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Program Outlined For 2nd
BEST National Conference

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Three major addresses and an entire evening devoted to discussing the question of federal aid to church-related colleges will highlight the program of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST) second national conference here June 12-15.

Tentative agenda for the three-day meeting, scheduled at the Baptist Sunday School Board here, was approved by the BEST Steering Committee in session here.

Principal speakers for the conference will be Charles G. Dobbins, executive secretary of the American Council on Education; Wesley Hotchkiss, head of the division of higher education for the United Church of Christ; and Charles Trentham, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Knoxville and dean of the school of religion for the University of Tennessee.

In addition, one evening session will be devoted to presentations by three leading Southern Baptists in the field of church-state separation, and to open discussion of viewpoints on federal aid to church-related colleges.

The three to speak at the federal-aid question session will be Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University (Baptist) in Waco, Tex.; E. S. James, editor emeritus (retired) of the Baptist Standard in Dallas, Tex.; and C. E. Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington.

"This really is not a conference of speeches," said Rabun L. Brantley, executive secretary of the SBC Education Commission which is sponsoring BEST. "It is a work session."

BEST is a two-year nation-wide study of the problems and issues confronting Baptist higher education. The second national conference here will climax a long series of regional seminars and local church discussion meetings as part of the two-year study.

About 300 Baptist college presidents, deans, business managers, faculty members, trustees, students, plus a cross-section of Baptist laymen and pastors are expected to attend the invitational national conference in June.

During the meeting here, the results and findings of 24 regional seminars held during the first three months of 1967 will be presented to the conference participants.

The conference will split into eight or more sections, each dealing with one specific area of the study, and bring back to the full meeting later their proposed solutions to problems and issues in that subject area.

The eight areas are: financing Christian higher education, academic freedom, college-denominational relationships, preface to a philosophy of Christian higher education, academic scope of Baptist higher education, religious scope, the Christian college teacher, and accreditation of Baptist educational institutions.

The section on accreditation is a new section not included in the first national BEST conference here last year, but discussed in all of the regional seminars this year.

The eight or more sectional meetings will deliver full reports to the entire conference summarizing their viewpoints and the results of their study. Each report will include a list of the problems and issues in the area of study, the causes of the problems, the requirements which solutions should meet, and proposed principles, guidelines and solutions to the problems. A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for general discussion of each report.

The report of the section of Financing Christian higher education, and the closing address by Trentham, will conclude the conference on the morning of June 15.

An 18-member Findings Committee will be charged with preparing a 100-page written summary of the results of the conference and the entire two-year study, with an expected completion date of Sept. 15, 1967, for their report.

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The Findings Committee recommendations will not be binding upon any of the 54 Baptist colleges and universities or 16 state conventions which own the schools, but will serve as resource material with possible solutions to their problems.

Opening address on the subject, "The Necessity for a Dual System in Higher Education" will be delivered by Dobbins, a Baptist and executive secretary of the American Council on Education. He is a native of Alabama and former editor of two Montgomery daily newspapers.

Hotchkiss, head of the division of higher education and American Missionary Association for the United Church of Christ, will speak to a dinner meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools and the Education Commission of the SBC, with conference participants as special guests.

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Record Correspondence Study
Reported By Seminary Extension

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NASHVILLE (BP)--An all-time record in correspondence courses offered by the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries was reported here by the department's director, Ralph A. Herring.

Herring said enrollment in the courses offered through the department's school of correspondence was up about 38 per cent over the previous year.

He reported 761 students, not including students with unexpired time, enrolled in 1,134 courses during the 1965-66 school year. Eleven received certificates upon completion of 16 courses.

Students enrolled in the correspondence study represented 42 states, six foreign countries, and four branches of military service--Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

The stacks of lessons received by mail each day were graded by eight instructors, all seminary graduates with teaching experience.

Three times as many laymen and women as pastors took part in the correspondence study, Herring reported. They served all organizations of the local church and district association, and live in nearly all sizes of communities and cities.

Herring said almost all the students expressed a desire to continue their education to be better prepared Christians, and expressed gratitude that Southern Baptists provide an off-campus, on-the-job opportunity to take seminary studies at home.

