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Maryland College Asks
Baptist Tie Severance

WALKERSVILLE, Md. (BP)--Trustees of the Maryland Baptist College here voted to request that its ties be severed with the Baptist Convention of Maryland, and that the school become "a private liberal arts college eternally committed to the principles and beliefs of evangelical Christianity."

The action came after the State Mission Board of the Maryland convention had turned down the college's request for permission to conduct a \$5 million fund drive, and its plea for more convention support, saying the plan was "not financially feasible."

Trustees of the embryonic school accepted one of three proposed alternatives that the state convention board had suggested:

That the trustees consider the possibility of the college's severance from the convention to become a private, Christian liberal-arts college.

The proposal, now that it has been approved by the college trustees, must next be approved by the State Mission Board of the convention and the full convention, possibly when it meets Nov. 13-15.

Basic reason for the decision to sever ties with the convention, according to Maryland Baptist College President C. Eugene Kratz, was that the convention could not afford the financial requirements as projected by the trustees, since original planning estimated the cost to the school at a ratio of about \$4,000 per student whereas actual cost would be about \$10,000 per student initial capital investment.

The trustees were faced with three alternatives: (1) re-evaluate the entire approach of the college and cut back on plans which would make convention support financially feasible; (2) consider an affiliate relationship with the convention without convention ownership; or (3) sever ties with the denomination and establish a private Christian liberal arts college.

Earlier, on May 20, the college trustees had adopted a comprehensive plan for development of the school called "Analyses and Proposals". It was this overall plan the convention's State Mission Board said was not financially feasible.

Rather than cut back on the quality of the four-year school described in the development plan, the trustees chose to sever ties with the convention.

Kratz told the Baptist Press that the resolution as finally adopted by the trustees featured these aspects:

---It reaffirmed the "Analyses and Proposals" as the best possible program available.

---It accepted the statement of the State Missions Board of the convention that it could not afford the financial responsibilities that the development plan suggested.

---It approved establishing the school as a "private liberal arts college eternally committed to the principles and beliefs of evangelical Christianity."

---It suggested that an entirely new corporation be organized, with a new slate of trustees, to take over the assets and appropriate liabilities from the present college corporation.

---It requested the Baptist Convention of Maryland and its State Mission Board to transmit the assets to the new corporation free of denominational sponsorship and control.

---It requested convention and college officials to determine what kind of participation the college might expect from the convention in future years.

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---It authorized the president of the college and the president of the corporation to take steps "to effect" the resolution.

Kratz said the action was "one of the greatest disappointments I've ever experienced," since he had come to Maryland with the hopes of building a quality Baptist college.

He added that he intended to stay on as president of the school because he felt "the tremendous need of this area for the witness of an evangelical Christian college."

He concurred with the board's decision, although he deeply regretted it, saying that the State Mission Board was probably right in saying that Maryland Baptists would not support adequately a college requiring \$10,000 per student per year.

When asked if the decision to sever ties with the convention would enable the school to accept federal aid in the form of loans and grants, Kratz said that this decision would have to be made by the new corporation (board of trustees). In its meeting in September, the current board took no action on the federal aid question, nor was it discussed in detail, Kratz said.

"This was not the reason for the decision," he said. "The school isn't severing ties with the convention just so it can accept federal aid."

Kratz said that if the State Mission Board and the convention approve severing ties with the school, a new board of trustees must be quickly enlisted to form a new corporation which can accept the assets.

The next step in the life of the college, he said, would be a study of the precise needs of the area for a college of this type, and study of the curriculum for the school.

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Kansas Baptist Executive
Joins Sunday School Board

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NASHVILLE (BP)--F. Paul Allison, formerly associate executive secretary-treasurer of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists in Wichita, has joined the education division of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, as a field services consultant.

Allison had been with the Kansas convention since February of 1958 in its number two spot, taking on such duties as director of stewardship and church finance until November 1959, and editor of the Baptist Digest from 1959 until February of this year.

A native of Missouri, Allison attended Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City.

