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BEST Study Warned Of Perils Of Not Accepting Federal Aid

NASHVILLE (BP)--If Baptist schools refuse to accept federal loans and grants, they "are likely to decline in financial strength while millions of Baptist tax dollars are spent to support and build quality in other institutions," a leading educator said here.

Charles G. Dobbins, executive secretary of the American Council on Higher Education in Washington, D. C., made the statement in the opening session of the four-day second national conference of the Baptist Education Study Task (BEST).

Dobbins, an active Baptist layman, said that while he had great respect for the convictions of those who oppose acceptance of federal funds for Baptist institutions, he personally could not agree.

"We do not quarrel with the use of tax dollars by the federal government to protect our lives and property in time of war, to build safer highways for our cars, or to safeguard our health and find solutions to disease," he declared.

"Private higher education," Dobbins added, "performs a public service second to none, and deserves support from tax dollars."

He predicted that sometime in the future, the federal government will provide general support for higher education.

"In whatever form, however, it is clear that the federal government will continue and expand its appropriations in support of higher education," Dobbins said. "This is a fact of life. There will be no turning back."

He qualified his statements, however, by saying he did not feel federal aid is the ideal solution. "I would like nothing better than to see a way for private colleges of all kinds to make their way without the necessity for state or federal assistance."

"Adequate support from business, foundations, alumni, and denominational sources would be my preference" because the very nature of federal grants tends to influence the institution's programs in directions it did not choose.

Dobbins also said there are pressures from the changes of society to broaden the scope and role of educational institutions "by moving so far into programs of national action (they) may risk being diverted from their primary purposes as centers of learning."

This pressure especially affects the church school he said, quoting the leader of one denomination as saying: "By trying to be both church and college, college ends up being neither."

He countered later, however, that private colleges really have a greater opportunity for being creative in improving quality education than public schools because they do not have the restrictions of the legislatures.

"Yet for the most part our Baptist colleges are content to be imitations--and at times weak imitations--of other institutional patterns... Thus we have failed to enter a door of educational opportunity that has been left wide open to us," he said.

Just before Dobbins spoke, the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission, Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, told the 300 Baptist leaders not to get the idea that the question of federal aid to Baptist schools was the only problem the conference was considering.

"Federal aid is only one part of the problem of financing Baptist high r education, and that is only one of six other major subject areas in which the conference will seek to solve problems," Brantley said. The Southern Baptist Education Commission he directs is sponsoring the two-year BEST project, aimed at pinpointing and solving the problems of Baptist higher education.

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'Spree Drinking' Subject 543
Of Special Alcohol Study

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WASHINGTON (BP)--What are the behavior patterns of alcoholics while they are drunk? Do they drink more when alone or in a group? Are they willing to perform useful work to obtain alcohol?

These and other questions will be studied by two Boston institutions with the aid of funds made available by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The Harvard Medical School and the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals have received a \$205,008 grant to support the first year of a three-year study, according to announcement by Stanley F. Yolles, M.D., director of NIMH.

This is one of the first new grants awarded by the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Alcoholism, recently established within NIMH. The center will provide support totaling \$564,409 over three years.

The reserach, to be conducted at Boston City Hospital, is one of the first studies to focus on observations of the drinking behavior of chronic alcoholics while they are drunk.

Male volunteers, 30 to 45 years of age, with at least a five-year history of spree drinking will be selected to participate in the study.

The National Center for the Prevention and Control of Alcoholism was established within NIMH to coordiante all Public Health Service research, training and program development in the field of alcoholism.

In addition, the center encourages and supports alcohol research in universities and other research facilities. The center conducts research in its own laboratories but it does not have treatment programs.

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Student Conference Draws
Over 1,050 To Ridgecrest

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RIDGECREST, N.C.(BP)--More than 1,050 college students heard 18 Baptist leaders and laymen drive home the point that Christian love demands social action in addresses during the 41st annual Baptist Student Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist assembly here.

In a series of forums, discussions, lectures, and worship services, the students and leaders confronted the theme of the week, "Unto The Least of These."

William M. Dyal Jr., director of the Peace Corps in Columbia, South America, told student that, although we live in a radical new context, the world is hurting from "old, old problems" those of identity, purpose, and meaning in life.

Dyal said that Christians are called to become concerned about what God is doing in our day, to "salvation from the shoddiness which is an insult to God."

Students questioned the ethic of Christian love as it relates to issues current on campuses. Typical questions were: "What's the difference between Christian self-fulfillment and the kind proposed by the new morality?" "How do I get started in meeting human needs?" and "What's the role of the church in all this?"

Charles Emerson Boddie, president of American Baptist College of the Bible and American Seminary, Nashville, said that human nature becomes fulfilled as it creates the possibility for fulfillment in other human natures. The formula, need plus ability equals call, is the burden of those who have a vision of human need, he explained.

In his address "The Church in Courageous Involvement," Duke K. McCall, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said that the church "belongs in the world, right in the middle of it, in all of it. 'But you get into trouble,' he said, 'when the world gets into the church.'"

The conference, sponsored by the student department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, was directed by David K. Alexander, secretary of the department

Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly is one of two summer assemblies owned and operated by the Sunday School Board.

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