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**Church-State Poverty  
Amendment Is Rejected**

WASHINGTON (BP)--For the second time in two years the House of Representatives of the U. S. Congress turned down an Alabama Republican's move to bar church groups from participating in anti-poverty programs.

The move came during floor debate on a \$1.75 billion anti-poverty bill, during which the Republican minority sought unsuccessfully to alter significantly the Democrat-sponsored program. The Republicans had prepared over 100 amendments as well as an omnibus amendment to reshape and restrict the administration's War on Poverty.

The church-state amendment was not a part of the Republican Party's attack on the bill. It was offered independently by Rep. John H. Buchanan, Jr. (R., Ala.), a Baptist minister from Birmingham.

Buchanan's amendment, almost identical to the one rejected last year, provided that the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity "shall make no grant to, and shall not contract with, any establishment of religion, church, or other religious body."

During floor debate Buchanan charged that "an ever increasing stream of tax funds is flowing to religious institutions under the Economic Opportunity Act."

He was immediately challenged by Rep. William D. Ford (D., Mich.) and Rep. John Brademas (D., Ind.). They sought to point out that Buchanan was not making clear his distinctions between aid to churches and aid to projects in which churches were involved only indirectly.

The Alabaman replied that if the funds involved only the use of church buildings for government programs, "this would indeed modify my position."

He then put into the record a long list of cases, which, he said, "to my mind constitutes one of two things happening: the church acting as an agency of government or the government supporting what would normally be a benevolent program of the church, though indirectly."

However, there was no accompanying documentation in these cases to prove that the programs involved operated in such a way as to violate church and state separation.

During his speech Buchanan attacked the idea that public funds could be given constitutionally "for secular and nonsectarian activities" of churches. He charged as "circuitous semantics" the child benefit theory "which proposed the idea that the money given to churches and church-related institutions is for the welfare of the child rather than the support of the institution."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a Baptist agency in the nation's capital, has not endorsed the child benefit theory. However, it has gone along with the idea within strict limitations.

Buchanan's position was similar to, but not identical with, that taken by the Baptist agency. In 1964 the Baptist Joint Committee outlined its policy position on such programs.

On the subject of the administration of anti-poverty programs the Baptist Joint Committee said:

"1. We favor public administration of all such programs.

"2. If a public agency is not available to administer such a program in a given community, we would look with favor upon a broadly representative ad hoc committee in a local community to administer such programs.

"3. We do not favor national, state or local ad hoc committees whose representatives are selected on the basis of religious affiliation to promote or administer such programs.

"4. We are opposed to any program supported by government funds being placed under the administration of a church or church-sponsored institution."

On the use of facilities for anti-poverty programs, the Baptist Joint Committee said:

"We favor the use of public facilities for all such programs. However, if public facilities are not available, church facilities could be used provided that (a) the programs are not under church sponsorship or administration, (b) the use of church facilities does not prejudice the program, and (c) no public funds shall be used to build up the resources, the programs, or the equipment of any church or other organization dedicated to religious objectives."

On contracts for special services the Baptist Joint Committee said: "For those programs which cannot be carried out under the above principles, contracts with public or private agencies may be utilized on the basis of payment for services rendered to accomplish the desired objectives." The committee then spelled out the conditions under which such contracts would not be objectionable.

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Smith To Speak  
At Southeastern

9/30/66

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--The pastor of the University Baptist Church in Austin, Tex., Blake Smith, will be daily chapel speaker at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Oct. 11-14.

Smith will preach sermons on the theme, "Where Are The Shepherds," which are designed for Christians living in a secular culture and are examples of relevant preaching for a local congregation, according to a seminary announcement.

Smith will also meet with students on two evenings during the week for informal discussions of problems related to preaching in the modern age.

A native of Arkansas, Smith has been pastor of churches in Missouri and Arkansas and has been president of Hardin College in Mexico, Mo. He holds degrees from Arkansas State Teachers College, Conway, Ark.; Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark.; and Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

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James Won't Oppose  
U. S. Loans Proposal

9/30/66

DALLAS (BP)--E. S. James, editor of the Baptist Standard, said he would not openly oppose a proposal to allow Baptist schools in Texas to secure government loans.

