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November 18, 1966

**New Mexico Baptists
Oppose Federal Aid**

CLOVIS, N. M. (BP)--Resolutions opposing the use of federal funds by religious institutions, calling for Baptists to pray for peace, and urging preservation of "our great Baptist heritage and doctrine" were adopted here by the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

The resolution on federal aid also re-affirmed "our belief in the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state."

The convention resolved "that we stand opposed to the use of federal funds for the support of religious institutions, and that we work to that end, that such funds will not only be refused to all religious groups, but will be denied to all such groups."

New Mexico Baptists do not own or operate any schools or hospitals which face the question of accepting federal aid. Last year the convention adopted a similar resolution.

Another resolution adopted at the convention's 57th annual session here pledged unceasing prayers for peace, and for the nation's and world's leaders.

Apparently referring to the ecumenical movement, the convention adopted a resolution resolving to welcome "any opportunity to work with other Christian groups in opposing the forces of evil," but pledging to "give an increasing emphasis to the preservation of our great Baptist heritage and doctrine."

In major business action, the convention adopted a record \$1½ million budget for 1967, including a statewide Cooperative Program budget goal of \$620,000. An increase of \$32,000 over this year's budget, the convention allocated \$167,000 to world wide causes through the Southern Baptist Convention.

In a pre-convention business session, the state Baptist Executive Board elected John Ratliff, a southern Baptist missionary to Peru, as associate director for missions on the convention staff.

A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Ratliff will succeed Mike Mojika who is now with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Panama.

The board elected Mrs. Rosa Lea Koon, for eight years assistant editor of the Baptist New Mexican, as acting editor of the state Baptist paper to serve in the interim period following the resignation of Horace Burns to accept a pastorate in Oregon.

Jeff Rutherford, secretary of stewardship and promotion for the convention, was requested to assume additional duties as associate in the New Mexico Baptist Foundation and Loan Corp.

The report of the state missions board to the convention was approved, and R. J. Morman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Las Cruces, N. M., was elected convention president.

Next meeting of the convention will be at Albuquerque, N.M., Nov. 14-16, 1967.

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Hatfield Joins
Louisiana Church

11-18-67

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--J. C. Hatfield, assistant to the executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia with offices here, has resigned to accept a position as minister of education and administrator of the First Baptist Church of LaFayette, La.

Hatfield, who has worked with the Virginia convention for eight years, assumes the Louisiana church position in January of 1967. His intention to resign had been announced earlier.

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Louisiana Baptists OK
Federal Loans, No Grants

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--The Louisiana Baptist Convention adopted guidelines on church-state separation which "in spirit" will permit federal loans to Louisiana Baptist institutions.

The convention, however, will forbid acceptance of government grants to state Baptist institutions.

Two key policy statements were adopted by the convention. One was the report of the special church-state study committee, and the other was a lengthy policy covering operating of four convention-owned hospitals developed after a two-year study.

The hospital report stated that loans from any government agency may be accepted, so long as they do not amount to a subsidy, and so long as the interest rates are at the parity with the amount paid by the government.

It was pointed out that the spirit of the church-state separation committee report was the same as that of the hospital report.

The church-state separation report, however, did not mention federal loans specifically, but rather left the decision on federal loans up to the trustees of the institutions.

The report stated that the convention "should give the institutional trustees a large degree of freedom, within the guidelines, to formulate programs and make decisions affecting the ongoing program--in this area (church-state separation) as in others."

Judge Fred Jones of Ruston, La., who gave the report said that "we have tried to put down markers, knowing that the trustees of our institutions must and can be trusted to follow the nature and spirit of the guidelines."

"There are no clear-cut answers to this perplexing problem," Judge Jones said.

The carefully-worded report listed nine guidelines for the trustees and the convention in dealing with the question. Most of the guidelines were general principles rather than specific policies.

One guideline said specifically: no grant to the institution from any government agency shall be accepted.

Other guidelines said that any assistance that creates a limitation or diversion from the basic purposes of the institutions should not be permitted, that the institution should retain its own integrity in the matter of control, and that the institution must not become dependent upon federal funds for program operation.

