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Georgia Baptists To Study
Education, School Mergers

ATLANTA (BP)--The Education Commission of the Georgia Baptist Convention has been asked to call in professional help to make an urgent study of the convention's entire program of Christian higher education, with a view to possible merger or consolidation of some colleges.

The action was taken by the convention's Executive Committee, meeting in quarterly session in Atlanta. The vote followed an afternoon session devoted entirely to a discussion of the financial problems facing Georgia's six Baptist colleges.

W. Robert Jackson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dalton, Ga., made the motion calling for the special study, with the hope that some definite recommendations would come within the next 12 months.

The Executive Committee had earlier heard Rufus C. Harris, president of Mercer University at Macon, Ga., make an impassioned plea for the convention to "take a hard look" at its college situation.

Harris said this hard look should determine (1) "how the total of Georgia Baptist monies for the colleges may be enlarged or, failing that, (2) how the number of participants may be decreased or (3) consider some merger arrangements."

Harris also said Georgia Baptists might need to cut back on their gifts to Southern Baptist Convention causes to meet the financial plight of their colleges.

He said: "Everyone actively favors all of the causes. But if our home causes are imperiled, as the Georgia Baptist colleges are presently imperiled, some new arrangements would seem appropriate."

Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary of the Georgia Baptist Convention, disagreed with Harris, as did presidents of the other five Georgia Baptist colleges.

All said, in essence, that the colleges must live within their incomes and that a proper balance must be maintained between school needs and other causes in the Cooperative Program.

In other actions, the Executive Committee authorized Norman Junior College in Norman Park, Ga., to borrow up to \$400,000 to erect a new library building. Norman was also authorized to re-negotiate an \$800,000 loan under which it is erecting two new dormitories.

The committee also approved preliminary plans for a fund-raising campaign for Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta to erect a 250-bed hospital addition which Administrator Edwin B. Peel said would probably cost about \$6 million. The hospital hopes to raise at least one-third of that amount and borrow the rest from commercial sources.

The committee also approved a 1968 Cooperative Program budget of \$4,937,400, an increase of \$531,260 over the 1967 budget. After deduction of \$541,200 in administrative and promotion expenses, the budget would be divided on a 50-50 basis with Georgia and SBC causes.

Biggest increases in the budget are for the six Georgia Baptist colleges.

The Executive Committee adopted a proposal of J. Robert Smith, president of the convention, to "give strong endorsement to statements by Garrison opposing legalization of gambling in Georgia, and urge the state legislature to strengthen laws against gambling in any form."

A committee of the Georgia General Assembly is currently conducting hearings on pari-mutuel betting and had grilled Garrison in a widely-publicized hearing in Atlanta.

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U.S. Asks Dismissal of Suit
Protesting Church-School Aid

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A top administration official has asked the Supreme Court to dismiss the appeal of a group of New York taxpayers who are challenging the constitutionality of certain expenditures under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Acting Solicitor General Ralph S. Spritzer moved to dismiss the appeal on grounds that the lawsuit challenged the ESEA "in the abstract" rather than on the local level as it specifically applies to a particular program.

The taxpayers, representing the American Jewish Congress, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the United Federation of Teachers and the United Parents Association, are seeking a ruling against the use of any public funds to aid church-related schools under the ESEA.

The appellants claim that federal funds have been used to finance guidance service and instruction in reading, writing and other subjects in religiously operated schools.

They allege that if these expenditures are authorized by the ESEA then the statute to that extent constitutes a "law respecting an establishment of religion" and a law "prohibiting the free exercise thereof" in violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

In a two to one decision, the District Court in New York dismissed the citizens' complaint, citing a 1923 Supreme Court ruling that federal taxpayers lack the legal standing to bring such court actions.

In dismissing the lawsuit, the lower court said that although the 1923 rule has been criticized the case has never been overruled or limited by the Supreme Court.

Spritzer said in his brief to the Supreme Court that the New York case was not "an appropriate occasion" to depart from the 1923 rule.

The citizens claim that their appeal to the high court presents a single question: Do citizens and taxpayers of the U.S. have standing to challenge in the federal courts an expenditure of federal funds on the ground that it is in violation of the establishment and free exercise provisions of the First Amendment?

The lawsuit has significance, the appeal states, partly because it could be a key to the judicial resolution of a question of national importance--the constitutional application of certain parts of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Title I of the ESEA authorizes federal financial support for special educational programs for educationally deprived children in areas where low income families are concentrated. Under this, funds are made available to public local education agencies.

A section of the act includes the provision of special educational services (such as dual enrollment, educational radio and TV and mobile education services) for children enrolled in nonpublic schools.

U.S. Commissioner of Education Harold Howe II has said that the courts would have to clarify what federally-financed services could be given to students in church-related schools.

"Without court rulings," Howe said, "federal and state education agencies will continue to have problems."

A bill providing for judicial review of the ESEA and certain other acts of Congress has passed the Senate twice without opposition. It is now bottled up in the House Judiciary Committee where little support chokes its chances of getting to the House floor for action.

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Report Condemns Treatment
Of Alcoholics As 'Sinners'

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By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--A report issued by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the U.S. Public Health Service condemns treating alcoholics as sinners and criminals and claims that such attitudes and practices have little value in curing victims of alcohol.