Known for his opposition to any kind of federal subsidy, James told the Dallas Morning News he could not conscientiously vote for the proposal, however.

The Baptist editor referred to the loans section of a church-state committee report to be considered at the annual state Baptist convention in Dallas Nov. 3.

The recommendation would allow Texas Baptist institutions to secure long-term, low-interest construction loans from public funds provided the institutions voluntarily reimburse the government for the subsidy involved in the lower interest rates.

James said the church-state committee report was "not too much different from a similar report in 1961" except for the recommendation on loans.

Earlier presidents of Texas Baptists' nine colleges and universities and one academy issued a statement supporting the loans proposal.

The group asked approval of the measure so that schools would be permitted to borrow money as long as the loan did not involve a subsidy from the government.

The educators reported an urgent need for such funds for 15 dormitory projects to house 2,500 additional students. Projected cost of the projects, the group said, is more than \$9 million.

Government loans, the church-state committee report said, would allow Baptist institutions to take advantage of longer credit terms while still paying their own way.

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James said the acceptability of the proposal hinges on whether a means of repaying the government can be found and a method of determining the amount of subsidy involved in the loans can be determined.

He said it remains to be seen whether acceptance of the loans provision would eventually lead to acceptance of direct aid from the government.

Some have predicted that, he said, "and that is one reason I oppose the loans."

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Northeastern Baptists Drop  
Target Date for Convention

9/30/66

TONAWANDA, N. Y. (BP)--Southern Baptists from an eight-state area in the Northeast voted here to drop the target date of Jan. 1, 1968 for organizing a regional Baptist convention.

The decision came during the Northeastern Regional Fellowship meeting at the Amherst Baptist Church in Tonawanda, a suburb of Buffalo.

Basis for the decision was a tally of the present strength of the Southern Baptist churches in the four Baptist associations comprising the Fellowship.

With 49 churches and 42 chapels and total of 8,233 members, the Fellowship recognized the possibility of reaching the needed number of churches by the original 1968 target date, but felt they would fall short in membership.

For recognition as a state Baptist convention qualifying for assistance from Southern Baptist Convention agencies, Baptist groups need either 50 churches with 12,500 members, or 70 churches with 10,000 members.

One of the four Baptist area superintendents of missions within the Fellowship, Charles Magruder of Tonawanda, said he did not feel there was deep disappointment among Baptists in the area over the decision to drop the target date, but said that there seemed to be more concern over starting churches than starting a new convention.

Elected to head the Fellowship for the next year was David Morgan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York. He will be moderator and chairman of the steering committee.

To assist him are Charles A. Clark, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Springfield, Mass., elected assistant moderator; and Curtis T. Porter, pastor of Amherst Baptist Church, Buffalo, N. Y., secretary.

M. Wendell Belew, program secretary for the SBC Home Mission Board's pioneer missions department, told the group that the possibility of appointing an area coordinator for Baptist work in the entire Northeast region is being investigated.

Such a man, if appointed, would be a sort of "roving cheer-leader" among Baptists in the Northeast, said Belew.

Reports of church growth were presented by the four Baptist associations in the eight state area--the Frontier Baptist Association in Western New York, the Central New York Baptist Association, the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, and the New England Baptist Association.

The Frontier Association, smallest of the four with seven churches and seven chapels, reported the largest gain in membership--958 members, an increase of 233 over 1965. The Frontier Association is affiliated with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Metropolitan New York Association reported 19 churches and 19 chapels with 3,200 members, the same number as the previous year. Central New York Association reported 1,300 members in six churches and nine chapels, an increase of 56 over the previous year. New England Association reported an increase of 166 members to a total of 2,775 members in 17 churches and seven chapels.

All three of the latter associations are affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

The meeting here also included reports of the four area superintendents of missions: Paul S. James of New York City; John Tollison of Syracuse, N. Y.; Elmer Sizemore of Framingham Centre, Mass.; and Magruder of Tonawanda.

Other major messages were brought by Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; B. Gray Allison, associate in the division of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; and Fred B. Moseley, assistant executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board.

The 1967 Fellowship was set for Sept. 22-23 at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Boston, Mass.