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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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California Baptists Vote
Resolutions On Race, War**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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SAN DIEGO, Calif. (BP)--Resolutions deploring racial prejudice and discrimination and calling for prayer for the war in Viet Nam were adopted by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California meeting here.

The convention also adopted a resolution pledging support for Governor-elect Ronald Reagan in his campaign promise to work for strong control of pornographic and obscene literature.

A motion calling for the Southern Baptist Convention to reaffirm its opposition to the acceptance of tax money for the support of any Southern Baptist institution was "enthusiastically and overwhelmingly adopted," observers reported.

The motion came following a strong speech by Lloyd Simmons, president of California Baptist College in Riverside, who opposed any encroachment of the time-honored Baptist principle of separation of church and state and the use of federal grants by Baptist institutions.

"Destroy the wall between church and state and you will ultimately destroy religious liberty," declared Simmons.

"We cannot have religious liberty without separation of church and state," he flatly stated. "We might just as well destroy the Magna Carta as to destroy the First Amendment."

The convention opened with a plea from the outgoing convention president for California Southern Baptists to establish 107 new missions during 1967, about three times as many as the convention usually establishes.

Newly-elected Executive Secretary Bob Hughes called for a similar challenge when he was introduced to the convention. Hughes, pastor of a San Diego church, had been elected the convention's top executive one week earlier.

The convention adopted a record budget of \$2,190,254, including a Cooperative Program goal of \$1.2 million which allocates 26 per cent to support Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes. The total budget is an increase of \$65,000 over the 1966 budget.

Unanimous approval was given the three resolutions on racial prejudice, the war in Viet Nam, and support for anti-obscenity efforts by Governor-elect Reagan.

The first resolution called on Baptists and all citizens of California to "work sincerely and diligently to create a spirit of understanding that is essential to any solution to the economic, educational, social and political aspects of the racial problem in our community.

The resolution called racial prejudice and discrimination "a deplorable evil totally inconsistent with our Christian faith and our democratic heritage of freedom."

In another action, the convention voted to ask a Negro Baptist pastor to preach the annual convention sermon at the 1967 meeting, Nov. 7-9 in Reno, Nevada. He is Reuben Scott, pastor of a Southern Baptist-affiliated Negro church in Fresno, Calif.

The resolution calling for prayer for American servicemen did not mention Viet Nam specifically, but convention observers commented that this was the obvious intention.

The resolution chided "individuals and groups (who) have taken it upon themselves to destroy the traditional national pride and support of our nation and its government," and urged Baptists to "pray without ceasing for these men in uniform and to renew their prayerful support and influence to our nation and its people."

Support for Gov. Reagan's anti-obscenity pledge came following the defeat of Proposition 16 in California, a referendum vote which would have set up strong controls against obscenity.

New president elected by the convention was William A. Carleton, vice president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and a former president of both the Illinois and the Oklahoma Baptist state conventions.

Ohio Baptists Approve
\$1 Million '67 Budget

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio meeting here adopted its first million-dollar budget, and greeted a new editor of its official newspaper.

Elected as the new editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger was L. H. Moore, who for ten years has been editor of the Illinois Baptist, weekly state Baptist paper for the Illinois Baptist State Association published in Carbondale, Ill.

The record budget totaled \$1,108,117, representing an increase of \$244,077 over the 1966 budget. Thirty-two per cent of the budget will be allocated to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

During a pre-convention meeting, the Ohio Baptist Executive Board elected a new editor, a new director of the convention's Sunday School and church architecture department and a new associate in that department.

The board also set a goal of 107 new churches and church-type missions for 1967, and approved participation in a new Southern Baptist Protection Plan being offered by the SBC Annuity Board.

New Head of the Sunday School and church architecture department is Charles Raley, who was promoted from associate in the department to succeed George Fletcher.

Gilbert Wilder, minister of music and education at the North Dayton Baptist Church, Dayton, Ohio, was elected to succeed Raley as associate in the department with responsibility in church music.

The new editor, Moore, succeeds Lynn M. Davis Jr., who is now editorial supervisor in the Baptist Sunday School Board's office of denominational relations. Moore is vice president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, an organization of editors for state Baptist papers and Southern Baptist publications.

Re-elected to serve as president of the convention was Orville Griffith, pastor of East Dayton Baptist Church.

Mentioned frequently in addressed during the convention was the Dayton New Life Crusade, an evangelistic effort slated in metropolitan Dayton in the spring of 1967 under the joint sponsorship of the Ohio and Texas state Baptist conventions, and the SBC Home Mission Board.

The 1967 convention will be held at the Central Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio, Nov. 7-9.

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Oklahoma Baptists OK
Racial Resolutions

11/11/66

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--Oklahoma Baptists closed out their 61st annual session here with the adoption of resolutions calling for "respect for the law" and "peaceful methods" of securing racial equality.

One resolution urged law makers, courts, and law officers "to do all within their power to apprehend, convict, and punish those who break the laws and disregard the rights and property of others."

A second resolution urged church leaders to "apply Christian principles in their personal relations with those of other races."

J. M. Gaskin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Durant, Okla., and Oklahoma Baptist historian, was elected president of the convention, succeeding Richard T. Hopper, of Ardmore, Okla.

In other business, the convention approved a record \$3,125,000 Cooperative Program budget, with nearly \$1.4 million designated for support of Baptist work beyond Oklahoma.

A first-class education within the context of "the Christian understanding of life" was advocated by Grady C. Cothen, newly-inaugurated president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, in his first major address to the convention.

Pressures of secularization, philosophical changes, finances population explosion, and the expansion of knowledge, as well as financial pressures, have drastically affected Christian education, Cothen said.

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In the opening address of the state convention, Cal Guy, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, set the tone of the convention by calling on Baptists to repent of sins which keep them from winning the world.

Lack of faith, lack of love for one another, lack of being "filled" with the Holy Spirit, and lack of humility were enumerated among the denomination's deficiencies and the reason for its lack of power.

Guy, who frequently paused to wipe tears from his eyes during the address, drew strong "amens" when he said, "We're afraid of wild fire; but what I'm afraid of is no fire."

Statistics indicate that by the year 2000 the world will be only 2 per cent Christian unless there is some change, Guy predicted.

In this same vein of thought, Charles McKay, executive secretary of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, appealed for Baptists to return to "a compassionate concern for reaching people for Christ and His church."

Ramsey Pollard, of Memphis, Tenn., continued the emphasis on evangelism by warning that churches should not be "sidetracked from their main responsibility of winning souls."

He also suggested that churches should not be "caught up in the ecumenical fog which has blinded some, and, which, if followed to its logical conclusion, would ground the cause of Christ.

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Florida Baptists Disallow
Federal Grants to Stetson

11/11/66

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)--The Florida Baptist Convention adopted a policy statement forbidding federal grants to Baptist institutions, and in effect told Stetson University that if it accepted any additional grants, convention financial support would be withdrawn.

An attempt to delete a budget allocation to Stetson, a private Baptist school in Deland, Fla., failed by a 60 to 40 per cent margin.

Earlier during the year, Stetson had accepted federal grants totaling \$844,557 to construct a new science building and a new law school building.

During a vote of the convention, Florida Baptists adopted a motion which stipulated that any Florida Baptist Convention agency or institution, including Stetson which technically is not owned by the convention, which receives a federal grant will automatically cease to receive Cooperative Program funds from the state Baptist budget.

A motion, however, to strike out the 1967 allocation of \$149,820 to Stetson was defeated by a big margin.

Adrian T. Rogers, pastor from Merritt Island, Fla., made the motion that the Stetson allocation be deleted, and he got strong support from Homer Lindsey Jr., pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Miami.

At least a dozen speakers, most of them Stetson graduates, however opposed the proposal. One messenger, E. Mervyn Altman of Pensacola, made a motion that the Stetson allocation be increased, but his motion was tabled.

The Executive Board of the Florida Convention had recommended a reduction in the Stetson allocation, from \$269,700 last year, to \$149,820 for the coming year. Their recommendation was approved as part of a record \$3.3 million budget which allocated 45 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Also approved with only minor debate was a lengthy report from a special committee which has conducted a one-year study on church-state relations. The policy statement approved use of federal loans by Baptist institutions, but denied federal grants.

"A majority of our committee believes that a violation of the principle of separation of church and state would exist if or when a church, convention or convention institution or agency accepts direct grants from the government," said the report.

The statement included a minority opinion that "there is no violation of the principle ...when grants are accepted for academic buildings, provided no requirements or controls are imposed which would pose a threat to religious liberty."

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On federal loans, the convention report said it did not consider it a violation of church and state for a Baptist institution to accept loans when the "interest rates are not below the average cost of money to the lending agency...plus a reasonable service fee," and when "no requirements or controls are imposed by the lending agency which would pose a threat to religious liberty."

The report acknowledged "inconsistencies on the part of some churches, associations, conventions and Baptist institutions with regard to their application of the principle of separation of church and state."

The committee also said their studies had indicated "it is practically impossible for an educational institution of higher learning to operate without receiving either directly or indirectly some assistance which may be classed as government aid."

A final clause in the committee's report recommended that final determinations in these areas be withheld until the Baptist Education Study Task and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs studies are completed next year. Although this clause drew opposition from the convention floor, it was adopted along with the entire report.

In other action, the convention approved activating the election of trustees for a new Baptist junior college in West Palm Beach, Fla., and authorized trustees to conduct a state wide fund drive to raise \$1 million for the college.

In heated debate, strong opposition was expressed to the proposal, and an additional stipulation that removed a previous requirement that the college would have to raise \$500,000 before the convention assumed any financial responsibility for the college. The proposal, however, was approved by a 61 to 39 vote ratio.

Elected new president of the convention was Edgar R. Cooper, pastor of North Park Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla. Next session of the convention was scheduled Nov. 14-16, 1967, at Sarasota, Fla.

