

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director**REGIONAL OFFICES**

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAUBAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

June 22, 1967 570

House Votes 385 To 16
To Ban Flag Mutilation

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. House of Representatives has passed with an overwhelming majority and sent to the Senate a measure that would make it a federal crime to desecrate the United States flag.

Angered by recent flag-burning incidents, the House voted 385 to 16 to make it a federal offense punishable by a \$1000 fine or a year in prison to "cast contempt" upon the flag "by publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling or trampling upon it."

The action took place following an emotion-charged debate on the necessity for such legislation. Some members of the House questioned the wisdom and constitutionality of the bill. A few said it was an unwise attempt to put down dissent on the war in Vietnam.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.), who had voted the bill out of committee for action on the floor, voted against the bill in the final showdown. Earlier, Celler had called it "a bad bill" and said he doubted its constitutionality.

Rep. Roy A. Taylor (D., N.C.) told the House that it was "a disappointing state of national affairs" that legislation of this type was needed but that it seemed necessary "to curb a minority group of misguided Americans who do not yet know the meaning of citizenship or patriotism."

"It is time for patriotic people to speak out," he urged, saying, "the voice of America must not be that of the pacifist, unpatriotic minority."

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D., N.Y.) raised one of the lone voices against the bill, questioning its constitutionality and the ability of Congress to legislate respect for the flag.

"Tolerance of dissent--even of irrational dissent--is at the very heart of our form of government. To compromise that tolerance--as this measure would--is to weaken that which we should strengthen," he said.

"What disturbs me more than anything else," Rosenthal continued, "is that because a couple of kids in Central Park (New York City) engaged in what seems to me a rather stupid act, the whole foundation of this nation is shaking to the point that we are spending an entire afternoon enacting a bill of this type."

Rep. John Buchanan (R., Ala.) said there is no more forceful way for the American people to speak than through an act of Congress. "This body has the right and the duty to protect our flag. In passing this resolution we are saying, we love our country, we honor our flag," he declared.

On the calmer side, Rep. James H. Scheuer (D., N.Y.) said that Congress did not need "to rise to meet the bait of every irresponsible who finds a new way of making a bloody fool out of himself."

A member of the judiciary committee, Rep. Don Edwards (D., Calif.), said he was against the bill because it is unconstitutional and "bad for the country."

"In addition," he told the House, "our national image as a nation where free speech is protected would not be improved when it is pointed out internationally that seven months ago the Soviet Union amended its criminal code to include a statute much like the proposed legislation."

When supporters of the bill discussed possibilities of stiffer penalties for offenders, Rep. James A. Haley (D., Fla.) said they should "load a boat full of them and take them about 500 miles out in the ocean, handcuff them, chain the anchor around their neck and throw them overboard and tell them to swim to any country that they want to whose flag they can respect."

June 22, 1967

2

Baptist Press 168

571
Writers' Conference
Set For Glorieta

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Instruction by noted authors and fellowship with other Christian writers will be the highlights of the annual Writers' Conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly Aug. 3-9.

The daily program will include lectures designed to offer background and inspiration, workshop sessions, round table discussions and interviews.

Awards in the annual Glorieta Writers' Conference Competition will be presented for the best short story, magazine article, juvenile story and poetry.

Featured personalities at the conference will include Mrs. Rebecca Caudill Ayers of Urbana, Ill., author of juvenile books; Howard P. Colson, director of editorial services of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department; Robert Y. Drake Jr., professor of English at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Others will be Ralph Hone, professor of English at the University of Redlands, Calif., and Robert Root, professor of journalism at Syracuse (N.Y.) University.

Workshop sessions will discuss the writing of fiction, magazine articles, children's literature, poetry and curriculum materials.

The conference is sponsored by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville. Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of the board, is conference director.