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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 29, 1967

Ervin Deplores Inaction
On Judicial Review Bill

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.), in a speech before the U.S. Senate, deplored the inaction of the House of Representatives on the judicial review bill which the Senate passed unanimously earlier this year.

The legislation, now pending in the House Judiciary Committee, would allow court tests of the constitutionality of federal loans and grants to church-related institutions.

Ervin told his fellow senators that in the last eight months evidence of the need for this bill and public support for it have "snowballed."

He called the Senate's attention to a recent decision by a three-judge federal court in New York which dismissed a taxpayer's suit challenging the dispersal of federal funds to church-related schools. The New York court held that taxpayers do not have sufficient interest in any one program to have "standing to sue."

It is the "standing to sue" that the judicial review bill would provide. "It should be clear by now," Ervin said, "that the courts will not act until Congress removes the procedural barrier standing in their way."

Sen. Ervin said the House need only to look at its own "vitriolic religious debate" over federal aid to education during May "to realize the consequences of leaving the federal courts with their hands tied."

"We can never end this divisiveness in our society until we give the courts the authority to perform their most important function--that of deciding great constitutional issues," Ervin continued.

The Southern Baptist Convention passed a resolution on this matter in annual convention earlier this summer.

Among other things, the SBC resolution urged Congress "to enact legislation which would help clarify responsibility of the judiciary to interpret the meaning of the United States Constitution for separation of church and state, including constitutionality of federal funds in church-sponsored programs."

The chief opponents in the House of Representatives to the judicial review bill, according to sources on Capitol Hill who asked not to be quoted, are Rep. Emanuel Celler (D., N.Y.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. John W. McCormack (D., Mass.), speaker of the House, and Rep. Hale Boggs (D., La.) chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Celler is reported to have promised to hold hearings on the measure after several other hearings have been completed.

The judicial review bill, sponsored in the House by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D., N.Y.) would give three classes the right to court tests on the basis of First Amendment provisions. They are:

1. Any public or other nonprofit agency or institution whose accessibility to loans or grants is reduced because of aids to church-related agencies;
2. Any citizen or group of citizens who have paid income taxes the previous year who feel that such loans or grants violate the First Amendment; and
3. Any public or nonprofit institution or agency whose application for federal aids has been rejected on First Amendment grounds.

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The nine acts of Congress affected by the judicial review bill are: The Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963, Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, Title II of the Act of September 30, 1950 (Public Law 874, Eighty-First Congress), the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Cooperative Research Act, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

Special provision of the bill is that if any portion of an act of Congress is ruled unconstitutional this will not affect the remainder of the act. Neither can all federal programs be brought to a halt until court decisions are made.

The passage of a judicial review bill does not make it mandatory for the courts to hear such cases. It does, however, give strong legislative precedent and encouragement to the courts. Many advocates of the bill feel that if it is enacted the courts will give ear to such constitutional tests.

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Church Votes For Two Snows *587*
On Hot Sunday During June

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PINE BLUFF, Ark. (BP)--Members of South Side Baptist Church here voted unanimously in favor of two snows on the same day this summer.

On one Sunday, the church employed Paul Snow as minister of education and youth at the church, and named Ruffin Snow as a summer staff assistant.

The pastor of the church, Tal D. Bonham, commented that two snows really make a summer in hot Arkansas.

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Indiana Church Names *588*
Inner City Missionaries

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By Al Shackelford

NEW ALBANY, Ind. (BP)--A new and unique approach to evangelizing the inner city has been launched here by the Graceland Baptist Church.

The church has named two "missionaries to the inner city," both students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., who will live in the heart of the city and try to minister to the needs of the people without an institutional church type approach.

Jackson Oliver, a seminary student from Covington, Ky., will live in the Federal Housing Project near downtown New Albany.

Larry Carter, another Southern student from Decatur, Ill., will live in a rented house in a low income part of the downtown area.

"These will not be conventional type missions," according to Graceland's pastor, Elvis Marcum. "The homes of these missionaries will be the center of activity."

Marcum emphasized that this is to be a creative approach to missions.

"Our concern is to minister to the needs of the community. These may never become permanent churches--or even preaching stations," he added.

"This new concept of missions is really inexpensive," Marcum observed. "We always thought you couldn't help people until you found a preacher, rented an auditorium, and bought a piano," he said.

"Under this plan, the students home will be used for Bible study, youth meetings, or anything else needed in the community."

