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Tar Heels Okay Mars Hill
Federal Aid, Plan Study

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ASHVILLE, N.C. (BP)--Voting to appoint a 20-member committee to study the question of federal aid and other educational problems, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention also approved a specific project for Mars Hill College which some interpreted as a step toward federal aid to North Carolina Baptist institutions.

Trustees of the Baptist school in Mars Hill, N.C., in a surprise move, requested permission to enter into a \$140,000 contract with the University of Georgia in a project to be financed under Title III of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1965.

Under the program, ten professors at Mars Hill College would go to the University of Georgia to work on doctoral degrees, and ten University of Georgia faculty members would come to Mars Hill to teach in their place.

The two-year program financed by federal funds was termed essential for Mars Hill to achieve accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

An effort to get the convention to rescind the action approving Mars Hill's request was ruled out of order by Convention President Carl Bates of Charlotte, and the convention sustained his ruling.

Ironically, between the time the convention first approved the proposal and the time H. L. Ferguson of Charlotte asked that the action be rescinded, Mars Hill College President Fred Bently had already signed the contract with the University of Georgia.

Bently said that the school would only serve as a reservoir for the funds rather than actually using them, and that any federal funds involved would go to the individual professors and not to the school.

The overall study of the federal aid question came with approval of a motion to appoint a 20-member committee which would study problems facing Baptist colleges.

Specific problems mentioned in the motion were such things as financial needs of the schools, capital improvements, maintaining top-level educational facilities and faculties, future cooperation with state and federal governments, and the future relationship of the schools with the convention.

Three years ago the convention in a heated session rejected proposals that would allow the seven North Carolina Baptist colleges and universities to participate in the 1963 Higher Education Facilities Act, and to broaden the representation on college boards of trustees.

In another major action at the convention here, the messengers adopted a resolution calling for a peaceful settlement of the war in Vietnam, and urging observance of Sunday, Dec. 24, as a day of prayer for peace in Vietnam.

The resolution reaffirmed an earlier statement from the convention's Christian Life Committee which encouraged "the responsible leadership of our government to continue to . . . pursue patiently every course that might lead to a peaceful settlement (in Vietnam)."

An effort to get the convention to approve a resolution calling for the U.S. to pull out of Vietnam was rejected. After Pastor W. W. Finlator of Raleigh presented his resolution, former Convention President Nane Starnes of Asheville asked that it not be considered.

A motion that a special committee be set up to study the possibility of creating a Division of Christian Ethics under the convention's General Board was approved.

Convention President Bates ruled out of order a motion by James Helvey of Thomasville, N.C., commending the work of the North Carolina Council of Churches and Baptist churches which join the Council of Churches.

Bates said that the motion would violate the convention's constitution which forbids the convention from exercising any authority over the churches of the convention.

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Helvey's resolution, however, pointed out that autonomous Baptist churches within the convention are already affiliated with the state Council of Churches, and that his motion did not bind all churches to membership, but only commended those which affiliate with the council.

In other actions the convention adopted a 1968 budget of \$6.4 million, an increase of \$380,000 over the 1967 budget with most of the increase going to raise the salaries of state convention employees.

The budget allocates 33.34 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes, a slight percentage reduction from the 33.5 per cent to SBC causes in 1967.

Elected convention president was Claud Bowen, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro N.C., the largest Southern Baptist church in the state.

Principal speakers for the convention were Evangelist Billy Graham of Montreat, N.C., and Harold Stassen, an American Baptist who recently announced he would be a peace candidate for the presidential nomination.

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Georgia Convention
Avoids Controversy

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JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention, plagued for several years by bitter debate over federal aid to its institutions, staged what some observers called one of its most harmonious sessions in years.

The federal aid question never came up, since the convention's Christian Education Commission is in the midst of a total study of the issue and other facets of support of Georgia Baptist educational institutions.

In a major action, the convention adopted a record budget of \$4,937,400 which includes a substantial increase in support to six Georgia Baptist colleges. The schools will get \$532,460, an increase of \$96,820.

The budget, an increase of \$531,260, will be divided one half to state causes and one-half to Southern Baptist world missions causes, after deductions of some specific "promotion expenses."

Predictions that an effort might be made to increase the budget percentage going to state-wide causes did not come true.

The convention adopted statements from its public affairs committee calling for opposition to legalized gambling and to laws making narcotics available to young people.

Another urged the government's commission on alcoholism to reconsider its "dangerous recommendation," which advocates drinking in the home and lowering of the legal drinking age.

Another resolution urged new state laws strengthening Sunday as a day of rest, but urging that "minority groups which choose some day other than Sunday have full protection of law in that choice."

J. Robert Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church in Statesboro, Ga., was re-elected to a second term as convention president. Next year the convention will meet in Macon, