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**Baptists Confer On Role
In Meeting Human Needs**

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Two hundred Baptist leaders from 31 states, the District of Columbia and Canada and from eight denominations conferred here three days on "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State in Human Welfare."

This was the 11th annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of which C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

James M. Sapp, director of the conference, explained that the report of any consensus of opinion that may have been achieved was not authoritative or binding on any person, church or denominational group. The views expressed, he continued, are relayed to the Baptist Joint Committee for help in future policy discussion.

"The motivation of welfare is rooted in the Christian's relation to God," one section of the conference declared. "God's purposes are realized through the Christian's response, in love, to human need," it said.

"In a church's priority of motives its function in responding to human need is of equal significance to its function in proclamation. Its witness may be said to consist in both its proclamation of the gospel and in its efforts in human welfare," the section continued.

A prime concern of another section was the relation of church welfare programs and those of government. Both of these types of social welfare should "exist for the benefit of persons, not for the benefit of institutions," it declared.

When Christians reject government programs to meet human need, they should offer other and better alternatives, it continued.

"What should be the churches' attitude toward the role of government in meeting human need?" the section asked. In part it replied:

"Too often churchmen have taken the stance that they alone are really helping people as God wants people helped. The government not only may not be of Satan, but may very well be of God. Some would even dare to say that it frequently is more godly than certain so-called Christian agencies and churches."

The problem of church-government cooperation in welfare programs was met head-on by the conference. The section that dealt with this issue said that "cooperative relationships with government and public agencies should be neither summarily rejected nor facilely established."

It was generally agreed that in all cooperative church-government relationships neither party should sacrifice its own objectives, principles and independence.

The section that worked on the problem of financing welfare activity agreed that "if a church establishes a program of social welfare in order to win persons to a sectarian point of view, it should finance that program out of its own funds."

An almost unanimous view was expressed in the conference that "both individual Christians and churches should minister to human need." The differences arose in how this was to be done.

This section pointed out that the differences were based largely on varying theological viewpoints. As a result, the report said:

1. Some reject government aid completely;
2. Some say that churches and government should cooperate;
3. Some concluded that increasing government aid to church-related bodies is inevitable and desirable; and
4. Others attached conditions to government aid "when it does not infringe on the moral freedom of the individual."

The finance section concluded that "any church organization refusing tax funds for welfare work must be prepared to support fully all its responsibilities under God in meeting human needs."

During the conference, in addition to dialogue among themselves, the Baptist leaders heard three prominent government experts in the field of welfare. These included Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Philip D. Hardberger, special assistant in the Office of Economic Opportunity, and H. Ralph Taylor, an assistant secretary in the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

One afternoon of the conference in order to get first hand information from public authorities, three groups visited the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, the department of State and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

The Religious Liberty Conference this year was one of a series of three on the role of the Christian through church and state. Last year the theme was education. Next year the subject will be international relations.

The conference each year is by invitation to Baptist leaders nominated to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by denominational agencies and leaders in its sponsoring denominations.

The Baptist Joint Committee is a denominational agency maintained in the nation's capital by the Southern Baptist Convention, American Baptist Convention, Baptist General Conference, Baptist Federation of Canada, National Baptist Convention of America, National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., North American Baptist General Conference and the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference.

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Sunday School Board Employees
Send Books To Alaska Pastors

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By Larry R. Jerden

NASHVILLE (BP)--Employees of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention have given up time, money and some personal possessions to help flood-stricken pastors and churches in Fairbanks, Alaska.

A total of 1,434 books from employees' personal collections and the board's Dargan-Carver Library were donated to help replace pastors' libraries destroyed by the rising waters of the Chena River.

A collection was taken following chapel services at the board and \$619.50 was collected.

James L. Sullivan, executive secretary-treasurer of the board, said the money would be used for several purposes. He said \$136 was spent to buy new hymnals for the University Baptist Church of Fairbanks. Another sum, he said, will pay for shipping both the hymnals and the donated books to Alaska.

Sullivan said the remaining money would be applied toward the purchase of a piano for the University church. Earlier, the board sent free church literature for the coming quarter to the Fairbanks churches.

Helen Conger, the librarian at the board who handled the collection of the books, said several types were received. Among them, she said, were sermons, devotionals, commentaries, dictionaries, study course books and several versions of the Bible. Selected fiction from the board's library was sent with the personal gifts, she said.

"The average gift was 10 books," Miss Conger said, "but some donors gave many more. It was gratifying to see the response. I could tell people took pride in giving and in what they gave because all the books were in very good condition."

Miss Conger said the magnitude of the gifts showed "a real feeling of love and appreciation for the preachers of Fairbanks."

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Pennsylvania, Jersey Plan
State Convention In 1970

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MONROEVILLE, Pa. (BP)--Members of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Baptist Fellowship meeting here voted to set 1970 as the target date for organizing a Southern Baptist state convention in their area.

The action came after reports were delivered indicating a 27 per cent increase in the number of churches and chapels, and a 28 per cent increase in church membership during the past year.

The Fellowship reported 65 congregations (churches and missions) with 5,632 members.

Minimum requirements for financial assistance from Southern Baptist Convention agencies in the establishment of a new state convention are for 70 congregations and 10,000 members.

A time-table and step-by-step plan was adopted by the fellowship leading up to establishment of the new state convention in 1970.

Appointment of four committees was approved as one step in the preparation. Committees to be appointed are: personnel and staff, constitution and bylaws, budget and finance, and office location.

It recommended setting up a central office in 1969 as another preparatory step, and authorized securing a consultant in religious education to work with the churches between now and the time the convention would be organized.

The fellowship voted to continue in its present form until the fall of 1969 when "a functioning general state fellowship with a central office" would be constituted as a preparatory step to the organization of a state convention in the fall of 1970.

The convention would actually not start operation until January of 1971.

Re-elected president of the fellowship was Charles Jolly of Pittsburg, Pa. Other officers re-elected were Philip Allison of Wrightston, N.J., as vice president; and Bob Brackney, clerk, from State College, Pa.

The meeting was held at the Baptist Church in Monrceville, Pa., with 137 laymen and pastors attending the three sessions.

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Midwestern Seminary 850
Observes Anniversary

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here observed its tenth anniversary, hearing a challenge from the top executive of the Southern Baptist Convention to live up to the purpose for which the seminary was founded.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, challenged the young school to effectively train men and women for the ministry in a secular age.

Earlier, Routh had outlined the purposes of the six theological seminaries which Southern Baptists operate.

He was the principal speaker for the week-long Tenth Anniversary Celebration at Midwestern Seminary here.

The seminary was officially inaugurated on May 29, 1957, during the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago, Ill. First classes were held starting in September of 1958. Millard Berquist is president of the seminary.

Eight other Baptist leaders participated in the events of the week, including all of the former presidents of the seminary's board of trustees.

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Texas Baptist 851
Leader Succumbs

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WACO, Tex. (BP)--W. W. Melton, former executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, died Oct. 6 in a convalescent home here. Burial was in Waco on Oct. 9.

The 88-year-old minister retired in 1957 as pastor of the Columbus Avenue Baptist Church here, bringing to a close an active ministry of 57 years.

For 29 years he was pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church here before being named executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a position he held for 4½ years.

Melton was a graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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