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Fair Housing Laws Urged
In Solving Urban Crisis

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D., Minn.) has called on congress to use every effort and resource at its command to push for speedy enactment of legislation to end discrimination in housing.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Mondale said that in this time of "major social disaster" there is an urgency to fair housing legislation that "transcends most other domestic concerns."

The Minnesota senator has introduced a bill which he says would enable every American to buy a decent home wherever he wishes in a neighborhood of his choice in accordance with his income level and personal desires and needs.

The Mondale proposal, which is a part of the administration's Omnibus Civil Rights Bill, would make it the "policy of the United States to prevent discrimination on account of race, religion, or national origin in the purchase, rental, financing and occupancy of housing throughout the United States.

The Senate housing, banking and currency subcommittee has opened hearings on the bill.

In the present grave social crisis the American people are faced with two fundamental choices, Mondale explained. "They can either choose to suppress the violence and ghettos with whatever force may be necessary, and convert those ghettos into concentration camps--or they can choose to insist upon law and order and also take immediate action to isolate the underlying causes for rioting and obliterate them," he challenged.

Fair housing alone is not a solution to riots and ghettos, Mondale continued. But it is "an absolutely indispensable part" of any overall solution to our growing urban crisis.

Mondale explained that his bill was not a response to recent riots and that it was only a first step in correcting urban problems. "While it is only a step, that step must be taken for without it no other effort will bear fruit," he warned.

When the subcommittee opened hearings on the fair housing proposal, the senator told them that failure to end housing discrimination will only strengthen black racists who preach hate and violence.

The Mondale and the original administration proposal would seek to end housing discrimination in three stages.

Until Dec. 31, 1967, coverage would generally be limited to housing already covered by an executive order of 1962 and Title of VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

These two ban discrimination in nearly all housing owned by the federal government or financially assisted by it--such as housing built with mortgages insured by the federal housing administration, urban renewal housing and public housing.

On Jan. 1, 1968, coverage would be extended to single-family dwellings not occupied by the owner as well as housing occupied by five or more families, such as apartment buildings.

On Jan. 1, 1969, all other housing would come under the law.

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The Fair housing bill is a part of the Omnibus Civil Rights Bill being considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee of which Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D., N.C.) is chairman. That committee is moving so slowly that the Omnibus Bill is given little chance of reaching the Senate floor

The housing section of the Civil Rights Bill was introduced separately hoping that the banking and currency subcommittee would act quickly to endorse the measure and bring it to the Senate floor for debate.

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Baptist Pastor To Teach
Theology In Catholic School

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--A Louisville Baptist pastor, Victor L. Priebe, has been selected as one of the first two non-Catholics to teach theology at Bellarmine College, a four year Roman Catholic school in Louisville. The other non-Catholic is Herbert S. Waller, Rabbi of Congregation Adath Israel in Louisville. Waller will teach a course in the history of Judaic thought.

Priebe has been pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church since September 1965, and will remain pastor while teaching the one course at Bellarmine.

When the invitation came from Bellarmine, it was so near the beginning of the fall semester that there was little time to counsel and discuss the matter with the Buechel Park congregation. Pastor Priebe presented the matter to the deacons and to members of the personnel committee. The idea met with ready approval of this group which wanted to make the announcement to the congregation for the pastor.

The pastor thinks some negative reactions might come, but he regards the offer as an excellent opportunity to give a witness of the Baptist faith and viewpoint.

"I am quite excited about it," said Priebe, "because I think the need for more dialogue among the various church groups is overdue."

Priebe said he does not favor organic union of Baptists with other faiths, but believes in an underlying unity of all Christian faiths based on what Christ has done. "Protestants and Roman Catholics are witnessing to this same event," says Priebe. Teaching in a Catholic college offers an opportunity to witness to this basic unity which is God-made in Christ and not man-made, the Buechel Park pastor believes.

