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Paschall Lists Issues Facing
SBC, Recalls Year as President

EDITOR'S NOTE: The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville, Tenn., outlines the major issues facing the denomination based on his travels throughout the convention, recounts his experiences in his first year as president of the 11-million member convention, and comments on the forthcoming convention in Miami Beach, May 30-June 2. The interview with Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Nashville, was conducted by Jack U. Harwell, editor of *The Christian Index*, Atlanta.

QUESTION: You have made many trips in your duties as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. How many miles would you estimate that you traveled this year, and how much were you away from your own pulpit?

ANSWER: I have tried to limit my travels as president of the Convention, but even so, trips multiply. I have visited our mission fields in the Orient and in South America, since our Detroit meeting. I have kept no record of the miles traveled. Convention responsibilities, including the mission tours, have made it necessary for me to be out of my pulpit on six Sundays.

QUESTION: What is your brief evaluation of the status of Southern Baptist work in the Orient and in South America?

ANSWER: There are signs in the Orient, particularly in Japan, which indicate that our mission work may be on the verge of an evangelistic breakthrough. I sensed this in the Japan Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference last June. It may be that the climate of Japan is more favorable to the Gospel now than ever before. There is a sense of expectancy on the part of our missionaries as they plan and pray and work toward a new advance. In South America there are many signs of Gospel progress. From the standpoint of our Baptist work, Brazil is the brightest spot in Latin America. In other countries the national leaders and our missionaries are working with increasing effectiveness by way of radio and television as well as in the building of local churches. Latin Americans, in general, are coming to know who Baptists are and to feel the impact of the Gospel which they preach.

QUESTION: Would you recap briefly your impressions of the military and missionary situation as you observed it in Vietnam?

ANSWER: My visit to South Vietnam was very brief. The whole situation is confusing and uncertain. Our missionaries labor against great difficulties, but they are brave and dedicated to the ministry of Christ. In the future, Baptists may have a wonderful opportunity in this part of the world to preach the Gospel, build churches and influence the whole social order.

QUESTION: You have shared in ceremonies officially launching the Crusade of the Americas in Latin America. What, in your opinion, might be the real significance of this hemispheric crusade for Baptists?

ANSWER: The Crusade of the Americas is the greatest opportunity we have ever had to bring the impact of the Gospel on the whole hemisphere. This evangelistic effort is newsworthy. We should be able to have great coverage through radio, television and the printed page. In the Crusade of the Americas we have the opportunity not only to reach many people for Jesus Christ, but to identify ourselves with the righteousness of the Kingdom of God as it pertains to everyday living in the whole social order.

QUESTION: Many share concern that the controversies about American Baptists not participating in the Crusade of the Americas, plus Wayne Dehoney's misinterpreted "invitation" to Catholics to join, might overshadow the constructive planning for the crusade. Do you have any thoughts on this?

ANSWER: The relationship of American Baptists and Roman Catholics to the crusade will not keep it from being a success. American Baptists could have contributed much to the Crusade of the Americas, but their decision not to cooperate in this evangelistic effort should not discourage the other participants from moving ahead with confidence and hope. We could have done more with their help, but we can do much without it. It is encouraging that American Baptists have suggested the possibility of the local churches and state conventions participating in the crusade. The fact that Roman Catholics cannot join in the effort is understandable.

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QUESTION: What particular issues do you find Southern Baptists discussing the most as you travel across the 50 states of our convention?

ANSWER: Southern Baptists are discussing many issues, but the following seem to be getting most attention: (1) Federal aid to Baptist institutions, (2) The need for a new evangelistic thrust, (3) The relation of the Southern Baptist Convention to the ecumenical movement, (4) The Vietnam War, (5) The responsibility of Baptists in the social, economic and political programs of the country.

QUESTION: Our last SBC president said Southern Baptists were suffering from a "paralysis of analysis;" that we had spent so much time in recent years studying ourselves that we had fallen into inaction in our major assignments. Do you see this dilemma as a continuing problem for the SBC?

