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EDITORS: Here is the final wrapup on the SBC Executive Committee meeting, Feb. 20-22.

Budget, Bylaws Changes Get
Executive Committee Approval



146

714

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to recommend to the full convention in Miami Beach a proposed \$26.7 million budget for 1968, and two key changes in the convention's Constitution and Bylaws.

A proposed Constitution change would increase the terms of elected members of SBC board and agencies from three years to four years, unless such is prohibited by the organization's charter. If approved in the future, terms for seminary trustees would be reduced from five years to four years.

The constitution change must be approved by two successive meetings of the convention. It will come first before the SBC when it meets in Miami Beach, May 30-June 2.

The Bylaws change, which drew debate during the Executive Committee meeting here, would change the representation of smaller state Baptist conventions on SBC commissions and institutions.

The Executive Committee, by vote of 29-10, will recommend that state conventions with 25,000 to 100,000 members have representation on the four major convention boards and the Executive Committee.

The recommendation also provides that these states would not have automatic representation on all other agencies of the convention, but instead that each commission and institution board would have five trustees or directors-at-large, elected from states with 25,000 to 100,000 members.

It also provides that the convention's committee on boards, which nominates the trustees, would seek to rotate the directors-at-large from these states on the various agencies.

The proposed \$26.7 million Cooperative Program budget for 1968 would be an increase of \$2½ million over the 1967 budget, with the provision that all contributions in excess of the \$26.7 million goal would be divided two-thirds to foreign missions and one-third to home missions.

Biggest allocations would go to the SBC Foreign Mission Board, with \$13 million proposed; the SBC Home Mission Board, \$4.6 million; the six SBC-owned seminaries, \$4.4 million; and the SBC Radio-Television Commission, \$1 million.

The Executive Committee also voted to recommend adoption of a \$522,000 SBC operating budget for 1968, down \$8,000 from the 1967 operating budget. The \$522,000 budget would include a \$200,000 allocation from the SBC Cooperative Program budget, and \$322,000 from other sources, primarily the SBC Sunday School Board.

In other action, the Executive Committee voted to recommend that the 1972 convention be held in Philadelphia, Pa., but suggested dates for the convention will not be picked until the pre-convention Executive Committee meeting in Miami Beach.

A resolution commending the Crusade of the Americas was approved by the Executive Committee, which also suggested that plans for the 1969 hemispheric-wide crusade be correlated with previously-approved denominational emphasis for 1968-69 on "The Church Fulfilling Its Mission through Evangelism and Missions."

A proposal to change the name of the convention referred earlier to the Executive Committee for study came up at only one time during the full committee meeting. The administrative sub-committee, however, heard a report on a public opinion poll on the name change.

The public relations sub-committee recommended that any proposed change of name in the convention be tested on its public relations implications, and presented to the Executive Committee a list of 25 questions to be used in evaluating any proposal.

146

The Executive Committee also approved a schedule and procedure for conducting a study of the capital needs (building programs) of SBC agencies and organizations. Long-range capital needs if approved will be presented to the convention in 1969 when it meets in New Orleans.

The presidents of the six SBC seminaries were authorized to employ a professional consultant to work with them and an Executive Committee sub-committee in studying the formula for allocating SBC Cooperative Program funds among the six seminaries.

Appointment of a committee to study the charter and relationships of the SBC Hospital Commission was approved with Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., named as chairman.

The Home Mission Board was authorized to work out agreements with banks, insurance companies, and other financial agents for sharing the risk on church loans, on the basis of a funded reserve from the Home Mission Board amounting to 10 per cent of the total loan.

In other action, the Executive Committee approved editorial corrections in the SBC Constitution to be submitted to the Miami Beach convention, authorized a five per cent cost of living salary increase to Executive Committee staff members, and adopted resolutions expressing appreciation for several Baptist leaders who are planning retirement in the future, and for the life of deceased Baptist leaders.

-30-

Oldest Sunday School Board Staff Member Dies At 94

~~147~~ 147

2/23/67

658

NASHVILLE (BP)--George Frank Cole, 94, oldest retiree of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, died Feb. 20 in a local hospital following a stroke.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church here where he had been a member for 73 years and had served as a deacon most of the time. Burial was in Nashville.

Cole was employed by the board in 1899, when the agency was only eight years old. In November of 1899, James M. Frost, first executive secretary of the board, approached Cole after Sunday School at First Baptist Church and offered him a job.