The Seminary Extension Department of the SBC seminaries offers 40 different correspondence courses in four areas of seminary study--biblical, historical, theological and practical.

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Anita Bryant To Sing,
Speak Twice During SBC

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MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Recording Star and Actress Anita Bryant will both sing and speak at two national Southern Baptist meetings here during the week of May 30 -June 2.

Miss Bryant will sing, and give her personal testimony of what being a Christian means to her, during the Southern Baptist Convention's closing Friday night Youth Rally, June 2, and also during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, Monday evening, May 29.

Miss Bryant, a Southern Baptist, is a native of Tulsa, Okla., and a former Miss Oklahoma who was second runner-up in the 1960 Miss America contest.

She has appeared in concerts during Billy Graham crusades, and has sung sacred music programs to audiences all over the world.

She has recorded three "gold records" which have sold more than a million copies and is perhaps best known for her annual tours with Bob Hope to entertain U. S. servicemen abroad, and for her Coca-Cola commercials seen by more than 100 million persons weekly.

She and her husband, Bob Green who now is her manager, live in Miami with their two children.

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BP PHOTO to be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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Cooperative Program Gifts
Top \$6 Million For Quarter

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions to world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget plan topped the \$6 million mark during the first quarter of 1967 for the first time in the denomination's history.

The quarter's Cooperative Program gifts topped last year's record of \$5.8 million for the first quarter of the year by more than one-half million dollars. The \$6.3 million given during the quarter was an increase of \$556,293 or 9.59 per cent over 1966 gifts.

A record \$12.9 million in contributions to designated SBC world missions causes brought the total for the quarter of \$19.3 million, up more than \$1 million compared to total gifts for the same period last year.

The quarterly financial figures were disclosed in a monthly report prepared by the Executive Committee of the SBC, which channels the gifts from Baptist churches and state conventions to SBC causes throughout the world.

Contributions for the month of March were the best for any March in the history of the SBC, and the first time that Cooperative Program contributions for any March in history exceeded the \$2 million plateau, the report disclosed.

March Cooperative Program gifts totaled \$2,114,398. Designated contributions for March were \$3,214,268, bringing the total world missions contributions for the month to \$5.3 million.

The \$6.3 million in Cooperative Program contributions for the quarter was distributed to 20 different Southern Baptist Convention agencies and organizations by the Executive Committee on the budget basis approved by the full convention.

Most of the designated contributions, as well as the biggest sum in the Cooperative Program allocations, went to support the work of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

During the first quarter of the year, foreign missions received \$15.9 million of the \$19.3 million total contributions. The SBC Home Mission Board received \$1.4 million during the first quarter.

The amounts in the monthly financial report included only funds contributed to nation and world-wide causes supported by the Southern Baptist Convention, and did not include amounts given to support local church missions programs or state-wide missions efforts.

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Baptists Participate
In Air Force Conferences

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ATLANTA (BP)--Three Southern Baptist chaplains are on special month-long duty with the Air Force, conducting family life conferences and counseling sessions on bases in five countries.

The conferences are a part of the U.S. Air Force's periodic Protestant Family Life Conferences.

Southern Baptists participating are:

Kenneth Pepper of the Institute of Religion at Texas Medical Center in Houston, bases in Germany and Libya.

Richard K. Young of North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, bases in Germany and Spain.

Myron Madden of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, bases in Turkey and Greece.

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CUTLINES

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

ANITA BRYANT TO SING AT SEC: Recording Star and Actress Anita Bryant, an active Southern Baptist, will sing and give her testimony during both the Youth Night service at the Southern Baptist Convention, June 2, and during the Monday evening session of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, May 29, in Miami Beach. (BP PHOTO)

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BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

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PASTORS TO HEAR STUDENT: Miss Jackie Fain, a former Miss Teenage Atlanta and finalist in the 1963 Miss Teenage America Pageant, will deliver a major address during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Miami Beach, May 29-30. She is a senior student at Florida State University, Tallahassee, and an active member of the First Baptist Church there. (BP PHOTO)

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