ANSWER: I see professionalism and institutionalism as a great hindrance to our evangelistic and spiritual success. We must be able to get beyond ourselves, our frozen orthodoxy, our religious rigmarole, our organizational routines, our negative thinking, our depressing introspection to preach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. More emphasis on spiritual reality will bring better results in all areas of our work.

QUESTION: The Baptist Education Study Task (BEST), and the continuing plight of Baptist schools facing financial crises, has put Christian education in the forefront of Baptist thought and discussion. What do you see as the long-range projection for Baptist higher education?

ANSWER: Baptist higher education is in trouble. We may be attempting more in this area than we can do well. The subject of Baptist higher education must be kept open so we may be free to make whatever adjustments are necessary in our Baptist schools.

QUESTION: Recent surveys by the research and statistics department of the Sunday School Board have indicated that a majority of church leaders don't believe Southern Baptists give enough attention to contemporary moral, social and economic problems. How do you react to these findings?

ANSWER: I believe there is an increasing awareness on the part of Southern Baptists concerning moral, social and economic problems. It is important for us to see the whole man, the whole city, the whole nation and the whole world.

QUESTION: Many have noted a decided shifting of Southern Baptist leadership from older leaders to much younger men in recent years. What do you think this might mean for future directions in SBC thought and action?

ANSWER: I believe Southern Baptists will choose a leadership based on other considerations than chronological age. Our next president may be an older man. It is important for the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, regardless of age, to be people of faith, courage and hope.

QUESTION: More laymen and laywomen are showing aggressive interest in SBC activities and programs. Would you suggest specific ways that this participation might be expanded even further?

ANSWER: The church is not the clergy; the church is the people of God. Southern Baptists, more and more, are including laymen on denominational committees, boards, convention and conference programs. The laymen need to be heard. On the local church level, the pastor would do well to confer often and extensively with his laymen in giving direction to the ministry of the church. Also, it is important for laymen not only to talk in conferences and committee meetings, but to act on the level of specific assignment and responsibility. We definitely need more laymen present and participating in the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. May 30-June 2, 1967, would be a good time to begin.

QUESTION: Do you foresee any eventual fragmentation of our convention as SBC expansion spreads into "pioneer" areas of the Far West and Northeast?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: Do you anticipate any especially controversial issues coming before the convention in Miami Beach in June? If so, which issues?

ANSWER: I do not expect any overriding controversial issues to come before our convention in Miami.

QUESTION: What would be your personal "nutshell sermon" to all Southern Baptists as they face the challenge to Christianity in our day?

ANSWER: Lead men one by one to commit themselves to our Lord Jesus Christ and encourage the people of God to implement their faith in terms of moral and civic righteousness, spiritual and social progress for all people.

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CUTLINES

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BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

CANCER FIGHT FINANCIER IS BAPTIST: J. K. Wadley, 90-year-old oil millionaire who has given millions to finance research to find a cure for cancer, is a dedicated Southern Baptist who says that America's greatest problem is spiritual, not phusical or material. Wadley recently announced at his 90th birthday party that a bacterial extract had been discovered at Wadley Research Institute in Dallas, and that the life of a nine-year-old boy suffering from leukemia had been saved by the discovery. (BP PHOTO by Erwin L. McDonald)

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April 26, 1967

Reed Says Annuity Board
Pays All Property Taxes

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DALLAS (BP)--"Property taxes which any other owner, individual or corporate would be required to pay are paid on all properties owned by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board," said R. Alton Reed, executive secretary of the Annuity Board here.

Reed re-emphasized the board's long-standing policy of paying all taxes because several writers of articles appearing recently in secular publications made references to Baptist ownership of property and inferred that taxes were not being paid.

Because of these articles, the board has received considerable correspondence from Baptists asking if the board does pay taxes, Reed said.

"We are pleased to write each person giving them the board's policy stressing that all taxes are paid," Reed affirmed.

The two articles which set off the flurry of inquiries were written by Bishop James A. Pike and Columnist Drew Pearson.

In an Associated Press story, Bishop Pike, an Episcopal Bishop from California, was quoted from the Playboy Magazine article he wrote.