In 1899 the board occupied a two-story remodeled residence located at 167 Fourth Avenue. Cole followed the board in three later moves to new locations.

Cole's first job was with the periodical mailing department, where he filled, wrapped and mailed all orders for the 10 periodicals then produced by the board. He had some assistance from the janitor, Jim Wyatt.

Other employees of the board in 1899 were Elijah Ford, bookkeeper, his assistant, R. M. Turner, M. E. Dunaway, order clerk, Miss Florence Preston, Dr. Frost's secretary, and Samuel Boykin, editor. None of the eight full-time employees in 1899 is believed to be living.

Today the Sunday School Board has nearly 1500 employees, compared to the eight employees in 1899 when Cole joined the staff.

Cole officially retired in 1953 but returned on a part-time basis until a change in board rules limited the top employment age. He was 85 at the time.

Survivors include his son G. Frank Cole, Jr., vice president of First American National Bank, Nashville, two grandsons and two great-grandsons.

-30-

80,000 Unchurched Located in Memphis

~~147~~ 148

2/23/67

658

MEMPHIS (BP)--A city-wide telephone survey here has turned up about 80,000 unchurched individuals in Memphis.

The survey, directed by William A. Powell of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was conducted in preparation for the Greater Memphis Encounter Crusade, a week of simultaneous revivals scheduled to begin April 29.

About 320,000 people were canvassed by 3,000 volunteers representing 98 Baptist churches.

"We found that one-fourth the families canvassed had unchurched persons in them," Powell said.

(The Negro community was excluded from the survey by a local committee on the grounds

-more-

147-148

that the churches would not try to solicit Negro attendance anyway.)

The survey is only one part of the Memphis crusade, which will be sponsored by the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Prayer retreats, soul-winning clinics, youth rallies, and the distribution of gospels are included in preparation plans. A week-long central revival meeting, at which C. Wade Freeman of the Texas Baptist division of evangelism will preach, will precede the simultaneous meetings in 120 churches of the Shelby Baptist Association.

This probably was the largest survey attempted by Southern Baptists alone. The Home Mission Board's department of survey and special studies normally cooperates with other denominations to survey a city, but it often conducts strictly Baptist surveys in preparation for specific projects such as the Memphis meeting.

The volunteers worked out of their own homes, using their own phones, and filled out date cards only on unchurched individuals. More than 80 percent of the volunteers registered response to the calls "from good to excellent," Powell said.

-30-

Small State Representation
Proposal Goes To Convention

~~149~~ 149

2/23/67

420

NASHVILLE (BP)--A change in the Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention which would limit the representation of smaller state Baptist conventions on SBC commissions and institutional boards was recommended by the SBC Executive Committee here.

The recommendation is designed to provide a more democratic system of representation on the commissions and institutional boards.

The proposal, which will come before the full convention in Miami Beach, May 30-June 2, would affect ten state Baptist conventions which now have memberships of more than 25,000 but less than 100,000.

Currently the smaller conventions have automatic representation on the commissions and institutional boards of the SBC, as provided under Bylaw 18.

The proposed change would continue the smaller conventions' automatic representation on the four major boards of the convention and its Executive Committee, but not on the commission and institutional boards.

Instead, each commission and institutional board would have five trustees or directors-at-large elected from the states with 25,000 to 100,000 members. The SBC committee on boards, which nominates the directors and trustees to the convention, would seek to rotate the representation from these states on the various agencies.

The proposed Bylaws change was the most debated recommendation to come before the two-day meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

About 10 committee members discussed the pros and cons of the proposal, which was first presented to the Executive Committee a year ago, but was tabled after even more lengthy debate.

Leroy Parker of Greensboro, N.C., brought the recommendation, explaining that the current policy gives the 10 states, with a combined total membership of about 500,000, the same number of representatives per state as 11 state conventions, each with more than 500,000 members and a combined membership of more than 8½ million.

Parker also stated that the proposal would not change the smaller states' representation on the four major boards and the Executive Committee, and that all of the states would eventually have representation on each commission and institutional board over a period of years.

Several Executive Committee members from the smaller states said the people in their states were strongly opposed to the proposal, and argued that they felt representation was needed in order to involve the Baptists from these states in the denomination's total program.

A substitute motion by Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., that the proposal be referred back to committee for a study of the effect it would have on new state conventions which might join the SBC in the future was defeated by a two-to-one margin.

Final vote on the recommendation by the Executive Committee was 29-10.

149