounted the validity of the responses on the expense question saying that "the entire expense of one family may have been included in the data more than once," and also that "some respondents obviously submitted their entire expense to the convention, while others submitted only their expense in Detroit."

Results of the survey were released during sessions of the SBC Executive Committee meeting here.

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