The Associated Press reported, "Pike said that the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic men's organization, owns Yankee Stadium among their \$200 million in assets; that St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church in Chicago acquired a hotel by lease-back methods; and 'the Southern Baptist Annuity Board picked up a nice little textile mill in the same sly way....' "

Drew Pearson, in a column in April wrote: "...The Baptist Church owns all of the stock in the Auditorium Office Building in Los Angeles...."

"...Burlington Mills in North Carolina is owned by the Baptist Church, which also asked the U. S. Government to turn over 1,010 acres of federal land, with 332 buildings on the land located in Florida, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee...."

Reed said the physical property of the textile mill to which Bishop Pike referred was purchased by the board and leased back to the occupants, a national manufacturing concern.

"There was nothing 'sly' about the transaction," replied Reed, who explained the transaction was duly recorded in official records, and taxes have been paid on it since 1961 when the property was purchased.

Reed stated that the board does not own anything listed in the Pearson column except the physical plant of Burlington Mills, which the columnist said was owned by the Baptist Church.

"Nor has the board asked the government or anyone else to give us land," Reed added.

"The problem about property taxes arises periodically because critics often mistakenly assume that no taxes are paid on properties because we are a denominational agency," Reed said.

"Neither of the writers of the articles mentioned bothered to check with anyone at the Annuity Board to learn if we paid taxes or not," he added. "We would have been glad to tell them that we do."

Reed said another mistaken assumption by some critics is created because they fail to recognize that the Southern Baptist Convention does not include every group which uses the name Baptist.

"These critics fail to distinguish between a Baptist church, the various Baptist bodies or the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies such as the Annuity Board," Reed said.

He said that each and every investment made by the Annuity Board is, without exception, carefully analyzed and approved by the finance committee of the board, a group composed of leading Baptist businessmen appointed from the elected board of trustees.

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"Any property the board purchases must be approved by this group and is part of the regular investment program. Money used to buy any property comes from dues and premiums paid into the retirement program by Baptist ministers, denominational employees and their employers," Reed said.

He pointed out that much of the property owned by the board is in lease-back transactions which are common among the many "long-term" investment types of funds such as endowments, religious, union or industrial pension funds. Income gained from rentals on such properties are returned to the pension funds.

Reed said under the lease-back agreement, the board buys only the physical property and leases it back either to the people who formerly owned it, as in the textile mill transaction, or to other parties.

A number of lease-back properties are owned by the board and leased to such business concerns as: Bemis Bags, Borden, Burlington, Dunlop, Firestone, Fruehauf, Huttig, Rath, Reynolds Metals, Mobil, Textron, Westinghouse, Hertz, Newberry, Burroughs, Mack Trucks and others. "Taxes are always paid," Reed emphasized.

He said that in his report to the messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Miami Beach, Florida, he would, as he ordinarily does, assure Southern Baptists that they can be proud of the solidarity of the board's programs.

"I hope that Southern Baptists will not become overly alarmed by the inferences of uninformed critics who do not attempt to get correct information from the sources they may be writing about," he concluded.

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California Board Approves Budget, Buildings, Worker 366

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FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California meeting here approved a record missions goal for 1968, construction of three new buildings at a Baptist college, and employment of a Baptist student worker.

A record goal of \$1,240,000 for the Cooperative Program in 1968 was given initial approval, with final consideration to come during the state convention in Reno, Nevada, in November. The goal is an increase of \$40,000 over the 1967 goal, and includes a 26 per cent allocation to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Two new dormitories at California Baptist College, Riverside, were approved for immediate construction, along with a \$225,000 field house.

A dormitory for men, to house 162 students, was approved at a construction cost of about \$365,000 to \$380,000. A dormitory for women, to house 274 students, was approved at a cost of \$550,000 to \$612,000. Scheduled completion date is August 1, 1968.

To finance the three buildings, the board, in joint action with the trustees of the California Baptist College, authorized a 16 year loan of about \$1,150,000 from a private corporation in St. Louis.

Elected Baptist student work director at the University of California, Berkeley, was James M. Roamer Jr., part-time interim director there for several months. Roamer has been pastor of the University Baptist Church, Oakland, California, for the past two years, and previously was pastor of a San Francisco Baptist church.

