



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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April 6, 1967 292

Fields Elected President
Of Associated Church Press

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434

NEW YORK (BP)-- W. C. Fields, public relations secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, was elected here president of the Associated Church Press, a national organization of religious publications editors.

Fields is also editor of The Baptist Program, monthly magazine published by the Executive Committee, and director of the Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

His election as president of Associated Church Press came only one week before Fields was to preside over sessions of the Religious Public Relations Council's national convention in Philadelphia. Fields was elected president of that organization last year.

He is the first Southern Baptist to serve as president of either Associated Church Press or Religious Public Relations Council, and the first person ever to serve as president of both groups simultaneously.

Fields would not allow his name to be nominated for re-election as president of Religious Public Relations Council for a second term.

Other new officers of the Association are Kenneth L. Wilson, first vice president, and executive editor of The Christian Herald, New York; Ben R. Hartley, second vice president, and editor, The Presbyterian Survey, Atlanta; and Kenneth I. Morse, treasurer, and editor, The Messenger, in Elgin, Ill.

Twelve publications were admitted to membership in the Associated Church Press, bringing the number of member publications to 181, with a total circulation of nearly 20 million. One Southern Baptist state paper was admitted as a new member, The Illinois Baptist; Robert J. Hastings, editor, of Carbondale, Ill.

Major speakers for the meeting were John Bennett, president of Union Theological Seminary, New York; Francis Carpenter, press officer for the United States Mission to the United Nations; and Philip Scharper, editor-in-chief for a New York publishing firm and script writer for "The Vine," recent television special on the life of Christ produced by Southern Baptists' Radio-Television Commission and the National Broadcasting Co.

About 150 editors of religious publications attended sessions of Associated Church Press here at the Park Sheraton Hotel.

Southern Baptists attending included Gomer R. Lesch and Lynn M. Davis, both of the Baptist Sunday School Board's public relations office, Nashville; Joe Odle, editor of the Baptist Record in Jackson, Miss.; Toby Druin, associate editor of the Biblical Recorder in Raleigh, N.C., Leonard Hill, managing editor of The Baptist Program, Nashville; and Fields.

Fields has been public relations secretary for Southern Baptists since 1959, serving previously as editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record and pastor of churches in Mississippi. He is a graduate of Louisiana College (Baptist), Pineville, La., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he earned the doctor of theology degree.

Baptist School Slates
Drama Center Dedication 293

4/6/67 66

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (BP)--Ouachita Baptist University will dedicate the new Verser Speech and Drama Center at Ouachita Baptist University, May 2, with a dedication address by Henry Hewes, drama critic for Saturday Review magazine.

The new center, named for Earl Verser of Eudora, Ark., and chief donor for the project, includes a 235-seat auditorium, classrooms, offices and conference rooms.

292-293

Senate Unit Approves
Judicial Review Bill

294

864

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved a bill to allow court tests of the constitutionality of federal loans and grants to church-related institutions.

This is the same bill for "judicial review" that passed the Senate last year but which died without action in the House of Representatives.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.) is the chief advocate of the bill. He is joined in its sponsorship by Senators Wayne Morse (D., Ore.), John S. Cooper (R., Ky.), Joseph S. Clark Jr. (D., Pa.), Ralph W. Yarborough (D., Tex.), George A. Smathers (D., Fla.), Spessard L. Hollard (D., Fla.), and Hiram L. Fong (R., Hawaii).

An identical bill has been introduced in the House by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D., N.Y.).

The bill is almost certain of early passage in the Senate. It has a 50-50 chance in the House, according to a staff member of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights.

The judicial review bill is designed "to provide effective procedures for the enforcement of the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment to the Constitution."

The First Amendment says in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The Supreme Court has said on numerous occasions that public funds may not be used directly or indirectly to aid church agencies.

In recent years, however, much legislation has been passed by Congress that makes public funds available to church institutions in a wide variety of ways.

Court tests of the constitutionality of such practices have been hindered by a 1923 Supreme Court ruling that an individual taxpayer's financial interest in the distribution of federal funds is so small that he has no standing to challenge such practices.

The judicial review bill is proposed to give legislative right to individuals or institutions to challenge in a federal court certain loans or grants made or refused to church-related institutions on the basis of the First Amendment prohibitions.

Senator Ervin explains that his judicial review bill takes no position on the church-state issues involved in the acts of Congress that are in question. It merely provides a vehicle to achieve court tests.

Although Ervin says that he has questions about the constitutionality of certain portions of these acts and the way they are administered, his legislative record reveals that he voted for all of the acts involved.

His objective is to get court clarification of the issues. He said in a Senate speech, "For far too long the issue of state aid to church-related organizations has been a divisive force in our society. It has created communication barriers among our religions and fostered intolerance."

The senator pointed out that some of the sponsors "feel that there are serious doubts as to the constitutionality of many recent education and poverty programs." He continued, "Others are confident that these programs meet the test of the First Amendment."

He said that all agree on one point: "The courts must be given the opportunity to decide. Only then will this century-long controversy end."

The nine acts of Congress affected by the judicial review bill are: the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, Title II of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, 81st Congress), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Cooperative Research Act, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

The judicial review bill gives three classes the right to court tests on the basis of First Amendment provisions. They are:

-more-

294

1. Any public or other nonprofit agency or institution whose accessibility to loans or grants is reduced because of aids to church-related agencies;
2. Any citizen or group of citizens who have paid income taxes the previous year who feel that such loans or grants violate the First Amendment; and
3. Any public or nonprofit institution or agency whose application for federal aid has been rejected on First Amendment grounds.