Marcum feels that by living with the people and ~~knowing~~ the people personally, the student can then adapt his ministry directly to the individual needs.

One possibility being explored is a two-day-a-week Vacation Bible School that would last all summer. Other new innovations are also being considered.

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"It is not our concern to build a permanent church. Our concern is to present Christ to the people of that community," Marcum said.

Two additional students will be added by August 1.

For over a year the church members have discussed what could be done to evangelize New Albany. They had prayed and pledged themselves to try to win a city.

Marcum shared his concerns with southeastern area missionary, Eldon Jones, and together they divided the city into 10 units. Eventually, a seminary student will be living in and ministering to each of these.

Marcum and Jones approached Kenneth Chafin, evangelism professor at Southern Seminary, and he added the "live right with the people" concept.

Chafin began to select students for this pilot project. Joseph Stiles, director of field work at the seminary arranged for some student pastoral aid.

Marcum found overwhelming response when he talked with the city's mayor and head of the housing authority.

"In fact, everywhere we've turned we have met with enthusiasm," he said. "This convinced us of God's leadership."

A church in Kentucky heard about the project and pledged \$75.00 per month for a year.

The "New Albany Project" will also serve as a laboratory for Chafin's courses on ministering to the inner city. He will meet weekly with the participating students.

The New Albany project is sponsored, not only by Graceland Baptist Church, but is also being assisted by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Southeastern Baptist Association of the Indiana convention; the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and by other churches in the area.

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Two Catholic Nuns Speak
At Baptist Prayer Service

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Two Catholic nuns were "warmly received" when they spoke to the Shawnee Baptist Church here about a Catholic ministry to Baptists attending a school for juvenile delinquent girls.

The pastor of the church, Don Whitehouse, called it "one of the most impressive Wednesday night prayer services we've ever had at the church."

One of the nuns called it "an experience I'll never forget."

The two nuns and two Catholic laymen who accompanied them prayed, ate, and worshipped together with the Baptists before the informal speeches by the two nuns.

The nuns told about the work of the Maryhurst School in Louisville, where 18 of the 50 girls enrolled are Baptists. Theme of the service was "A Catholic Ministry to Baptists."

Speakers were Sister Anna Joseph, administrator of the Maryhurst School here, and Sister Mary Patrice, first directress of the school. Both are members of the Order of the Good Shepherd.

Whitehouse said that the response of the church was "very wholesome," that there was no criticism on the part of the church members for his inviting the nuns to speak, and that the church members were "tremendously impressed by the nuns."

Prior to the speeches by the two nuns, there was a family night dinner with the Catholics and Baptists eating together.

During a prayer period, the two nuns and laymen prayed with the Baptists as they sat around the dinner table. Sister Anna Joseph said she was tremendously impressed by the sincerity and the practical nature of the service. "It was such a meaningful thing."

In her prayer, the nun said: "Thank God that at last we are doing what you always wanted us to do."

"Ten years ago," said Sister Anna Joseph, "we wouldn't have been asked, nor could we have gone to such a Baptist service."

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Whitehouse said that the service went over well, not because of ecumenical reasons, but because the Baptist church members had become concerned about meeting the needs of the girls who have real problems and are thus attending the Catholic school.

"Personally, I'm not a proponent of the organized ecumenical movement, and neither are the people of the church," Whitehouse said.

He observed that the Catholics were so well received because of the openness of the members of his church to new ideas. "They'll receive anyone who comes in Christian love," he said.

Whitehouse said he had never heard of Catholic nuns speaking in a Baptist church before, and said it might even be a "first" for the Southern Baptist Convention. This, however, was not the motivation for the invitation, he said.

The Baptist pastor said that there was a spirit of mutual concern for the needs of the girls attending the school, and he wanted the Catholic nuns to tell his church members how they could better minister to the needs of these girls.

In her speech, Sister Anna Joseph urged the Baptist church members to take a personal interest in the girls attending the school, to invite them into their homes, and to show them the joys of Christian family life. Most of the girls come from broken homes and are referred to the school by court order because of truancy from home or school.

One of the house parents at the school, Phillip Childers, is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

In closing her speech, the nun read a letter from a former student at the school who had graduated and now is working at a bank. The letter expressed appreciation of the sisters for their concern for her when she really needed help.

Ironically, the girl had been a member of the Shawnee Baptist Church.

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--By Jim Newton