He is a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and holds three degrees from George Washington University in the fields of civil engineering and law, including a doctoral degree.

In other action, the California board requested S. G. Posey, former executive secretary of the convention, to devote two months to develop historical materials on the convention. Posey retired in 1961 as executive secretary emeritus of the convention, after ten years in that post.

The board also set a goal of \$40,000 for a special state missions offering for 1967.

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April 26, 1967

Cancer Cure Financier Says
America's Problem Spiritual

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By Erwin L. McDonald
Editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

TEXARKANA (BP)--A man who is spending millions to find a cure for cancer rates America's number one problem as spiritual, not physical or material.

J. K. Wadley, 90-year-old Texarkana Baptist whose recent announcement of a breakthrough in a search for a cancer cure made world headlines, said in an interview here that the "moral deterioration of the people" is worse, even than cancer, disease, war on over-population.

Baptists of two states can lay claim to this Christian businessman, for he lives on the Arkansas side of Texarkana and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Texarkana, Tex. A deacon, he was Sunday School superintendent for 15 years, and is a former deacon chairman and chairman of finance. He has been a member of the church for 66 years.

Says his pastor, Lory Hildreth: "John Keener Wadley is a genuinely great Christian. Like the Lord he worships, he quietly goes about doing good."

Pastor Hildreth described the oil millionaire as "a truly humble man who never throws his weight around, who is abidingly loyal to his pastor and his church, and a liberal giver to missions and benevolences."

Mr. Wadley has had to make some adjustments because of his age--he no longer attends Sunday School and Training Union for example--but everyone at First Baptist Church here knows he will be in his pew for both morning and evening worship services, and for the mid-week prayer meeting, Hildreth said.

Mr. Wadley takes time out for a mid-day nap, but puts in full days at the office five days a week, except when he is on some benevolent mission, playing golf or fishing. He makes it a point to be at his desk by 8:30 in the morning.

When visited at his home on a recent Saturday just before noon, he was getting ready to go fishing but agreed to allow an interruption for a brief interview, on his spacious screened-in porch.

"What do you regard as our number one problem today?" the kindly gentleman was asked. Interestingly enough he did not say "Cancer," or "Disease," or "War," or "Over-population." Without a moment's hesitation he replied: "The deterioration of the morals of the people."

He was inclined more to lay this deterioration at the door of the home than of the church. He feels that the lives of children are being undermined by over-indulgent parents and an absence of discipline in home situations.

A life-long teetotaler who "never tasted a drop of liquor," and one who is dead set against gambling and its many attendant evils, Mr. Wadley is, however, no blue-nosed negativist. He likes to put an arm around a young man's shoulder and encourage him to make the most of life, with God's help.

He told of talking that same day with a youth on the street near the Wadley home. He expressed great concern that the young man, aged 19, had seemed to be devoid of anything resembling ambition.

"He had no job and was not in school," Mr. Wadley said. "And when I asked him why he had dropped out of school, he merely said, 'I didn't like school.'"

Mr. Wadley places strong emphasis on daily Bible reading. "Reading the Bible is like eating your daily meals," he said. "If you don't eat, you don't grow. But there are lots of people today content to feed their bellies and starve their souls."

A native of Arkadelphia, Ark., where he was born on April 1, 1877, Mr. Wadley comes from a family with a history of longevity. His parents, W. G. and Emily Allen Wadley, lived to celebrate their 67th wedding anniversary, and four of their six children are still living.

Regarding recreation as a necessary part of a well-rounded life, Mr. Wadley alternates fishing with golfing. In past years, golf took him to tournaments in Scotland. He has said that he will not give up golf as long as he can keep his score below his age. And, so far, he has had no problem keeping his score below 90. He does not hit the ball as far per shot as he formerly did, but he is still amazingly accurate. Golfing friends say that "once he gets on the green, he is deadly."

His favorite fishing hole is a 30-acre lake which he owns just east of Texarkana. The only time he lapsed out of his characteristic modesty was when he began telling about the big ones--bass and bream--he catches out there.

