



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

January 4, 1967

Federal Aid Question
Voted Top SBC '66 Story

798 words

NASHVILLE (BP)--The most significant news of 1966 among Southern Baptists was the action of state Baptist conventions which adopted policy statements denying federal grants to their institutions, according to a vote of state Baptist paper editors.

The editors of state Baptist newspapers picked the complex question of federal aid to Baptist institutions as the top Southern Baptist news story of the year.

Ranked second was the action of Tattnall Square Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., to fire its church staff over the issue of integration; and voted third were numerous developments during 1966 involving relationships between Southern Baptists and Catholics.

The annual balloting to determine the editors' pick of ten top Southern Baptist stories of the year was conducted by the Baptist Press, news service of the SBC. Twenty-nine state Baptist papers, plus the editors of the Baptist Press, were polled.

Other stories picked by the editors among the ten most significant Southern Baptist news developments of 1966 were:

(4) Maryland Court of Appeals rules grants to denominational colleges unconstitutional and Supreme Court refuses to hear case; (5) Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) first national conference reveals divided opinions on higher education problems; (6) SBC participation in Crusade of Americas launched; (7) Dirksen prayer amendment fails in Congress; (8) Cuba gives missionary Herbert Caudill conditional prison release; (9) American Baptist Convention General Council rejects Crusade of Americas participation; and (10) Arkansas convention relinquishes Baptist hospital to accept federal grants.

Five of the ten top Southern Baptist stories of the year dealt in some way with the principle of separation of church and state and the crisis which faced Baptists during 1966 in interpreting the principle.

Fifteen editors rated as the number one story, the headline: "Federal aid question considered by state conventions; seven adopt policy statements."

In October and November, seven state conventions approved policy statements which deny federal grants to their institutions. Four of the conventions denied federal loans to their institutions, while four others approved of federal loans.

The action of Tattnall Square Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., to fire its pastor, assistant pastor and music director as a result of a squabble over whether to seat Negroes in the worship services, plus the editorial comments in state Baptist papers which generally deplored the action, was rated the second top story by the editors.

Ranked third was a series of events in 1966 regarding Baptist-Catholic relationships. Listed on the ballot were such items as "Baptist-Catholic dialogue proposed; priest preaches in Florida pulpit; joint Baptist-Catholic weddings, funerals held; SBC Communications Conference speakers cite improved Baptist-Catholic relationships."

Rated fourth was the decision by the Maryland Court of Appeals which ruled unconstitutional federal grants to sectarian colleges, and the decision by the Supreme Court against hearing the case.

The Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), a two-year comprehensive study of the problems facing Baptist higher education, was ranked the fifth top story of the year. BEST held its first national conference in Nashville in June, with the study to be completed in June of 1967.

The ten top Southern Baptist stories of 1966 were selected from a ballot listing 26 possibilities.

Ranked 11th through 20th were: (11) Study, discussion, editorial comments continue on SBC name change proposal; (12) new editors named for state Baptist papers in eight states; (13) Baptists participate in World Congress on Evangelism; (14) SBC membership tops 10.75 million, missions giving up, baptisms down; (15) '70 Onward studies suggest future approaches for SBC, basic areas of church work; (tie for 16) North American Baptist Fellowship organized officially, presidents issue statement; and state conventions approve new Annuity Board program; (17) SBC exceeds budget in November; (18) Franklin Paschall elected new SBC president, tours world mission points, urges prayers for peace; (19) SBC applauds ruling refusing to censure Bill Moyers for dancing frug, communications award to Moyers postponed; and (20) Stetson University accepts federal grant, Florida convention responds.

Two editors ranked stories among the top ten entries which were not listed on the ballot, adding them into a section for "others." One editor ranked as third in significance the action of the SBC Home Mission Board to emphasize its work in big metropolitan cities, and another editor ranked as tenth a proposed seminar on Baptist work in urban centers jointly sponsored by three SBC agencies.

Seven state Baptist paper editors did not respond to the ballot by the deadline.

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② Dehoney Named Pastor
Of Louisville Church

1/4/67

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, W. Wayne Dehoney of Jackson, Tenn., has been named as the new pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church here.

The 5,200-member church is the largest Southern Baptist congregation in Kentucky and is the 18th largest in the SBC.

Dehoney, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Jackson, Tenn., for the past nine years, assumes the pastorate in Louisville effective Feb. 1.

The church has been without a pastor for more than a year following the death of William R. Pettigrew, pastor for 20 years.

Dehoney was pastor of First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky.; Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky., and Central Park Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., before going to the Tennessee church in 1957.

He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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③ Texas Baptist Leader,
M. B. Carroll, Dies at 50

1/4/67

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DALLAS (BP)--Funeral services were conducted here Jan. 2 for M. B. Carroll, Southern Baptist Convention leader and veteran Texas pastor, who died Dec. 30 of an apparent heart attack at his Dallas home.

A former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and pastor since 1958 of the 3,300-member East Grand Baptist church here, Carroll was a native of North Augusta, S.C. He was 50.

He is survived by his widow, two sons and four daughters. Mrs. Carroll has been hospitalized since Oct. 2 following an automobile accident.

Carroll was elected vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1965, and had for several years been chairman of the program committee of the SBC Executive Committee, which recommends the SBC budget each year.

He also had served on responsible positions of the Dallas Baptist Association, the SBC Home Mission Board, and the SBC Crusade of Americas committee.

He had been pastor of churches in Texas since 1938.

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