In order to prevent many nuisance cases all over the country, these court challenges must be made in the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia. They also must be filed within 60 days of announcement of the loans or grants published in the Federal Register.

A special provision of the bill is that if any portion of an act of Congress is ruled unconstitutional, this will not affect the remainder of the act. Neither can all federal programs be brought to a halt until court decisions are made.

Urging approval of his bill, Sen. Ervin says that recent events "have greatly compounded the need for its enactment." He cited the refusal of the Supreme Court last year to review a Maryland case involving state tax aid to church-related colleges.

He also said that the U. S. Commissioner of Education, Harold Howe, has called on the courts to clarify which federally financed services are permissible through church agencies.

A third development, according to Ervin, that makes his bill urgent is a controversy over the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

It should be pointed out that passage of a judicial review bill does not make it mandatory on the courts to hear such cases. It does, however, give strong legislative precedent and encouragement to the courts. Many advocates of the Ervin bill feel that if it is enacted the courts will give ear to such constitutional tests.

-30-

Seminary Professor Named *295* 4/6/67 *154*
 To Sunday School Position

NASHVILLE (BP)--Elmer Leslie Gray, professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., has been named to a position in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here effective May 1.

Gray will be supervisor of the general program and administration materials unit. The publications "Home Life," "The Sunday School Builder," and "Open Windows" are edited in this unit.

Since 1959 at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, the Southern Baptist educator has served as professor of church administration and chairman of the religious education division.

Previously, Gray was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Sulphur, Okla., 1947-52; Bristol Street Baptist Church, Santa Ana, Calif., 1952-55; First Southern Baptist Church, Long Beach, Calif., 1955-58; and First Southern Baptist Church, San Diego, Calif., 1958-59.

A native of Oklahoma, he is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he received the doctor of theology degree; and Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

-30-

2,300 Help Launch Ohio's *296* 4/6/67 *406*
 Dayton New Life Crusade

DAYTON, Ohio (BP)--Baptists from the Dayton area launched the Dayton Baptist New Life Crusade scheduled for July of 1967 with a series of evangelism rallies here.

More than 2,300 Baptists attended sessions at Shiloh Baptist Church here in the first of the evangelistic rallies to launch the crusade, a joint evangelistic effort of Ohio Baptists in the Dayton area, joining with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Following the evangelism rallies and clinics, a month-long series of surveys, visitation programs and evangelistic meetings will lead up to the final central crusade in July.

-more-

295-296

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 14,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, will be the evangelist for the central crusade, July 16-22, at Dayton's Welcome Stadium.

Schedule for the campaign includes surveys during the month of April, associational meetings including a Youth Rally in June, an institute to train personal workers on June 12-14, distribution of literature during the latter part of June, and a week in June of special emphasis known as Operation Prayer Lift.

Following the central crusade at the local stadium, revival meetings will be held in each of the area Baptist churches, with services led by a visiting pastor from Texas whose church will send him to Dayton at their expense.

The crusade is scheduled to close July 31-Aug. 5 with a conservation effort.

The campaign will be the largest and most comprehensive ever conducted in a single Ohio city by Southern Baptists, crusade leaders said. The emphasis is an adaptation of the "Evangelism in Depth" program developed by the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

During the evangelism rally which launched the effort, messages were delivered by W. Fred Swank, pastor of the Sagamore Hill Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, conducted a period of Bible study in each of the sessions that launched the crusade.

A 750-voice choir directed by Lee Roy Till, minister of music for the First Baptist Church of Dallas, provided music for the conference. Till will also direct an anticipated 1,000-voice choir from churches in the area that will sing during the central crusade, July 16-22 in Dayton's Welcome Stadium.

Chairman of the steering committee for the Dayton New Life Crusade is Bobby McFall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Miamisburg, Ohio.

Included in the crusade are Southern Baptist churches in the Greater Dayton Baptist Association and the Miami Valley Baptist Association.

It is believed to be the first evangelistic crusade on this scale conducted in a city where Southern Baptists do not constitute a major portion of the population.

-30-

Brooks Hays Says Race
Problem Greatest Issue

297

4/6/67

196

DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--The race issue is the greatest issue of our time and it must be settled in a moral framework instead of a legislative one, former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays said at Stetson University here.

Hays, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told students, faculty and guests at the Baptist school that if the war clouds do not clear, conditions on the race question will worsen.

Hays spoke during a three-day program of Political Emphasis Week at Stetson, a private Baptist school here.

"Paternal kindness of the 19th century is not adequate for the dynamic 20th century," he said. The treatment which the Negro race received during the time immediately preceding and following Lincoln was not particularly harsh in the South, he added.

"But in our rapidly expanding and changing 20th century, the patterns of behavior are changing so rapidly that the accomodation of a situation is no longer practical."

In a round-table discussion with students and faculty, Hays concerned himself with politics, which he called "the art of the possible."

He characterized President Lyndon B. Johnson as possessing three outstanding political features: he is a great man politically; he loves politics; and is a man of enormous energy.

The program was a joint presentation of the Stetson Student Government and the school's artists and lecturers committee.

-30-

297