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October 10, 1966

**Another "Prayer" Effort  
Fails In U.S. Senate**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate has turned down another move to approve religious devotions in public schools.

Sen. R. Vance Hartke, (D., Ind.) sought to get the legislative body to amend the Elementary and Secondary Amendments of 1966 with a statement giving "The sense of Congress" with respect to prayers in public schools.

The Senate voted to table the amendment, upon recommendation of Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.).

Hartke's amendment would have permitted any public school system if it so chooses " to provide time during the school day for prayerful meditation if no public school official prescribes or recites the prayer which is offered."

The Indiana Senator offered an identical resolution to this in June 1962, two days after a Supreme Court decision banning compulsory prayers in the public schools.

In the debate on the Senate floor Hartke said that the purpose of his amendment was to clear up the "widespread misinterpretation" of the court's decision. He said the Supreme Court left "plenty of room for silent prayer."

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, Jr. (D., N.C.), argued that the power to interpret the meaning of the constitution resides in the Supreme Court and not in Congress. Ervin contended that such a resolution by the Senate would mean that Congress was prescribing the form of the religious exercise to be observed in the public schools.

Senator Mansfield, in a plea against the Hartke amendment, said the proposed Sense of Congress Resolution is just not the "proper vehicle" for challenging the Supreme Court. The Majority Leader continued that he did not think a Senator had to declare himself on the basis of a "sense resolution" to prove that he believes in prayer.

"I believe that we should continue to separate all manners of worship from the public school room," Mansfield declared. "Public academic institutions must be preserved from a function they cannot justify," he said.

Earlier in this session of Congress, the Senate rejected a "prayer amendment" to the Constitution which had been introduced by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R., Ill.)

In 1964 a move in the House of Representatives by Rep. Frank Becker (R., N.Y.) to amend the Constitution with a "school religion" amendment died in the Judiciary Committee after seven weeks of hearings.

Notice has been given by Sen. Dirksen that efforts will be continued in 1967 when the new Congress convenes to get a "prayer amendment" approved.

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Baptist Leaders Confer  
On Education Policies

10/10/66

WASHINGTON (BP)--One hundred and sixty Baptists from nine denominational groups met here for a three-day consultation on "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State in Education."

The occasion was the 10th annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

The three areas of discussion were religious education, public education, and higher education.

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Albert McClellan, program planning secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, presiding at the concluding plenary session, said that over the past decade a changed methodology has been introduced into Baptist life by these annual conferences.

Baptists have shifted from a traditional polemical approach to problems and issues to the process of dialogue and consultation, McClellan said. This is an advance over the outdated "anecdotal" method of arriving at conclusions, he said.

James M. Sapp, director of correlation services for the Baptist Joint Committee, explained that the findings of the conference are "in no sense official." He said that the reports of the various sections are binding on no one.

The conference reports are given to the Baptist Joint Committee for guidance regarding its own positions. In turn recommendations may be made to Baptist conventions, conferences, and agencies. Eventually pronouncements and official positions are arrived at after an analysis of facts, issues, Baptist principles, and Christian concerns.

In short, Sapp continued, the conference method is an implementation of the democratic process in arriving at positions on current issues.

In addition to Baptist viewpoints the conferees heard "outside" voices and approaches. James C. Donohue, director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference, addressed the conference on "The Future of Catholic Education."

Donohue indicated that Catholic education is undergoing a thorough re-evaluation by the Roman Catholic Church. New, revolutionary and imaginative approaches to the church's educational mission are being discussed in Catholic circles, he said.

Richard L. Renfield, associate secretary of the Educational Policies Commission, National Education Association, addressed the conference on "American Public Education for the Future." He extolled science as the key factor in human progress and advocated "the scientific approach" to all education.

The conferees sought to identify the needs and issues in education confronting present-day Christians. They discussed basic principles that apply to these needs and issues. They then sought to set forth general guidelines for Baptist agencies in working out future policies.

This tenth Conference on Religious Liberty began the first of three annual conferences on the general theme of "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State." The conference next year will take up the subject of the welfare ministry of the Christian and of churches. The third conference is tentatively scheduled for "International Relations."

However, one section recommended to the Baptist Joint Committee that it consider a conference on "The Church's Ministry on the Campuses of the State Schools." This subject could possibly be substituted for the one on international relations by the Baptist Joint Committee.