"The focal concern in this study turns on whether there are points at which cooperation between church and state can contribute to their mutual goals and obligations without impinging on the freedom of one or the other in pursuit of their goals," said the report.

"The concept of separation, Baptist believe, does not demand that church and state avoid each other like the plague," said the committee report. "Cooperation need not destroy separation."

In other action, the convention adopted a record \$3,275,000 budget and re-elected Ray Rust, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bastrop, La., as the convention president.

The Wednesday night convention session was devoted to launching a \$2 million fund crusade for Louisiana Baptist College in Pineville, La., near Alexandria.

A missions-night pageant at Alexandria's new domed stadium drew the largest crowd ever assembled in the new 7,000-seat coliseum.

The convention will meet next year at LaFayette, La., Nov. 14-16, 1967.

Southern Baptists Top
Annie Armstrong Goal

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists have reached their annual Home Mission offering goal for 1966. Although the offerings have been increasing year by year, this is the first time since 1961 that the goal has been reached.

On Nov. 15, the 1966 Annie Armstrong offering totaled \$4,001,775.89, according to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here.

The goal was \$4 million. Receipts will continue to be counted through December.

The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, in Birmingham, sponsors and promotes the offering, which is above and beyond the Home Board's receipts through the Cooperative Program.

In a telegram notifying the WMU of its success, Home Mission Board Executive Secretary-Treasurer Arthur B. Rutledge said: "Our thanks to WMU for their outstanding promotion of this offering."

The 1966 offering has provided \$3,625,000 for the board's operating budget of \$8 million, and \$375,000 for church site loan funds. The operating budget amount includes \$475,000 for mission buildings.

All receipts above \$4 million will be divided equally between mission building and church site loan funds.

The 1961 goal of \$2.47 short of a \$3.69 million goal by about \$117,000.

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South Carolina Notes
Harmonious Convention

11-18-66

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--In what some veteran messengers called its most peaceful and harmonious convention in years, the South Carolina Baptist Convention adopted a record \$4½ million budget and heard a major address by the president of the Baptist World Alliance.

W. R. Tolbert, vice president of the Republic of Liberia and head of the B.W.A., received a standing ovation from the convention following his address.

Another dignitary attending the convention was the governor of South Carolina, Robert McNair, who registered as a messenger from the First Baptist Church of Columbia, S. C.

Plans were initiated for "an appropriate celebration" of the 150th anniversary of Baptist work in South Carolina during the sesquicentennial year will be 1971.

The 1967 budget of \$4½ million, an increase of \$500,000, retained a larger percentage of allocations for South Carolina causes than in previous years.

The increased total budget will mean little change in the dollar figure for mission causes outside the state through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, said South Carolina Baptist Executive Secretary Horrace Hammett.

The convention changed the name of its Royal Ambassador camp in Pickens County to the McCall Camp, named in honor of Roy Lee McCall of Easley, S. C., who donated the land for the camp.

Approval was given to participation with other state conventions in a new protection and retirement program proposed by the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board.

Elected president of the convention was S. George Lovell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Conway, S.C.

The uncontroversial convention was in contrast to last year's meeting when Furman University in Greenville was ordered to return a federal grant it had earlier accepted for construction of a science building, and the convention pledged to raise the funds to replace the \$611,898 denied in federal funds.

The church-state separation question at Furman, however, did not come up during the 1966 convention here.

Next meeting of the convention will be held at Columbia, S. C., Nov. 14-16.

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Hawaii Baptists Pray
For Viet Nam Casualties

HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--A special Veteran's Day period of prayer for the war in Viet Nam was held during the Hawaii Baptist Convention here.

The convention's executive secretary, Edmund Walker, said that Hawaii Baptists are affected seriously by the conflict in Viet Nam, and that Hawaii has the highest ratio of casualties by any state in the nation.

The convention experienced its most harmonious and progressive meeting in many years, said Walker.

A \$518,429 budget was adopted, with a \$78,000 Cooperative Program goal that allocates 25 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Ernest Mosley, pastor of University Avenue Baptist Church was re-elected president of the convention.