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Michigan Baptists Approve
New Center, Deplore Anarchy

11/11/66

ROYAL OAK, Mich. (BP)--Construction of a \$400,000 Baptist Center in downtown Detroit to minister to alcoholics, dope addicts, broken families, juvenile delinquents, and senior citizens was approved by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan meeting here.

The convention voted to endorse a \$350,000 bond issue to erect the Baptist Center, to be located across the street from the state convention headquarters building on Cass Avenue.

The center will house a weekday ministry to the needy, a Baptist institute to train Negro pastors and other church leaders, and facilities for classes in homemaking.

Resolutions were approved condemning anarchy, but supporting those who lead the struggle for human rights using means that are "legally, morally and spiritually right."

"We commend those who lead in this program, assuring them of our prayers in this concern as they pursue all means which are legally, morally, and spiritually right," said the resolution.

"At the same time, we abhor and condemn those means which ferment anarchy, infringe upon human rights of others, and are contributing to the general growing disrespect for, and deterioration of, law and authority."

The resolution also expressed hope that Baptist people "will be involved with men everywhere who struggle for the human rights before God, and that the efforts of our people will be consistent with the principles of our Lord Jesus Christ and of Christian integrity!"

Another resolution reaffirmed "our support of the traditional Baptist position of separation of church and state," and still another called for prayer for the president and for servicemen in Vietnam "as they defend freedom and seek peace in the world."

A record \$588,492 budget was adopted, including a Cooperative Program goal of \$274,723 which would allocate 25 per cent to support Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes.

New president of the convention is E. Clay Polk, a Baptist pastor from Pontiac, Mich.

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EDITORS: Following is the final report on the Arkansas convention. You may want to combine it with two previous stories mailed 11/8/66, and 11/10/66. We regret that the information came in piecemeal and that we were unable to provide one solid wrapup, but all three stories were significant.

--Baptist Press

Arkansas Convention Approves
Federal Loans For Colleges

11/11/66

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)--A policy statement on separation of church and state that permits Baptist colleges in Arkansas to receive federal loans, but not grants, was adopted without opposition at the Arkansas Baptist State Convention here.

The lengthy report of a special church-state separation study committee was read to the full convention and adopted unanimously without debate or opposition.

Earlier, the convention had voted to sever its ties with Arkansas Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock to allow the hospital to accept federal grants.

The report of the study committee, however, dealt only with federal aid to Baptist higher education institutions in Arkansas--Oauchita Baptist University in Arkadelphia and Southern Baptist College (junior), Walnut Ridge, Ark.

On grants, the committee recommended "that the Arkansas Baptist State Convention continue the practice of refusing grants of funds by government to any church-related institution.

It recommended that the administrators and trustees of the colleges "as they shall deem desirable, continue to participate in those government programs which embrace" aid to students, contractual agreements for performance of specific services for the government, acceptance and/or purchase of disposed surplus property, special scholarships and fellowships.

A key recommendation approved continued acceptance of building loans "at rate of interest comparable to that charged other non-profit institutions."

Both the Texas and the Kentucky Baptist conventions had earlier this year voted down acceptance of federal loans by their colleges and other institutions.

The committee reported that there are now over 200 types of assistance programs promoted by the federal government in which Baptist schools are eligible to participate.

It listed the types of assistance the schools had accepted in the past, including loans for building purposes, but said that no Baptist school in Arkansas had accepted federal grants.

In observations of the committee, the report said "there has been no resentment on the part of Baptists generally to the participation by our colleges in any of the government programs outlined above."

On the matter of government control, the committee said "there has not been a single incident reported in which any agency of the federal government has attempted to direct, control, coerce, or dictate the policies of the colleges as determined by their trustees and their administrators."

"We do not envision the day in which our colleges will be entirely free from controls by one or more branches of the government," said the report, which also added "we have not yet found any disposition on the part of the government...to disregard the sanctity of a free church in a free state as it pertains to worship and education."

"We do not anticipate any adverse effects on the cause of Christian education and the ministry of our colleges if they continue to participate as at present in existing government programs or of similar kinds in the future," the committee report said.

Cutlines, with story mailed 11-11-66 BP Photo

NEW OHIO EDITOR: L.H. Moore, for ten years editor of the Illinois Baptist, has been named editor of the Ohio Baptist Messenger, in Columbus, Ohio. A native of Missouri, Moore was pastor of three churches in Illinois before joining the Illinois convention staff as secretary of evangelism, later becoming editor. (BP PHOTO)

Cutlines, mailed 11-14-66 BP Photo

NEW GEORGIA EDITOR: Jack U. Harwell, for nine years associate editor of the Christian Index, has been promoted to edit the Georgia Baptist Convention weekly publication. A former daily newspaper reporter, the 34-year-old editor is a native of Alabama and son of a Baptist pastor who has been active in journalism for 40 years. Harwell succeeds John J. Hurt Jr., as editor of the Christian Index, the third largest of the state Baptist newspapers and the third oldest religious journal in the world currently in operation. (BP PHOTO)