

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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April 20, 1967

SBC Historical Commission
Endorses "National" Name

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention elected new officers and approved a brief recommendation endorsing adoption of a name for the Southern Baptist Convention that reflects "our national constituency."

The brief recommendation on the convention name change came as one of seven recommendations from the Historical Commission's promotional committee. It was adopted without discussion or debate.

The brief recommendation said: "That the Historical Commission endorse the proposal that the Southern Baptist Convention adopt a name that reflects our national constituency."

It is believed to be the first time that an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention has taken official action endorsing a "national" name for the convention, although the executive secretary and the official publication of the SBC Home Mission Board each have endorsed changing the name of the convention.

The Executive Committee of the convention is currently studying the proposal, but no immediate action is expected.

Major business action of the Historical Commission was election of Fred C. Schatz, dean of Belmont College (Baptist) in Nashville, as new chairman, succeeding C. Penrose St. Amant, dean of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Other officers of the commission were Richard N. Owen of Nashville, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, elected vice chairman; and Martin Bradley, secretary of the SBC Sunday School Board's research and statistics department, recording secretary.

The commission also urged editors of state Baptist papers to index articles appearing in their publications, and devoted much of one session to discussions on how to properly index a publication. Several of the state paper editors attended.

Major address of the two-day annual meeting was delivered by Outgoing Chairman, St. Amant of Southern Seminary, Louisville.

Speaking on "Our Baptist Heritage and The Church," St. Amant said that the church today is being criticized openly by much of society, especially the religious press. He said there is much wrong with the church, but there is also much that is right with the church.

"The critics tend to take a particularly dim view of denominational governing bodies which. . . simply rubber-stamp what the executives want to do," St. Amant said. "Some bright young sociologists of religion are saying caustically that suburban churches especially are almost a conspiracy against God."

"Let us admit," he said, "that there is sometimes a chasm between Christ and His church. When we consider the inquisitions, the bigotry, the provincialisms, the excessive concern for theological subtleties, or what is worse, the lack of theological concern or its conformity to cultural, class and racial criteria, it seems" that some of the critics are right, he said.

"There is another side," he added, "for much is right with the church. What is right for Baptists grows out of our heritage, for this heritage, at its best, seeks to express the genius of the New Testament faith."

"The genius of our heritage is that the church at its best is both the body of Christ and the gathered community at the same time," St. Amant declared. "The church in the broad sense without the gathered community is largely an abstraction; the gathered community detached from the body of Christ is largely a social club."

St. Amant called for the church to accept the kind of loving concern for the world that Christ demonstrated on the cross and to truly become "communities of the concerned."

Estep Urges Baptists
To Welcome Rome Renewal

NASHVILLE (BP)--A Baptist seminary professor, speaking to the Southern Baptist Historical Society meeting here, urged Southern Baptists to welcome with Christian love every indication of openness within the Roman Catholic Church.

W. R. Estep of Fort Worth, speaking on "Baptists and the Ecumenical Movement," said that as a result of Vatican Council II, there is a new and refreshing openness on the part of Roman Catholics toward the Protestant world.

Estep, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, added that there is also a new impetus for Bible study within the life of the Catholic Church, and a corresponding emphasis on preaching.

"Certainly Baptists will welcome whatever changes toward a more evangelical position Rome may have," he declared. "Let us welcome every indication of openness with Christian love. As never before, Rome needs our prayers that this 'aggiornamento' (renewal) may not stop."

Estep also traced the effects of the current Consultation on Church Union (COCU) efforts to unite 10 Protestant denominations in the United States into a religious body with 24 million members, saying the actual basis for the proposed merger is "a little difficult to determine."

Estep, author of a recent book entitled Baptists and Christian Unity, concluded as a result of his study that Baptists cannot afford to be ill-informed or wrongly motivated concerning the current ecumenical movement.

"The kind of future the church has is dependent to some degree upon the vitality and purity of the Christian witness today," he said. This vitality, he added, depends upon "fidelity to the Word of God."