Representatives of the following Baptist groups participated in the conference: American Baptist Convention, Baptist Federation of Canada, Baptist General Conference, National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, Inc., North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive Baptist Convention, Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Judge Declines To Rule  
On Church-State Issue

10/10/66

By Sam Kindræck

BOERNE, Tex. (BP)--A visiting judge declined to rule on the controversial school-teaching nun case here after lawyers for both sides aired their views before a full courtroom.

Dist. Judge Charles Sherrill of the 112th Judicial District (Fort Stockton, Tex.), said the case would require further study because of its "serious nature and importance."

Filling in here for 38th Dist. Judge Marvin Blackburn, who was away on other business, Judge Sherrill instructed attorneys for both sides to prepare briefs on the case for future submission to the court.

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Judge Sherrill said it would be about two weeks before a ruling could be returned.

At stake were several legal issues, but they are mere preliminaries to what will probably be a prolonged battle.

Those who object to the nuns, Sisters Thekla and Henrietta Marie, teaching public school in their religious habits had filed a motion asking the court to allow them to take depositions from the nuns.

San Antonio Attorney Pat Maloney had countered with a motion to quash the deposition request, and the day before had filed an additional petition for a declaratory judgement.

All the legal parrying seems confusing and somewhat premature, in that all administrative routes must be exhausted before any court can decide this unprecedented issue.

Opponents of the garbed nuns, however, need the depositions to state their case, first, before the Boerne School Board. If the local trustees don't resolve the matter, it would be up to the state Board of Education.

Finally, if nothing is settled through administrative channels, the case would go into district court on its merits.

Maloney told the court he objects to the petition for depositions because opposing attorneys intend to ask the nuns questions pertaining to their religious affiliations.

"In their petition they say they want to ask these young ladies if they have taken the vows of poverty, if they are wholly religious persons," Maloney said. "I say it is none of their business."

Lyndon Olson of Waco, Tex., one of three attorneys speaking for the plaintiffs, solemnly explained that his clients have no objection to the religious faith of anyone.

He contended, however, that nuns teaching in their floor-length robes constitutes religious instruction, and is in violation of the statutes which guarantee separation of church and state.

"A child asks his mother why his teacher dresses differently from other teacher," Olson told the judge. "The mother says: 'Because she is a Catholic nun.' Then the child asks: 'Mother, what's a nun?'"

Olson added: "We say this is a religious instruction and in violation of the Constitution."

Olson and Boerne Attorneys Gordon Hollon and Verne Powell are representing a group of local citizens, lead by George McWilliams, who initiated the fuss by petitioning the school board to dismiss the nuns if they didn't refrain from wearing their religious habits. McWilliams is pastor of the First Baptist Church here.

Maloney made it clear that he would appeal his case if the judge okays the depositions.

Questioned out of court, he explained he filed the motion for declaratory judgement for the purpose of opening appeal routes.

"If the judge approves of the depositions," Maloney said, "I would immediately ask the Texas Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition and mandamus to stop the procedure."

At the same time, Maloney said, he would file a complaint in federal district court maintaining that the nuns' civil rights were being violated "by the mere suggestion of the questions these people want to ask them."

Attorney Olson pointed out that his clients have children who must attend public school under the compulsory education laws of the state, and he maintained that they have every right to question the nuns.

Further, Olson maintained, Maloney would be present during the deposition sessions to make any objections he might care to.

As for Maloney's petition for declaratory judgement, Olson said it is "improper" and should be denied.

In a statement Maloney released to reporters, he blamed a group of ex-Army officers and others for the dispute, making free use of the words "bigot" and "insurgents."

It's his contention that the plaintiffs came into the court "with unclean hands" and "not in good faith."

The other side, however, contends just the opposite.

McWilliams said earlier that his son married a Catholic girl and that he is "very proud of them both." He maintains, though, that the nuns should not wear their robes into public classrooms.

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Sunday School Board  
Joins Baptist Press

10/10/66

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention begins channeling its news through Baptist Press, news service of the SBC, effective Nov. 1.

On that date, the Office of Denominational Relations at the Sunday School Board officially becomes a bureau of the Baptist Press news service, the fourth such bureau or regional office in the Baptist Press news network.