There will be no restrictions whatsoever on the content and conduct of his course except those demanded by academic quality. In his course he expects to use sources such as Luther, Calvin and other protestant thinkers.

Priebe thinks this will be interesting and valuable material for Catholic students who ordinarily would not have been introduced to it previously.

This freedom for the Baptist pastor and his course was confirmed by Father John Loftus, academic dean at Bellarmine, who says he chose Priebe because of his high academic qualifications and his personal qualities. Loftus regards the appointment of Priebe as a dramatic gesture in ecumenical relations which is a direct result of the Second Vatican Council. "Before the council this could not have happened," says Loftus. The dean also feels Baptists have been influenced by the spirit of Pope John XXIII, and he doubts if a Southern Baptist would have accepted such an invitation three years ago.

Loftus has received only approval in all reactions so far to the appointment of a Baptist pastor to the Bellarmine faculty. This has also been true of Priebe's experience. Loftus, like Priebe, expects some criticism, but says he is not worried. He feels such a move is in the spirit of the times and will be generally welcomed locally and the world over.

Priebe has a Th.M. degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He also has a B.A. from Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S. D.; an M.A. in history from the University of Louisville and a Ph.D. in church history and historical theology from Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Rabbi Waller is also a graduate of Southern Seminary, having a Th.D degree. He is well known in the Louisville community for civic and religious services.

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Chicago Zoning Board
Denies Church Permit

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CHICAGO (BP)--The Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals has denied a zoning variation to permit the Midwest Baptist Chapel to meet in a former bank building.

Alderman Casimar Staszuk, in announcing the denial, said the church would reduce the value of adjacent properties and that parking was available for only five cars.

The Midwest Chapel, meeting in a temporary location, is sponsored by the Northwest Baptist Church. Claude Kelly is pastor of the church and Gerald Overholt serves as pastor of the chapel.

Overholt said members of the chapel felt the bank building would be ideal for church use, and had an agreement with the owners to purchase it and a 25-foot adjacent strip for \$37,500.

He said the alderman and key businessmen agreed that a church would upgrade the neighborhood. The building has not been used in several years, and improvements, including sand-blasting the front, were planned.

Opposition developed. According to Overholt those opposing said the Southern Baptist Convention was a "Southern" organization identified with Negroes. A rumor was circulated that Mahalia Jackson was purchasing the building and the statement was made that churches, not paying taxes, were "like garbage cans throughout the city."

The point was made that there were already 58 churches in the 13th ward, but Overholt countered by saying he counted 65 bars in a 24-block area of 63rd street. The bank building is on 63rd.

The chapel's attorney, William R. Verhuel, Overholt and Kelly testified at the hearing. Overholt said the chapel group has not decided whether to appeal the decision.

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Sunday School Board Editor
To Confer With Japanese

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Ernest L. Hollaway Jr., an editor with the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, will leave for Japan Aug. 29 to confer with the Church School department of the Japan Baptist Convention.

Hollaway, editor of young people lesson courses, will attend conferences in Tokyo, Nagasaki and Kitakyushu City to discuss the Japanese Church School curriculum and department publications. Hollaway was a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan from 1949-66 and worked with the curriculum program. All work on his trip will be done in Japanese.

In Tokyo, Hollaway will first meet with the Church School department staff for three days to help evaluate current publications. He will then assist the curriculum committee in planning its next six-year program. The current curriculum series ends in 1971.

The committee, a lay group from throughout Japan, will meet for three days. A three-day writers' conference will end Hollaway's Tokyo schedule.

On the southern island of Kyushu, Hollaway will attend two teachers' conferences. The first, a special conference for teachers of nursery and beginner pupils, will be followed by a general area teacher's conference.

Hollaway will return from the trip, paid for by the Foreign Mission Board, on Sept. 24.

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C O R R E C T I O N

Editors, note the correction in the Baptist Press story on Arkansas special committee report.

Graph 11 - \$821,932 were allocated the Southern Baptist Convention (rather than College, as sent) for world missions.

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