

July 27, 1949

"FREEDOM'S HOLY LIGHT" TO BE CONVENTION THEME

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--"Freedom's holy light," a phrase from the prayer in the song, "America," will be the theme for the 93rd session of the Southern Baptist Convention to be held in Chicago, May 9-12. The theme was announced by Dr. H. H. Hobbs, chairman of the Convention's Committee on Order of Business, after a meeting of the committee here.

"We wanted to have a theme in Chicago that would reflect the great principles for which Baptists stand," Dr. Hobbs stated, "and when this phrase from a great national hymn, written by a Baptist preacher, was mentioned, we felt it was an answer to prayer." Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, author of the hymn, was editor of American Baptist missionary publications for many years.

"Baptists have always fought for freedom to worship God. Baptists are working today in a great evangelistic crusade to free men from the bondage of sin," Dr. Hobbs said. "We believe that we can make a great impact in Chicago by stressing again and again the great freedom to be found in Christ Jesus, both at home and around the world."

The complete program will not be released until December, but it was announced that the opening session on Tuesday night would be a foreign mission rally, and the closing session on Friday night will be an evangelistic service.

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S.B.C. EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETS WITH BAPTIST COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Christian colleges have a "special obligation to instill moral and ethical ideas into our youth and to teach them the simple tenets of liberty," Ellis G. Arnall, former governor of Georgia, told the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools, meeting jointly here.

Dr. H. G. Davis, president of Howard College, Birmingham, was elected president of the Association. Other officers are Dr. S. S. Hill, president of Georgetown College, Kentucky, vice-president; and Dr. H. I. Hester, vice-president of William Jewell College, Missouri, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. C. D. Johnson, Baylor University, has been chairman of the Education Commission for 18 years.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST EDUCATORS
SCORE CARDINAL SPELLMAN'S ATTACK

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools meeting here unanimously approved a resolution scoring Cardinal Spellman's attack on Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt for her statement that tax funds should not be used for parochial schools.

The resolution, introduced by Dr. J. Ollie Edmonds, president of Stetson University, Deland, Fla., read:

"The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools, meeting in annual session at Nashville, Tenn., regrets to observe that a distinguished American churchman has attempted to discredit another distinguished American citizen, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, by accusing her of religious intolerance because of a courageous public statement opposing the use of tax money for private or religious schools.

"The secretary of the Association is instructed to inform Mrs. Roosevelt that the members of this Association deplore this unwarranted criticism of her belief in the American policy of absolute separation of church and state. Adherence to this traditional policy has kept this nation free from many contentions which have divided other nations where civil and ecclesiastical functions are not completely separated."

The Barden bill, H.R. 4654, provides that Federal aid to education shall be only for "tax supported grade schools and high schools which are under public supervision and control." Roman Catholics have thrown their support behind a bill to make the payment of Federal funds available for Roman Catholic schools. The Senate has passed the Thomas bill which leaves the matter for the states to decide.

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CHICAGO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
WELCOMES SOUTHERN BAPTISTS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--(BP)--Dr. W. A. Diman, executive secretary of the Chicago Baptist Association, has written a letter to Dr. Robert G. Lee, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, extending a welcome for the meeting to be held in Chicago in 1950.

"It is the desire of the Chicago Baptist Association to extend to our brethren of the Southern Convention a most hearty and cordial welcome to the city of Chicago," Dr. Diman wrote. "It is also our desire to be of any reasonable assistance to you and your people in setting up and carrying forward your great convention. We shall urge that as many of our churches as possible should open their pulpits to the preachers who will be in attendance.

"This action was taken with the most cordial and sincere desire to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship between our two great bodies. As Executive Secretary of the Chicago Baptist Association, I will be waiting to hear from some of your representatives to indicate how we might be of help."

Dr. Lee wrote to Dr. Diman expressing appreciation for the letter.

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