



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 20, 1967

Church-State Convictions
Eroding, Valentine Says

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LOS ANGELES (BP)--A steady erosion of convictions relating to the principle of separation of church and state has been taking place in recent years, a top Southern Baptist leader, Foy D. Valentine, said here.

Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission in Nashville, spoke to about 150 ministers attending a Clergyman's Conference held in conjunction with the 19th National Conference on Church and State sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Saying "Freedom is harder to hold than it is to acquire," Valentine called "conviction" the key plank in freedom's platform.

He said the steady erosion of conviction concerning church-state separation has not been of the "gully-type--obvious and dramatic.

"It has been sheet erosion in which infinitesimal amounts of precious topsoil are washed away by the showers of benevolent government and blown away by the winds of religious compromise," Valentine said.

"We cannot keep the church-state separation principle alive if we do not discipline alive if we do not discipline ourselves to comprehend it, accept its rigorous demands, flog its detractors, and support its proponents with the full measure of convinced minds and dedicated wills," he said.

The president of a Baptist college in California later told the full national conference that he believes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 has the effect of "an undeclared establishment of religion."

Loyed R. Simmons, president of California Baptist College in Riverside, said that if the act is allowed to stand, we will "no longer have in America the separation of church and state as envisioned by (Thomas) Jefferson and as guaranteed by the Constitution."

Other Baptists appearing on the conference program were Dick Houston Hall Jr.; vice-president of Atlanta Baptist College, Georgia; Joseph M. Dawson of Corsicana, Texas, long-time Baptist leader and one of the founders of Americans United; Harold G. Basden of Richmond, Va., Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; pastor Bob Brown of Lexington, Ky.; pastor J. Edwin Hewlett of St. Louis, Mo.; Jimmy R. Allen of Dallas, Texas, secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; pastor Charles Bell of Pasadena, Calif.; E. Don Giddens of Los Angeles, Gioele Settembrini of Washington, D. C., both of the American's United staff; J. Eugene White of Washington, D. C., managing editor of "Church & State" magazine; E. S. James of Denton, Tex., editor emeritus of the Baptist Standard, publication of Texas Baptists; and Gaylord Briley of Valley Forge, Pa., National Liberty Life Insurance Co.

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British Professor Will Teach
At Southern Seminary in July

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Professor Ralph P. Martin of the University of Manchester in England will be visiting professor of New Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary this summer.

He will teach a two-hour course in Ephesians in the second term of the seminary's summer school, July 2-27.

Martin was born in Liverpool, received two degrees from the University of Manchester and was awarded the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of London.

The seminary summer school begins June 5 and consists of two one-month terms, June 5-30 and July 2-27.

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Baptist Child Care
Work Gets U. S. Praise

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--An official of the U. S. Department of Health , Education and Welfare commended here the work Southern Baptist child care institutions are doing with neglected and dependent youngsters.

The praise came from Martin Gula, consultant on group care for the children's bureau of the government agency. Gula was a principal speaker at a meeting of the Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists here.

The 32 children's homes operated by Southern Baptists are currently giving services to about 6,000 boys and girls, most of whom come from homes broken by reasons other than death, the executives reported.

Gula told the group that church groups are ready to minister to children and families in need, even though since the Great Depression there has been a tremendous expansion in state and local welfare care.

The commitment of churches to the task reflects the dignity of the family and children in the sight of God, he said.

"There is need for the Christian leaven in the public family and child welfare loaf," he declared.

Gula cautioned agencies operated by church groups against accepting any child they are not equipped to serve. He told the administrators that "the mildly, moderately disturbed child is the one you are best equipped to serve," and added that public and research agencies should serve the rest.

Gula declared that the major job of the agencies is to help prepare children for the world they will be living in.

Boards of trustees of nine institutions represented at the meeting have voted to accept for care children from minority groups. Gula was told that a tenth institution is currently studying the matter.

W. R. Wagoner, Thomasville, N. C., who served as president of the Child Care Executives during 1966-67, stressed that child care institutions must plan and move with the changing times in order to adequately perform their assigned tasks.

R. C. Campbell, president of Buckner Baptist Benevolences, Dallas, Texas, reported on how his institution is seeking to aid children who cannot function in a public school program because of scholastic difficulties, retardation or emotional disturbances.

H. Leo Eddleman, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, addressed the organization's 19th annual banquet meeting.

The executives named the following officers: James M. Gregg, Nashville, Tenn., president; James V. Browning, Oklahoma City, Okla., first vice president; Hobson Shirey, Troy, Ala., second vice president; and Erba A. Butler, Memphis, Tenn., secretary-treasurer.

Next meeting of the SBC Child Care Executives will be held Feb. 20-22, 1968, in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

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Baptist From Texas Named
To Top Level Post In HEW

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Nolan Estes, a Baptist from Texas, has been named to a top level post in the Office of Education of the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).

U. S. Commissioner of Education Harold Howe II announced that Estes will be associate commissioner for elementary and secondary education. Until his new appointment, he was deputy associate commissioner.