His pastoral background includes service at Swope Park Baptist Chapel (now church) in Kansas City, Mo., from 1943-48, Beverly Hills Baptist Church in Independence, Mo., and Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, Mo., from 1953-58.

Allison is currently chairman of the forward program committee of the Southern Baptist Convention's Stewardship Commission.

He and his wife, Wilma, have two children, Pam, 20, and David, 17.

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California College
Names PR Consultant

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RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--California Baptist College here has named Miss Ailese Parten, former public relations director at Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., as the school's consultant in public relations for the fall semester.

Miss Parten had been with Wayland College for 13 years. California College President Loyed R. Simmons said Miss Parten would assist public relations director Phil Tilden in setting up a more organized publicity program.

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'Study Now, Pay Later'
Suggested For Students

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A bold new program that would let college students study now and pay later has been proposed by a White House Advisory Panel on Education.

The plan would permit an undergraduate to borrow up to the full amount of his tuition and subsistence needs in return for a promise to pay the government one per cent of his annual income for every \$3,000 borrowed for 30 years after graduation.

The loans, which also could be repaid in a lump sum, plus interest, would be made by a Federal Educational Opportunity Bank. Repayment would be made annually along with the federal income tax.

This new plan which would make it possible for anyone to afford a college education is the idea of a group of scholars, scientists, and government officials called, appropriately, the Panel on Educational Innovation.

Chairman Jerrold R. Zacharias of Massachusetts Institute of Technology said in presenting the report: "It has many virtues beyond the primary one of providing loans for which repayment is contingent on the borrower's later ability to pay."

The panel sees this as a boon to colleges, Zacharias went on to say, because it would help relieve them in the financial pinch they are in today. With students able to borrow so much, colleges could raise tuition and other charges closer to the actual cost, he explained.

One of the virtues of the plan, Zacharias said, is that any student would be able to attend any institution he chooses, if accepted, regardless of his financial situation.

Some other advantages of the plan, according to the panel, are:

* No borrower would have to worry about a loan he could not repay for some unforeseen reason. His obligation to repay is related to his future income.

* If necessary, a student could finance the full cost of four years of college.

* It would increase the number of college students from low-income families.

* It would provide relief for middle-income parents who can't give their children the education they want at the institution of their choice.

* The student would have more responsibility for his education and this would increase his interest in making good use of his time at college.

The education panel agreed that there are disadvantages to the plan. For example, foreign students would be exempt. Also, such a financial arrangement could slow the growth of both state and private support for higher education, they said.

The act of permitting talented students to go to selective colleges could leave the unselective and mediocre colleges with even fewer able students than they have now. Unselective colleges might find it harder to attract faculty, they pointed out.

The proposal has been denounced by the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges and the Association of State Colleges and Universities. They called the plan "a Pandora's box of ill-considered, obsolete and contradictory ideas...."

Representatives of these groups, whose members enroll more than half the students in the country, say the proposal is contrary to the traditional American philosophy that education costs should be borne as much as possible by society and as little as possible by the student.

Zacharias said the panel did not contend that this plan is the only possible one, but that it is the best they have been able to come up with.

The innovative proposal has been criticized also by an editorial in the Washington Evening Star which said the idea seems more like a "go now, pay forever" program that actually would penalize any student who earned too much money.

From the student's point of view, the editorial continued, this may be a good program if "he never makes much money in life, or if he dies young, or if he picks his wife with a careful eye on her debts."

The panel needs to do "a bit more educational innovation" before Congress is likely to buy the package, the editorial concluded.

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Illinois Names New
Evangelism Secretary

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association Board of Directors here elected a new Baptist state evangelism secretary and adopted the highest Cooperative Program budget goal in the convention's history.

James A. Ponder, pastor of First Baptist Church in Carmi, Ill., was elected secretary of the convention's evangelism department, effective Nov. 1. A native of Texas, Ponder is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

The board voted to recommend a 1968 Cooperative Program goal of \$1.1 million, marking the first time in the convention's 60-year history that the goal has exceeded \$1 million. Final approval must come from the full convention, Nov. 15-17.