The church's advance in this day waits for "a rebirth of theology in the power of the Holy Spirit," he declared, and this theology must be correct theology based on a biblical theology.

During the meeting, Louie Latimer (Mrs. Ollin J.) Owens of Greenville, S. C., was elected president of the 425-member Historical Society. Mrs. Owens is author of a monthly column in the Baptist Program under the pen name of "Minnie Belle".

She succeeds Richard N. Owen, editor of the Baptist and Reflector in Nashville, who has been president of the Historical Society for the past nine years. Other new officers are Harwell G. Davis, chancellor of Samford University, Birmingham, elected vice president; H. I. Hester of Liberty, Mo., retired Baptist college and seminary professor, recording secretary; and Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the SBC Historical Commission, treasurer.

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Roger Williams Named
Children's Home Head

4/20/67

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Roger E. Williams Jr., director of development for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, has been named superintendent of Kennedy Home near Kinston, N.C.

One of the four child care units owned and operated by North Carolina Baptists, the Kennedy Home has a capacity of 165 children in ten cottages.

Williams will succeed W. A. Smith who will retire at the end of July after serving as superintendent for 17 years, according to Children Homes President W. R. Wagoner.

Prior to Williams' being named director of development, he served for nearly ten years as pastor of the Mills Home Baptist Church. He also was interim editor of Charity and Children in 1965, and author of a column, "Parson to Person", for the children's homes newspaper and secular newspapers.

Williams holds the bachelor of arts degree from Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., and the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

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Modern Language Program
Bars 'Sectarian' Activity

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Office of Education has announced that it will make available this year about \$6 million to finance 1,845 fellowships to meet the critical need for specialists in foreign languages.

Intensive training in 92 foreign languages and related studies will be provided by 52 colleges and universities in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

Although church-related colleges are eligible for grants for the modern foreign language program, persons who are preparing for "sectarian activity" are not eligible for fellowship awards.

Seven church-related institutions are among the 52 schools chosen. No Baptist school is listed. Of the seven, one is Methodist, two Jewish, and four Roman Catholic.

The modern foreign language fellowship program, administered under the National Defense Education Act, is a part of the national effort to improve U.S. knowledge and understanding of other languages, countries and cultures.

No awards will be made under this program for the study of French, German, Italian, or Peninsular Spanish.

The language study program awards fellowships to students who are preparing (1) To teach the selected language at an institution of higher education in the U.S., or

(2) To teach at an institution of higher education in the U.S. in another field in which proficiency in the particular language is highly desirable, or

(3) For employment in a professional or technical activity, governmental or non-governmental (nonprofit and nonsectarian), which would "contribute significantly to the conduct of the nation's economic, cultural, educational, scientific, social, or political relations."

Persons training to be elementary or secondary school teachers are not eligible for these awards.

Graduate fellowships cover the cost of tuition and all required fees, plus a basic stipend of \$450 for study during the summer only, \$2,250 for study during the academic year, or \$2,700 for both summer and academic year.

A candidate may apply for an allowance for up to four dependents, not including himself. The allowance for each dependent is \$120 for the summer only, or \$600 for the academic year, or \$720 for both summer and academic year.

Fellowships will be tenable only at the institution and in the graduate study program for which they have been awarded. They are not transferable.

This year's allotment will bring to 8,857 the number of fellowships awarded since the program began in 1959.

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Carmichael, Race Oppression
Blamed for Nashville Rioting

4/20/67

By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE (BP)--Recent race riots in Nashville were incited by "the hate spewed by a racist," a strongly-worded editorial in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Baptist and Reflector has charged.

Editor Richard N. Owen, in an editorial entitled "Blinded by Hate," blamed Stokely Carmichael of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNICK) for inciting the riots.

Another Nashville Baptist leader, Foy Valentine of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, agreed that Carmichael probably triggered the riots, but laid the blame to the conditions of poverty, injustice, unemployment and de facto segregation among Nashville Negroes.

The riots, which lasted for three hectic nights near the campuses of two Negro universities in Nashville, resulted in gunfire, looting, arson, molotov cocktail bombings, tear gas incidents, and more than 30 arrested and a score injured.

