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April 10, 1967

Hays Says Absolute Church-State Separation Not Best

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention President and former Congressman Brooks Hays said here that the traditional view of separation of church and state--two separate spheres of activity with an impregnable wall between them--is not the best possible approach.

"It is more biblical," Hays said, "to think of the wall as one that has opened up a bit.

"There must be an opening somewhere in order for communication and dialogue to take place between the two spheres," said the former Arkansas Congressman, and former presidential special assistant.

In two lectures and a news interview at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Hays said that the ethical and social decisions of the politician should turn on the moral leadership of the church.

He envisioned the church as a circle in the center of society, radiating its influence out into every aspect of life, including the political world.

Hays said that when he was in Congress, he desperately needed the resources of faith which only his Christian presuppositions could give. Hays served as a Congressman from Arkansas from 1943 to 1958, defeated in that year by a segregationist write-in candidate after Hays had served as a mediator between Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas and President Dwight D. Eisenhower during the Little Rock school integration crisis of 1957 and 1958.

Hays said that the number one issue facing Southern Baptists today is still the race relations problem, although much progress has been made in the past several years.

"I must admit that on occasion the political state has been more Christian than a particular congregation or church body in the matter of race relations," Hays said. "I don't want the politicians and the lawyers to race ahead of the Christian ministers at this point."

Hays said that another critical issue facing Southern Baptists is participation in the ecumenical movement.

"I can understand the reluctance of Southern Baptists to want to enter into any formal relationship with the National Council of Churches, because we say we don't need what it has to offer," Hays said.

"The point is that the National Council needs what we have to offer. With our large membership and available resources, we could greatly help the National Council in its efforts to relate the Gospel to today's world," he added.

Since leaving Congress in 1958, Hays has served as special assistant to Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and a professor of public affairs at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

He will return to the Rutgers professorship after completing this semester as visiting professor of government at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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Baptist Record Wins Award For Physical Appearance

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NEW YORK (BP)--The Baptist Record of Jackson, Miss., official weekly newspaper published by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was one of four religious publications receiving an Award of Merit from the Associated Church Press during its annual convention here.

The award was presented to Baptist Record Editor Joe T. Odle for "excellence of physical appearance" in the newspaper category.

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It was the only Southern Baptist publication to win an award during the Associated Church Press annual competition.

Other top winners were Scope, a Lutheran publication, Award of Merit for physical appearance in the magazine category; motive, a Methodist publication for students which spells its name with a small "m", a Merit Award for "relevance and quality of contents," and The Messenger, a Church of the Brethren publication, a Merit Award for "overall improvement over a three-year period."

The Baptist Record, with a circulation of 104,000, is one of 29 Baptist state papers produced by state conventions within the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Tobacco Head's Daughter
Gives School \$1 Million

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WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)--A \$1 million gift, which will be used as library endowment, has been made to Wake Forest College by Mrs. Nancy Reynolds Verney of Greenwich, Conn.

Mrs. Verney is a daughter of the late R. J. Reynolds, founder of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and a sister of the late Z. Smith Reynolds for whom the Wake Forest library is named.

Wake Forest College President Harold Tribble said that income from the gift will be used initially to speed three major areas of change in the library's operation.

One is the purchase of books and periodicals to undergird the graduate program, another is physical changes in the library building and the third is the reclassification of books from the Dewey decimal system to the Library of Congress system.

The Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation gave the college \$3½ million for the library endowment in 1965.

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Student Conference Set
At Ridgecrest, June 8-14

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RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)--An accent on ministry will be combined with a program of active student response in the 41st annual Southern Baptist Student Conference June 8-14 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Assembly.

Theme for the conference will be, "Unto The Least of These." The program features speakers in a daily schedule of plenary meetings, small group discussions, recreation and personal reaction.

The theme will be explored each day in addresses by William M. Dyal Jr., director of the Peace Corps in Colombia, South America, and former director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Bringing other special addresses will be: Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; J. Chester Durham, director of student work, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown, Ky.; and E. Warren Woolf, secretary of the department of special mission missionaries, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

In four mid-day sessions, students will discuss "confrontation--ministry" with Charles Emerson Boddie, president of American Baptist College of Bible and American Baptist Seminary, Nashville; Walfred H. Peterson, director of research services, Baptist Joint-Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, Robert S. Denny, associate general secretary and youth secretary, Baptist World Alliance, Washington, D.C. and Duke McCall.

Students will have opportunities to give as well as take in the interchange of ideas in several reaction panels and forums, according to David K. Alexander, secretary of the student department for the SBC Sunday School Board. Thirty-eight conferences will deal with ministry to the world through the church, public life and the campus.

Bible teaching will be held during the week under the direction of William E. Hull, associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, Louisville.

Music director for the conference will be William Arnold Epley, minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville. Soloist for the week will be Miss Lynda Poston, a student at Manhattan School of Music, New York City.

The Student Conference is sponsored by the student department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville.

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