The board also adopted a \$150,000 goal for the 1968 state mission offering, an amount three times the 1967 goal. All of the \$150,000 would be used for purchase of sites for churches and missions in Illinois.

In other financial actions, the board authorized a five per cent cost-of-living increase for employees' basic salaries, and set a new policy on travel expense allowances.

It reduced the allowance for expenses of persons attending board and committee meetings from 10 cents per mile to seven cents per mile, and voted to pay the actual travel expense of employed staff members instead of the 10 cent per mile allowance.

The board also voted to pay the subscriptions for the Illinois Baptist, which currently has a circulation of 22,000, from the state Cooperative Program budget, rather than subscription costs being assumed by individual church budgets. The new subscription payment plan will be used on a trial basis during 1968.

Board members also heard a progress report from the board's camp committee, decided to raze a rent house near the Baptist Building here, and heard a report on plans for payment of costs on a Baptist Student Center at Carbondale.

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Bishop Sheen Invites
Drakeford To Lecture

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Professor John Drakeford here has been invited by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen to lecture at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, N.Y.

In the invitation Bishop Sheen stated, "I am very anxious to have our theological students absorb some of your wisdom, spirit and inspiration."

Drakeford sees the lecture series as an unusual opportunity. "It's not often that a Southern Baptist is invited to hold lectures in a Roman Catholic seminary."

In a letter Bishop Sheen stated: "I am overjoyed to hear of your acceptance as I have been much inspired by your writings."

A prolific writer and speaker, Drakeford has written such books as *The Ego and I*, *Psychology in Search of a Soul*, *Counseling for Church Leaders*, *Red Blueprint for the World*, *The Home - Laboratory of Life*, and was co-author of *An Introduction to Pastoral Counseling*.

His lectures will center around material from his two latest books, *The Great Sex Swindle* and *Integrity Therapy*.

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California Board Drops
Federal Aid "Hot Potato"

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FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, after two hours discussion, referred back to committee a detailed study report on operation of its only college and deleted a section dealing with federal aid to the school.

The 15-page printed report was made by a special committee appointed two years earlier to make an "in depth study of the programs" of California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif.

When the committee presented its report giving a complete outline of the college operation, lengthy debate was prompted in the Executive Board meeting.

Loyed Simmons, president of California Baptist College, strongly opposed the report, saying it was too specific in its recommendations and would put the convention in the position of issuing mandates to the college trustees that ought to be left in their hands.

After more than two hours of discussion, the report, with the exception of the section on federal aid, was referred back to the committee for further study and discussion with college personnel.

When asked why the section on federal aid was deleted, a convention official told Baptist Press, "because it's a hot potato."

The report of the committee recommended that the college be allowed to accept federal loans for building construction "where advantageous".

It also recommended that the convention "seek a decision on the federal aid issue which is acceptable to the vast majority of California Southern Baptists."

Until such a consensus was determined, the college would have been authorized to accept federal loans, to participate in federal aid programs to individuals rather than to the institution, to participate in federal aid programs to train students in specialties needed for national survival, and "to participate in such aid programs as involve no significant subsidy and significantly strengthen the institutional program."

There is a possibility that the federal aid issue could be injected into discussion of the committee's report when the state convention meets in Reno, Nevada, Nov. 7-9.

It is hoped that agreements may be reached and the board can act on the committee's report in time to present it to the convention in Reno this year rather than delaying the action for another year, convention officials said.

In other major actions, the Executive Board voted to recommend adoption of a 1968 Cooperative Program goal for the state of \$1.24 million, an increase of \$40,000 over the 1967 goal. Total recommended budget for 1968 would be nearly \$2.3 million when all sources of income are added.

The budget would provide 26 per cent of all Cooperative Program receipts for Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes. Final approval of the budget must come from the convention in Reno.

In other action, the board increased both church budget and individual subscription rates to the California Southern Baptist, weekly publication of the convention because of "sharp rises in costs of paper, printing, and postage." The church budget rate for subscription was raised 36 cents per year to \$2.28.

The Executive Board expressed support for legislation which would ban the advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio and television from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.; and support for appointment of a federal commission to study the problems of pornographic literature.

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