Students at Tennessee A&I (Agricultural and Institutional) State University, and to a lesser extent, students at Fisk University (both Negro institutions), participated in the riots, aimed primarily at Nashville police authority.

What caused the riots is a much debated subject in the Nashville area.

The Baptist and Reflector editorial reflects perhaps the majority opinion of the white community, by placing the blame on Black Power advocate Stokley Carmichael, and his "message of hate."

"Stokley Carmichael and his henchmen intended to stir up trouble," the editorial said. "Trouble erupted like a putrid boil in Nashville; the same as it has in dozens of other localities following the appearance of Carmichael."

The SNICK leader had spoken at Vanderbilt University and at Tennessee A&I and Fisk on several occasions during a two-week period prior to the riots.

"It is deplorable that some students who should have known better were misled by this Black Power advocate," Owen wrote. "They were incited to violence with the hate spewed by a racist. They were goaded to hate law and order, hate the police force, and cry "brutality" in demeaning police officers, to hate authority and hate the administration of their schools.

"Hate has one harvest: destruction," the editorial declared. "Hate is incipient bloodshed. . . . Hate is the violent offspring of jealousy. It is rage, ill-will, contempt for others. It issues from rejection of the rights of others and rebellion against the authority of God."

Owen charged in the editorial that Carmichael "has been intent on leading the students to overthrow the political, economic, and social structures of America.

"He is bent on turning race against race," he added. "His objective is to seize power in the chaos that results.

"All this is in line with the aim of Communism, to pit race against race, class against class, generation against generation," the editorial said. "Nobody wins when tormenters of hate have their day."

Valentine concurred with Owen's observations on Carmichael, but added that SNICK and Black Power concepts are appealing to students because of their long Negro heritage of frustration and oppression.

"Let there be no misunderstanding," Valentine said. "There is still tragic poverty, gross injustice, and massive unemployment among the Negroes of Nashville.

"These conditions frustrate the idealistic students who want a better life now," he observed. "They grasp at anything, even Carmichael's Black Power, which offers the promise of a better life for them, their children, and their race without the kind of delay which has been their lot for 350 years."

Valentine said that Carmichael stirred the students to action, but the white power structure of Nashville shares some of the guilt because it has allowed the conditions of the ghettos to continue.

"It is really tragic," Valentine added. "The riots were triggered by extremists, but the frustrations of idealistic and well-educated Negro young people are such that they are like drowning people grasping for straws."

Valentine, a member of the Metropolitan (Nashville) Council on Human Relations which has worked to help solve the racial problems and held numerous meetings following the riots, said the answer to the problem must be an all-out attack on the conditions which the students were protesting.

"We must do all we can to work for justice, for non-discrimination in employment and for fair housing if we are to get at the roots of the problem," Valentine declared.

He concurred with the concluding statements in Owen's editorial, which called for rejecting the hatred of racism and building the community on a foundation of respect, goodwill, faith and love.

It must be built, said the editorial, on the foundation: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," regardless of race, color, or condition of life.



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CUTLINES

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SBC HISTORICAL LEADERS ELECTED: New officers of the Historical Convention meet with newly-elected officers of the Southern Baptist Historical Society, an organization of about 425 Baptists interested in denominational history. New officers of the Historical Commission, an agency of the SBC, are: (left to right) Fred C. Schatz, dean of Belmont College in Nashville, chairman; Richard N. Owen, editor, the Baptist and Reflector, Nashville, vice-chairman; and Martin Bradley, secretary of research and statistics for the SBC Sunday School Board, recording secretary. Elected new president of the SBC Historical Society was Loulie Latimer (Mrs. Ollin J.) Owens of Greenville, S. C. (seated). Davis C. Woolley, executive secretary of the Historical Commission, is treasurer of both the commission and the society. At far right is H. I. Hester of Liberty, Mo., secretary of the Historical Society, and retired Baptist college and seminary professor. (BP PHOTO

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