As head of the Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education, Estes will be responsible for the administration of 25 federal programs for elementary and secondary schools. These programs involve annual allocations of about \$1.7 billion to state and local educational agencies.

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Among the bureau programs to be administered are: the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, teacher training programs, National Defense Education Act grant programs for equipment and personnel to strengthen classroom instruction, and the National Teacher Corps.

Last year Estes was honored as 'distinguished alumnus' by the University of Corpus Christi, a Baptist school in Texas. In addition to his undergraduate work there, he holds a master of education degree from the University of Texas and a doctorate in education from Harvard University.

Estes was assistant superintendent for instruction in the public schools of Chattanooga, Tenn., from 1959-62. During this time he was ordained a deacon at the Brainard Baptist Church in Chattanooga.

He has also been principal of schools in Waco, Tex., and Riverview Gardens, Mo.

Estes is a brother to Weldon Lee Estes, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Scotland Neck, N. C.

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Southeastern Seminary
Changes Degree Name

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--The board of trustees for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here voted to change the name of the seminary's basic degree from "bachelor of divinity" to "master of divinity."

The action was taken upon the recommendation of the seminary's faculty and is in accord with the recommendation of the American Association of Theological Schools.

The new degree will require three years of study beyond the bachelor of arts or science degree from a college or university. It will combine professional training and graduate study.

The master of theology degree will be maintained for the seminary's graduate program. The new nomenclature will become effective with the fall semester of 1967.

In other action, the trustees elected Archie L. Nations, visiting professor of New Testament this year at Southeastern, as associate professor of New Testament.

A native of Louisiana, Nations is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. He was pastor of churches in Alabama and Tennessee and has been a missionary to Japan since 1961.

Upon the recommendation of the seminary's president, Olin T. Binkley, and its executive committee, the board voted to increase faculty salaries, effective August 1, 1967.

Sabbatical leave was approved for Professor H. Max Smith, who plans to study next year in Europe. Mrs. H. Eugene McLeod was appointed acting director of the Ruby Reid Child Care Center for the academic year 1967-1968.

The board heard a progress report on the construction of a new student center and authorized the building of a new Health Center. Both buildings will be financed out of funds designated for capital needs by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees approved a long range plan to secure funds for the endowment of the library and for the establishment of a chair of evangelism.

It was announced that the First Baptist Church of Raleigh, N. C., had established two annual scholarship grants in honor of the late J. B. Weatherspoon and S. L. Stealey, both former members of the First Baptist Church and professors at Southeastern. Stealey was the seminary's first president.

Claud B. Bowen, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N.C., was re-elected president of the Board. James F. Heaton, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., was chosen as vice-president. Nash Underwood of Wake Forest was elected secretary, with A. J. Hewett of Greensboro as treasurer.

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February 20, 1967

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Dear Editor:

While we were in Mobile, Baptist Press mailed to you six photos of Miami Beach scenes for use in connection with the story and program for the convention there this June.

Would you please check the cutlines to make sure that the one mentioning the Seville Hotel is on the right photo? You can see the name of the Seville on the close-up shot of Miami Beach. It is the hotel on the far left. On a few of the photos the cutlines might have been put on the wrong photo, since there were two shots of "hotel row" in Miami Beach.

In case you didn't get one during the meeting in Mobile, here is a copy of the revised Baptist Press Style Book. A few years ago Baptist Press provided you with a free copy of the AP-UPI Style Book, and you should already have one. If not, they are available at \$1.00 each (payable in advance) from the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10020.

Time during the editor's meeting did not permit me to urge you to remember to send us carbons, machine copies, or proof pages of stories, and features you carry. Baptist Press is a team effort, and you are the most vital part of the team. We can't send out the news unless you first send it to us. Most of you do an excellent job and I know all of the editors benefit from it.

Some of you may want to do as John Hurt and Jack Gritz are doing. They send Air Mail to Baptist Press a copy of their papers on the day the first copy comes off the press. We then lift from their advance copy any story for Baptist Press distribution.

We are constantly striving to do a better job of reporting Baptist news, and we appreciate your help as a vital part of the team.

Sincerely,

Jim Newton
Assistant Director

JN:vb

Enclosures

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CUTLINES

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

STATE SECRETARIES ELECT HARDING: The executive secretaries of 29 Baptist state conventions, meeting in Mobile, Ala., elected Earl O. Harding as their president. Harding (left) is executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Elected vice president was E. Harmon Moore (center), executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; and named secretary was Glen Braswell, executive secretary of the Colorado Baptist General Convention. (BP PHOTO)

CUTLINES

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

COLE HEADS EDITORS: James Cole (left), editor of The Baptist Messgae of Louisiana, was elected president of the Baptist Press Association during the annual meeting of editors in Mobile, Ala. Other officers are O. L. Bayless (not pictured), vice president, and editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist in Denver, Colo.; and Don McGregor, (center) secretary and associate editor of the Baptist Standard, Dallas, Tex. At right is C. R. Daley, editor of the Western Recorder in Kentucky, outgoing president who planned the program for the Mobile meeting. (BP PHOTO)

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