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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
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. McCarney, 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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BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

Baptist Editor Campaigns
Against TV "Dirty" Movies

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger here has initiated a campaign against "dirty movies" on television.

Jack Gritz, in an editorial in the weekly state-wide Baptist paper, attacked the telecast of the movie "Never On Sunday" and urged his readers to write protest letters against use of this film and others like it on television.

"Never On Sunday" was telecast as the National Broadcasting Co. selection for "Saturday Night at the Movies" (Sept. 30).

In the editorial, Gritz called it "one of the dirtier movies of recent years (although an Academy Award winner)" charging that it glorifies prostitution "as a legitimate profession."

The editor also mailed copies of his editorial with a cover letter to numerous religious leaders asking them to join him "in an effort to keep 'dirty' movies off television."

"'Never On Sunday' was an affront to the nation and a challenge to Christian people everywhere," he wrote. "'Tom Jones' is scheduled next. Can we stop it?"

The editorial observed that something new happened when "Never On Sunday" was telecast. In recent years, only "general" or "family" films have been telecast by the networks. Now the networks are beginning to show "dirty" movies.

"The question immediately arises: 'Was this a test of public opinion to see if there would be a public reaction to the showing of 'Adult Entertainment' on television?' If so, will there be?" asked the editorial.

Although stating that the National Broadcasting Co., and the television stations that broadcast the movie "are great public service institutions," the editorial said that the showing of this film "was a mistake in judgment."

"The airwaves belong to all the people," Gritz wrote. "What is shown at a movie theater or drive-in and clearly labeled 'Adult Entertainment' is entirely different from what is suitable for the home television screen."

Gritz described in detail the plot and content of "Never On Sunday," saying that "adultery and fornication are made to appear perfectly normal and acceptable as ways of life."

"The message of the picture is that prostitution provides a happier way of life than old fashioned morals," the editorial said.

Gritz concluded the editorial with a plea for concerned persons to write protest letters to television station managers and to Mort Werner, National Broadcasting Co., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

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Furman Launches Drive
To Raise \$10 Million

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GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--Furman University (Baptist) here has launched a campaign to raise \$10 million by 1971 for educational programs, physical facilities and endowment.

The \$10 million drive is the first step in a long-range fund campaign to underwrite the need for \$27 million in the decade of 1966-76, said Eugene C. Proctor of Conway, S.C., chairman of the university's board of trustees.

So far, Furman has received \$3,118,000 of the \$10 million goal in cash or pledges, the Furman Advisory Council was told.

The \$3 million figure includes more than \$2 million from ten corporations and \$529,187 from the South Carolina Convention.

Provided Furman receives \$5 million in its campaign by May 31, 1969, the Baptist school will receive a \$2 million grant from the Ford Foundation.

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Wallace Johnson Honored
For Bible Use Influence

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NEW YORK (BP)--Wallace E. Johnson, president of Holiday Inns of America and a Southern Baptist layman, was honored here (Oct. 13) for his influence on American life through use of the Bible.

Johnson was presented a citation from the Laymen's National Committee, Inc., at an awards luncheon co-sponsored by the American Bible Society.

Johnson, a member of Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis, was recognized "for his accomplishments in educating ministers through his foundation, for his open Bible policy in Holiday Inn rooms, and for his influence on millions through his use of the Bible and prayer in his personal and business life."

Former Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman were also to receive awards, both for service to God and country and to the cause of world peace, but they were not to be present at the luncheon.

Other awards were to go to Louis Hartman of Catholic University in Washington, D. C., to Vice Admiral William F. Raborn Jr. (USN-Retired), and to Oxford University Press of New York.

Johnson and his partner, Kemmons Wilson head the world's largest motel chain, Holiday Inns of America, which now includes more than 900 inns in 50 states, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas.

Johnson is active in 75 other corporations and head of a fast-growing firm called Medicenters of America, Inc., which builds medical centers providing treatment for patients who do not need hospital care but who are too ill to remain at home.

Johnson and his wife have also set up a foundation for humanitarian causes which has helped churches and hospitals, and aided young men and women to obtain an education.

The award was presented during National Bible Week sponsored by the Laymen's National Committee, and during the Worldwide Bible Reading program of the American Bible Society, Oct. 15-Nov. 23.

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Meredith Trustees Okays
Cooperation, Tuition Hike

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RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--Trustees of Meredith College (Baptist) here voted to increase tuition fees, student aid, and faculty salaries next year, and proposed that the number of trustees be increased from 28 to 36, provided the Baptist State Convention approves.

The board also gave a green light to planning ventures that will expand an inter-institutional cooperation program this year between the Baptist school and neighboring colleges and universities.

The cooperative program would share academic opportunities and physical facilities of eight schools, including North Carolina State University, Peace, St. Augustines, St. Mary's, and Shaw University all in Raleigh; and also the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University at Durham, and Campbell College (Baptist) at Buies Creek, N.C.

The increase in trustees would be gradual, two new trustees per year, provided the state convention approves.

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Dauphin Way Church
Safe Robbed Twice

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MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--For the second time in five weeks, the Dauphin Way Baptist Church here, one of the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention, was robbed by safe crackers.

An estimated \$8,300 was taken from the church safe by burglars, authorities reported.

Five weeks earlier, the church was robbed of about \$7,000. In both cases, the money primarily included amounts given in Sunday offerings.

Officers said burglars entered the church by prying open a door, and used a torch to open the safe. Entry was gained the same way on both occasions.

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