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Mississippi Baptists Reject
Federal Loans, Integration

11-18-66

By Jim Newton

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention, after nearly five hours of debate, rejected a committee study on church-state separation which recommended, with certain reservations, acceptance of federal loans.

Instead the convention adopted a vaguely worded substitute motion suggesting "that our institutions not make application for, or accept, federal money,"

The convention also rejected, on a voice vote, resolution looking with favor upon action by each of the boards of trustees of denominational colleges to admit all qualified students regardless of race, color or national origin.

The resolutions committee recommended that the resolution on integration be rejected because it dealt with administrative policies of admissions that the convention's constitution leaves entirely to the boards of trustees.

A former president of the convention, Dr. Russell Bush Jr., a dentist from Columbia, Miss., made the brief substitute motion on church state separation which finally got convention approval.

Said the substitute that was adopted: "We re-affirm our belief in the New Testament and the historic principle of separation of church and state to wit: a free church in a free state in which the church does not resort to civil powers to carry out its work nor does the state depend upon the church to carry on its work.

"We suggest that our institutions not make application for, or accept federal money," concluded the brief substitute motion.

The substitute takes the place of a lengthy, detailed report of a 24-member committee appointed at the instruction of convention last year to study the issue thoroughly and report back to the full body.

The committee had recommended that no federal grants be accepted by Baptists institutions in Mississippi, but it approved of federal loans provided in the judgement of the trustee, that the conditions imposed by the state do not violate the principle of separation, and that no undue governmental control is required.

At the time of the convention, only one Baptist school in Mississippi, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, was eligible for federal loans, since the trustees and administrators for the three other Baptist schools in Mississippi had refused to sign the Civil Rights compliance form which is required in order to receive federal funds.

Some observers said that many of the convention messengers felt loans, and perhaps even student loans, would require the institutions to sign agreements that would take away part of their control of the schools and would give control of the institution's policies to the government.

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The big question now seems to be, how will the college trustees and convention officials interpret the vaguely worded substitute motion that was adopted instead of the committee of 24 report?

The man who made the motion was asked this question during the five hours of debate, but no clear answer was given.

Two resolutions of note were presented to the convention, which rejected the resolution looking with favor upon integration of Mississippi Baptist schools, and approved another resolution asking for appointment of a special committee to study the needs of Baptist students on state-supported campuses.

In other major business matters, the convention adopted a record \$3.47 million budget, and voted to increase the membership of the convention's board from 77 members to 100 members.

The record budget is an increase of \$230,000 over the 1966 budget, and allocates \$1,145,000 to support Southern Baptist Convention causes.

It also asked the Mississippi legislature to establish adequate chaplaincy programs at University Hospital in Jackson, and the Ellisville state school.

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Tennessee Convention
Honors Its Executive

11-18-66

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Tennessee Baptist Convention meeting here paid tribute to its executive secretary, W. Fred Kendell, on his tenth anniversary and adopted a record \$5 million budget goal for 1967.

The actual budget was set at \$4.6 million, to be divided 33 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world-wide causes, and 67 per cent for state causes. The remaining \$400,000 of the goal would be divided 50-50 for state and SBC causes.

The record budget, marking the first time Tennessee Baptists had voted to strive to raise \$5 million in a single year, compares to last year's goal of \$4.35 million.

Plans for a new Tennessee convention headquarters building in Nashville were announced, pending approval of the Nashville Metropolitan Zoning Board in December.

Kendell, former Baptist pastor from Jackson, Tenn., who became executive secretary 10 years ago, was presented a watch and a check for a two-week vacation.

A resolution urging the Tennessee legislature to strengthen laws on drunken driving and more rigid enforcement of laws prohibiting sale of alcoholic beverages to minors was adopted by the convention.

The resolution also urged more strict regulations on advertising of alcoholic beverages, and asked that the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission classify beer along with other alcoholic beverages in its final report to the Tennessee legislature.

New president of the convention is Jonas L. Stewart, pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntington, Tenn.

The convention will meet next year at Memphis, Tenn. Nov. 14-16.

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