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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

450 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2386
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

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Crusade of the Americas
Tops in Scope of Plans

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptists are putting more planning time, money, and energy into "The Crusade of the Americas" than in any similar project in their history, according to Albert McClellan of Nashville, Tenn.

"If all the actions planned by all the program leaders of all the (Southern Baptist Convention) agencies were listed it would take a stack of paper four feet high," McClellan told a two-day joint meeting of the Crusade committee and the evangelism secretaries of the Baptist state conventions.

The Crusade is an evangelism effort scheduled for 1969 by Baptist groups throughout the western hemisphere. McClellan is program planning secretary for the SBC Executive Committee.

"A great deal more time and energy has gone into the planning for this project than went into the planning of the 75 Million Campaign, "A Million More (in Sunday School) in '54," and the Baptist Jubilee Advance," McClellan said.

Projects being planned in connection with the Crusade include an evangelism congress in the Fall of 1968; widespread television programming among the states and nationally; lay retreats, an emphasis on prayer by the Baptist Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union; an exchange of Baptist personnel between states and between countries; followed by simultaneous revival meetings in 1969.

Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the SBC Crusade committee and coordinator for the United States and Canada, called for ways to dramatize the evangelism effort nationally, but also enlist the support of the Baptist in the pew.

C. E. Autrey, evangelism secretary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and his staff were designated to develop brochures, bulletins, plan books and program materials to support the evangelism campaign.

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Keener Pharr Moves To
New Board Position

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Keener Pharr, director of the field services section in the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department since 1959, on Aug. 7 joined the staff of the board's education division.

Pharr assumed the newly created position of coordinator of cooperative promotion planning. According to W. O. Thomason, assistant director of the education division, Pharr will coordinate the common efforts of Southern Baptist Convention agencies to provide better approaches for planning cooperatively with state conventions.

The SBC inter-agency council in its March meeting affirmed the recommendation of its coordinating subcommittee that cooperative promotion planning be the means through which better correlation of field services resources may be effected.

Pharr will represent the various boards and agencies involved in developing this new approach.

A native Alabaman, Pharr went to the board's Sunday School department staff eight years ago from the position of minister of education at First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., where he had served since 1951.

Earlier, he served as minister of education at South Avondale and First Baptist churches Birmingham, and at White Settlement Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Tex.

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Pharr is a graduate of Samford (Baptist) University, Birmingham, Ala., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he received a master of religious education degree.

He is a past president of both the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association and the Southeastern Baptist Religious Education Association. He served this year as vice president of the Southwestern Baptist Religious Education Association.

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Note to Baptist state editors: BP photo of Pharr being mailed separately.

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House Approves Bill For Commission On Obscenity 693

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives passed a bill to create a 16-member federal commission on obscenity and pornography.

Earlier this year the Senate passed a similar bill. The two proposals will now be considered by a conference committee between the House and the Senate to iron out the differences before final approval by both houses of Congress.

The commission, to be appointed by the President of the United States, after nominations from both the Senate and the House will report its findings and recommendations on or before January 31, 1970.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Dominick Daniels (D., N.J.). It was unanimously presented to the House by the House Committee on Education and Labor.

During the debate in the House no voice of opposition was raised against the bill.

The House-passed bill takes special caution not to create a "board of censorship," according to Daniels. Speaker after speaker said they favored the bill because it provided a vehicle to investigate pornography without violating the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

The commission when established, if the House version prevails, will be authorized to do four things:

- 1. Analyze laws and evaluate and recommend definitions of obscenity and pornography;
- 2. Study the methods, volume and traffic in obscene materials;
- 3. Study the relationship of such materials to crime and anti-social behavior; and
- 4. Recommend legislative, administrative and other action to regulate the flow of such traffic "without in any way interfering with constitutional rights."

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Religious Leaders Urge Fair Housing Measure 694

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Representatives for three major religious bodies have appealed to Congress to enact legislation that would "defuse the ghettos" by making housing available to all Americans on an equal basis.

Spokesmen for the United States Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches and the Synagogue Council of America in a joint statement to a Senate judiciary subcommittee said:

"Society will be disrupted for all of us, and the country will be divided into two irreconcilable groups dominated by frustration and fear and ignorance unless the United States Congress is prepared to take the lead in supporting decisive measures to make housing available to all Americans on a free and equal basis."

The Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights is considering administration proposals to ban discrimination in housing, employment and jury selection.

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In addition, the proposed bill provides for an extension of the life of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and prescribes federal penalties for interfering with persons exercising their constitutional rights.

The section on housing would ban "discrimination on account of race, color, religion or national origin in the purchase, rental, financing, and occupancy of housing throughout the United States."

Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D., N.C.), who says he is opposed to the bill, is chairman of the subcommittee considering the proposals.

The joint statement of the religious leaders urged Congress not to regard these civil rights matters as being "reactive" to the pressure of temporary events, but to see them as "responsive to the deepest and most enduring aspirations of men."

Msgr. George C. Higgins of the U.S. Catholic Conference, who presented the statement, said that the civil rights bill under consideration is more important than ever in the wake of incidents of violence and rioting in the country.

"We do not, however, want to be misunderstood in this respect," the Catholic spokesman said. "We do not urge this bill as a reward for riots, which no civilized and concerned person or group can rightfully condone," he stressed.

The religious leaders attributed this summer's riots to "a sense of entrapment, inequality and injustice" that dwells in the ghettos and inner city slums.

"If we cannot achieve the just society, then all of us, both the oppressors and the oppressed, live as less than men and the whole fabric of civilization is in danger," they urged.

The Catholic, Protestant and Jewish spokesmen affirmed the necessity for the bill "not only to safeguard the rights of minority groups, but to secure the balance and stability that comes only with the full realization of justice."

Presenting the statement with Msgr. Higgins were Gayraud S. Wilmore Jr., of the National Council of Churches and Marvin Braiterman of the Synagogue Council of America.

A spokesman for another religious group, John M. Wells of the Unitarian Universalist Association, deplored the necessity for another civil rights bill because, he said "Another bill is an insult to fairness and justice in this land in which we live."

No other group of citizens in our society has had to have special enactment to enjoy the full benefit under the Constitution, he continued. "I think it is indeed tragic that this bill is necessary; but tragically, it is," he said.

The Civil Rights Bill of 1967 was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Philip A. Hart (D., Mich.). He is joined in co-sponsoring it by several senators, both Democrats and Republicans.

A similar bill was passed by the House last year but died in the Senate.