Lynn M. Davis Jr., newly-appointed supervisor of the editorial section in the board's Office of Denominational Relations, will be chief of the Sunday School Board Bureau for the Baptist Press.

The working arrangement between the denomination's news service and the Sunday School Board was set up by W. C. Fields of Nashville, director of Baptist Press and public relations secretary for the SBC Executive Committee, and by Gomer Lesch, director of the board's Office of Denominational Relations.

Fields, who is responsible for the overall national policy of the Baptist Press, said that the new arrangement will have two important effects: (1) provide more adequate and satisfactory coverage of board-related news by both the denominational press and the secular press, and (2) help provide a more comprehensive interpretation to all news media of the total work and life of Southern Baptists.

"During the years that Baptist Press has been in operation, it has become recognized by news media as authoritative, accurate, and useful," commented Lesch, who will be policy coordinator for the Baptist Sunday School Board bureau. "The Sunday School Board appreciates the opportunity to join this communications team," Lesch said.

The Baptist Press is a daily news service that goes to Baptist state papers, the religion editors of major metropolitan newspapers, weekly national newsmagazines, radio and television stations, and a few key denominational leaders.

In the past, the Sunday School Board Office of Denominational Relations has sent its own news releases apart from Baptist Press to many of the same publications and media.

Under the new arrangement, the Baptist Press bureau chief at the Sunday School Board will be in charge of editing stories and channeling them to the Baptist Press central office at the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville for distribution through Baptist Press to all news media.

TWX (teletype) network connects the regional offices and the Baptist Press bureaus located in Washington, Dallas, and Atlanta, with the central office in Nashville. Each office and bureau sends stories almost daily to the central office in Nashville for distribution to all points.

The Sunday School Board Bureau of the Baptist Press is located in the board's offices at 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, while the central office of Baptist Press is located at the SBC Executive Committee office, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville.

Other regional offices of the Baptist Press are located in Atlanta at the Home Mission Board of the SBC, in Washington at the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and in Dallas at the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Baylor Names Schofield  
Dean of Medical College

10/10/66

HOUSTON (BP)--James R. Schofield, associate dean of Baylor University College of Medicine since 1959, has been promoted to dean of academic affairs by the board of trustees of Baylor in Houston.

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The announcement was made by Raymond D. Pruitt, vice-president for medical affairs, and Joe L. Allbritton, chairman of the board. The appointment was effective immediately.

Schofield, a faculty member at Baylor since 1947, received his education at Baylor University in Waco and his doctor of medicine degree from the College of Medicine here.

In 1955 Schofield was named as the first national coordinator of the Medical Education for National Defense Program and was responsible for organizing communications between the surgeon generals of the armed forces and the medical colleges of the country. He served on full-time and part-time bases until 1958.

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Virginia Board Approves  
\$4.5 Million Budget Goal

10/10/66

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The General Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia gave initial approval here to a record \$4.5 million state Cooperative Program budget, and accepted with regret the resignation of one of the convention's major staff members.

The proposed budget, which will be presented for final consideration at the state convention in Virginia Beach, Nov. 15-17, will allocate 62 per cent of the total to state Baptist causes, and 38 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes, and increase of one-half per cent to SBC causes.

The board voted to accept with regrets the resignation of J. C. Hatfield, assistant to the executive secretary of the Virginia Baptist Board, effective on or before Jan. 1, 1967.

Hatfield, who has been in the position for four years and previously was with the Virginia Baptist Sunday School department for four years, said he hoped "to relocate in an area where I can do some special and graduate studies if possible."

A native of South Carolina, Hatfield is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and served for four years with the Pendleton Street Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., before joining the Virginia convention staff.

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Library Memorial Shelf  
Contributed By Paper

10/10/66

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The Biblical Recorder, official publication of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, has contributed \$100 toward establishing a memorial shelf in honor of the late L. L. Carpenter in the library of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dr. Carpenter, editor of the Biblical Recorder from 1942-1959, gave the bulk of his library to Southeastern Seminary in 1960. He died Aug. 22, 1966.

An endowed shelf requires a minimum of \$1,000, the interest of which is used to purchase books. Seminary officials urged friends and associates of Dr. Carpenter who desire to add to the gift to send their contributions to the president of the seminary.

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