Declaring that methods of dealing with alcoholism have been shockingly inadequate, Secretary John W. Gardner of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) said:

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"The atmosphere of moral disapproval surrounding the entire subject and the deplorable custom of treating alcoholics as sinners or criminals have obscured the nature of the problem."

Alcoholism is now recognized as an illness, the secretary continued, "no more moral or immoral than tuberculosis or pneumonia or schizophrenia."

Gardner's conclusions are in the foreword to the institute's new publication on alcohol and alcoholism.

The report reviews the present knowledge of alcohol; the nature and extent of drinking problems; the identification, treatment and prevention of alcoholism; and the status of current research.

On the treatment of alcoholism, the report states:

"In the past, alcoholics have been admonished, scolded, denounced, jailed, beaten, ducked, lashed and treated with eternal damnation." There is no evidence that any of these measures has had significant therapeutic value for more than an occasional alcoholic, it says.

Available evidence seems to demonstrate, the report continues, that long-lasting results can be achieved primarily through psychotherapy.

The institute estimates, from its survey of the scientific literature and reports from such sources as the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies, that the alcoholism risk rate among drinkers is about 5.6 per cent, or one in 18.

Although alcoholism obviously does not occur without alcohol, the publication points out that "alcohol can no more be considered the sole cause of alcoholism than marriage can be considered the sole cause of divorce, or the tubercle bacillus the sole cause of tuberculosis."

In general, the report states, research has shown that for groups who use alcohol to a significant degree, the lowest incidence of alcoholism is associated with such habits and attitudes as these:

- * There is usually early exposure to small, diluted quantities of alcoholic beverages within a strong family or religious group.
- * Alcoholic beverages are considered mainly as foods and consumed with meals.
- * No moral importance is attached to drinking. It is not viewed as proof of virility.
- * It is not thought necessary to drink. Abstinence is socially acceptable.
- * Excessive drinking and intoxication are not socially acceptable. Ground rules for drinking are clearly understood by everyone.

The report does not advocate that children should learn to drink, but that they should learn "about drinking."

Other highlights of the report are:

- * Alcohol appears to be involved--although not necessarily the cause--in at least 50 per cent and perhaps as many as 87 per cent of fatal traffic accidents.
- * The amount of a beverage consumed appears to be less important than how, when and why it is drunk.
- * There is no proof that early exposure to alcohol leads to alcoholism, and the best preventive approach may be "educating individuals to drink safely or not at all."

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Ray Named Texas
Stewardship Director

9/13/67

DALLAS (BP)--Cecil A. Ray, 44, was elected director of the Stewardship Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas here by the convention's Executive Board.

Ray, who has served as secretary of the convention's Cooperative Program and church finance department for the past six years, will succeed O.D. Martin, 68, who is retiring from the post he has held since Aug. 1, 1962.

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In his new work, Ray will coordinate the convention's stewardship program on a state-wide level, said Charles McLaughlin, secretary of the State Missions Commission of which the division is a part.

Ray will provide overall administration of the work of the endowment and capital giving department and the Cooperative Program and church finance department.

Ray will assume his new position Jan. 1, 1968.

Before assuming his present post, Ray served as superintendent of missions for the San Antonio Baptist Association, 1955-61. He also has served as pastor in several Texas churches.

He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, (Baptist) Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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New Committee To Operate
Texas Church Loan Board

9/13/67

DALLAS (BP)--A special committee to be named by the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas will soon be appointed to assume the management and responsibility of the convention's Church Loan Association.

The request came jointly from A. B. White, executive vice president, and members of the Church Loan Board, and was made to the 192-Executive Board meeting here. White revealed his agency was under investigation by an evaluation group.

He pointed out that criticism had been leveled against the loan association's operation and that establishment of the committee will enable "the truth to come to light."

The controversial proposal triggered a 90-minute discussion in which pastors and laymen exchanged views and heard White and E. H. Westmoreland speak.

Westmoreland, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, is also chairman of the Committee of 100, established during last year's annual convention as an evaluation group for all convention agencies.

There was no mention of what the charges were nor were reasons or background revealed. Westmoreland later pointed out his committee was charged with the responsibility of reporting to the convention and not the Executive Board.

Executive Board members were asked to "put their trust in the Church Loan Board" by approving the special committee.

White, who has headed the Texas Baptist Church Loan Association for over 15 years, pointed out that 1,000 churches have been assisted through the years and many of these churches assisted more than once. He added that over \$30 million has been made available through the years through wise investments.

"We are willing to match our records with business in the area," said White, adding that "it has been a difficult year" because of criticism and charges.

"We have lost nothing," he concluded. "This action is sought because of agitation. We want to open our doors, offices, records...and we will step aside and let any committee come in and take control."

W. M. Shamburger, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tyler, Tex., and chairman of the Executive Board was authorized to make the appointments.

In other action, Executive Board members okayed a \$12.8 million budget for 1968, an increase of \$575,000 over last year's budget. The proposed budget reflects 25 per cent in Christian education funds as well as 33.5 per cent for world wide missions.

Texas Baptists called for an end to institutions asking churches to place them in their church budgets. Action taken approved a three year study asking that Baptists give renewed emphasis to the Cooperative Program as the primary plan through which state and Southern Baptist Convention missionary, education and human welfare institutions and agencies receive financial support from the churches.

The report was modified to read: "That agencies or institutions not seek or encourage additional churches to place them in the budget," and churches were urged to give greater support of their institutions with increased gifts through the Cooperative Program.

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