The newspapers and newsmagazines have given extensive space to Mr. Wadley's dramatic revelation, at his 90th birthday party recently, that a bacterial extract developed at the J. K. and Susie L. Wadley Research Institute in Dallas--L-asparaginase--had saved a 9-year-old victim of acute leukemia.

The Wadley Research Institute is connected with Southern Baptists, not only through the financial aid of Mr. Wadley, but as a graduate research center for Baylor University, the nation's largest Baptist university, with its main campus in Waco, Tex. The Wadley center is just across the street from Baylor Medical Center, Dallas.

Since Mr. Wadley's startling announcement of the discovery, some cancer cells have been discovered again in the blood of Frank Hayes Jr., whose blood had been cleared by shots of the new remedy.

But Mr. Wadley was still confident that it was just a matter of using the remedy in larger quantity. He hopes his research center can soon have an additional supply of the hard-to-come-by L-asparaginase to resume the child's treatment.

A combination of sorrow and sense of stewardship apparently has been the motivation of Mr. Wadley's investing more than \$2 million in the research institute since it was established, 15 years ago.

The sorrow was the loss of a grandson, Keener Bob Mosley, who died of leukemia in 1947 at the age of 7. The sense of stewardship comes from Mr. Wadley's recognition of God's blessings upon him throughout his long life.

"God has been so good to me," he said. "The least I can afford to do is to be a good steward of my life and all that God has given me."

And that is the story of a man who, long past the time of normal retirement, insists on staying in the thick of the fight in the war to overcome cancer.

April 26, 1967

Print Shop Talk Changed
Life of SBC Executive

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of Baptist Press features on Southern Baptist Convention leaders and agency heads.

By W. C. Fields
Director, Baptist Press

A conversation in a printing shop thirty years ago changed the course of a young layman's life.

The new paths he began following on that day have led to the chief administrative office in the Southern Baptist Convention.

During a revival meeting in Shawnee, Okla., Dr. L. R. Scarborough, then president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, hunted up Porter Routh and laid the cause of missions on his heart.

Just back from the Orient, Dr. Scarborough had been impressed with the need for a dedicated and skilled worker for the Baptist publishing house in Shanghai. His concern eventually led him to the manager of the printing shop of Oklahoma Baptist University, 25-year old Porter Routh.

Porter, a layman with no special sense of call to the ministry, had considered studying law, but had found himself being nudged by circumstances into journalism. He listened with some amazement to Dr. Scarborough's suggestion that he accept this work overseas, but promised to consider it prayerfully.

After talking the matter over with Ruth Purtle, his fiance, they wrote Dr. Charles E. Maddrey at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board saying that they were willing and ready to go to China as missionaries.

Porter and Ruth Routh never made it to Shanghai, but through the many turns in the road they have walked together, they have served well the causes of Christ, including missions.

The story of Porter Routh's life is still unfolding, but that short talk amid the clatter and clutter of a print shop was one of the big turning points. Everything before that was prologue.

The present executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention was born July 14, 1911 at Lockhart, Tex., to Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Routh, then pastor of First Baptist Church, Lockhart. Soon the family moved to Dallas where Porter's father became associate editor, and later editor of The Baptist Standard, succeeding Dr. J. B. Gambrell.

The bearded Dr. Gambrell would place Porter on his knee and tell him dog stories. Dr. Wallace Bassett was Porter's pastor at Cliff Temple Church. Ramsey Pollard taught him in Sunday School. He would shag tennis balls for his father and "Hot Dog" Lee during their frequent games. M. A. Phillips and B. A. Copass were early influences on his life. His first brush with journalism was as a newspaper carrier for the Dallas Morning News and the old Dallas Journal.

Twice the family lived in El Paso and soaked up Spanish-American culture. There Porter became a Boy Scout and reached Eagle Scout rank.

Summer jobs during high school days at San Marcos Baptist Academy, San Marcos, Tex., and college years at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, were quite varied. Porter worked with threshing crews and ran disc plows in Central Texas, spent the summer as a soda jerk in Houston, worked for a year in an office of the Southern Pacific Railroad in Houston to earn money for college, sold Holland's magazines in Kentucky and Virginia, and worked as a counselor and swimming instructor at a YMCA camp near Houston.

At Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) he was editor of the campus paper, The Bison. He did publicity and public relations for the school, served as debate coach, and instructed classes in American government and history. He served one year as president of the student body.

Following his graduation, Routh was asked to take over the management of the OBU printing plant and direct publicity for the school. During the year and a half in this work two events of lasting importance occurred. The conversation with Dr. Scarborough in the print shop turned his life toward vocational religious service, and he and Ruth were married.

In preparation for the work they hoped to do in Shanghai they enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville. While there he edited *The Tie*, the seminary alumni publication, and did publicity for the school. He and a fellow student also established a publicity service-by-mail to pastors and other church workers, providing newspaper mats and publicity ideas for promoting church programs.

During this year at the seminary the Sino-Japanese War broke out. This slammed shut the gates to missionary service in China. At the suggestion of John W. Raley, who had become president of OBU, Routh then spent a year in graduate work in journalism at the University of Missouri. Then he returned to Shawnee to teach journalism and advertising, and to direct once again the public relations work of Oklahoma Baptist University. During this time he covered the 1939 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Oklahoma City on special assignment for *The Oklahoma City Times* and *The Daily Oklahoman*.

In 1940 Andrew Potter, executive secretary for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, asked him to become an associate in the Oklahoma Sunday School and Training Union department. From that point on, denominational jobs came fast. In 1942 he became secretary of promotion and Brotherhood for Oklahoma Baptists.

The next year when his father left *The Baptist Messenger* to become editor of *The Commission*, Porter was called to succeed his father on the Oklahoma state paper. Two years later he was asked by Dr. T. L. Holcomb to become the secretary of the department of survey, statistics and information at the SBC Sunday School Board. Nashville has been his home now for twenty-one years.

In 1946 he was elected senior secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, a non-staff position which automatically made him a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

At the age of 40 he was named Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Executive Committee, the central coordinating body for the denomination. The first layman in this top SBC post, he had only two predecessors in the office, Duke K. McCall and Austin Crouch.

The Executive Committee (currently made up of 58 members) makes recommendations to the Southern Baptist Convention concerning the programs, budgets, and areas of cooperation between Convention agencies, conducts the general work of public relations, arranges for the annual meeting of the Convention and acts for the Convention ad interim in areas not otherwise assigned. Routh has completed over 15 years heading up the Executive Committee staff and serving as the body's principle adviser.

He and Ruth have five children. Charles, who recently completed his Navy tour as a Lieutenant (j.g.), is a student of international law at Washington State University. Betsy (Mrs. Larry Green), the wife of a medical student, is an instructor in special education for the handicapped at Central State College, Edmond, Okla. Dorothy is a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia. Susan is in school in Nashville and Lelia is a freshman at Oklahoma Baptist University.

In addition to his many Baptist responsibilities, he has continued his interest in Scouting and is a member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is also a member of the Committee on Medicine and Religion of the American Medical Association; a member of the board of directors of Religion in American Life, Inc.; a director of the Church Executive Development Board; a Life Member of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society; and a member of the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance. He has traveled in 34 countries.

Standing six feet three inches tall and weighing 225 pounds, Dr. Routh has the physical stamina necessary to sustain a denominational leader constantly on the go. He has a sense of humor, fixes breakfast for his family, is a fair yard-man around the house, likes sports, is out-going, and has one absolutely essential quality in denominational executives: he can sit patiently and cheerfully through endless hours of conferences and meetings for days without number.

In September, 1966, when a 15th anniversary ceremony was sprung on him by members of the Executive Committee, many tributes were paid to him for his years of service to the cause of Christ.

One of them said, "Any way you measure Porter Routh he is a big man. He wears a size 46 coat, but it covers a heart that is 24,000 miles in circumference."

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CUTLINES

4/28/67

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

PORTER WROE ROUTH, a layman, is the chief administrative officer of the Southern Baptist Convention. For over fifteen years he has served as the executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. He will be the principal staff advisor during the sessions of the 1967 meeting of the Convention at Miami Beach, May 30-June 2. (BP) Photo

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