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October 26, 1967

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Federal Aid For Hospital  
In Montgomery Disallowed

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--After three hours of debate, the Montgomery Baptist Association defeated here a recommendation that would have allowed its hospital, the Montgomery Baptist Hospital, to accept federal funds.

The association voted to exclude grants from federal, state or any other political subdivision from the hospital's sources of finance.

The recommendation, introduced by the hospital's board chairman N. J. Bell III, asked that the hospital be allowed to borrow money from the federal government.

Bell said that more than \$90,000 was lost this past year as a result of caring for Medicare patients, and that this burden is due to increase during the coming year.

The pastor of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery, J. R. White, spoke in favor of the recommendation and cited three reasons for his support. His reasons were:

1. That the recommendation came from the hospital's board of directors who were closer to the operation and maintenance of the hospital and thus were in a position to know what was best for the institution.
2. That the federal government has become involved in the operation of the hospital even without the hospital using federal money, and that the government will likely become more involved.
3. That accepting federal money does not violate the traditional Baptist concept of separation of church and state.

Frank Tripp, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Hospital Commission, opposed federal grants to the hospital.

"It is not necessary for us to take federal money because of the soundness of our hospital operation," Tripp said. He also said that in the first nine months of 1967, Montgomery Baptist Hospital had made a net profit of \$236,000, even under Medicare.

Tripp also said he felt acceptance of federal grants would violate early commitments made to the people of Montgomery when the hospital drive was started in 1953. He reminded the association of the previous action of the Alabama Baptist State Convention which would cut off some \$65,000 per year in Alabama Baptist aid if federal money were accepted.

Henry Lyon Jr., pastor of the Highland Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery and a member of the hospital board, pointed out how the hospital had acquired a federal loan before "without any strings attached".

He called on the people to face the fact that the federal government has come into the picture and that "the time has come when we must let the government assist us in paying for a program which they enforced upon the hospitals."

In opposing the resolution, A. Hamilton Reid, former executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention made a dramatic plea for upholding the tradition of Baptists. "Alabama Baptists have said 'no' to federal grants. I plead with you, keep it (the hospital) Baptist."

The Montgomery hospital is seeking to secure some five to eight million dollars for construction of additional beds and establishing facilities for nursing education.

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Baptist Press

Eight Speakers Picked  
For World Youth Meeting

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BERNE, Switzerland (BP)--Eight key speakers have been named for the Seventh Baptist Youth World Conference at Berne, July 22-28, 1968.

Leading the list is Evangelist Billy Graham.

Three other Americans are among the top speakers: Kenneth L. Chafin, evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Samuel Proctor, American Negro leader and former Peace Corps official who now heads a Negro educational organization; and Carl Lundquist, president of Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Other major speakers will be Paul Tournier, noted medical doctor and writer from Geneva, Switzerland; Othelo de Leon, assistant dean and professor at Central Philippine University, Iloilo City, Philippines; Solomon Gwei, pastor and teacher in West Cameroon in Africa; and Gerhard Claas, executive secretary of the union of Baptist churches in Germany.

Speakers for the program were announced by Robert S. Denny, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance in Washington, D. C.

Part of every program day will be devoted to discussion among the expected 5,000 delegates divided into 200 small groups, said Denny.

"We are anxious for all these young people, coming from as many as 60 countries, to know each other and to understand one another's problems. They can gain inspiration and share ideas," Denny said.

Overall theme for the conference will be "One World, One Lord, One Witness."

A dramatic presentation by Georgetown College (Baptist) in Georgetown, Ky., will be featured one evening.

Music will be directed by William J. Reynolds, of Nashville, Tenn. Reynolds is a veteran at international Baptist conferences, having performed similar leadership roles at the youth conferences in Toronto and Beirut and the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

As in other meetings, he will conduct an international choir at the Berne conference.

Denny said that three major speakers are yet to be named, and that approximately 300 other program participants also will be selected.

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#### C O R R E C T I O N

On story mailed 10/24/67 headlined: "3,100 Decisions Reported In South Africa Crusade," please change word "most" in graph 1, line 2, to read: "one-third of them from Mississippi.." Thanks.

--Baptist Press

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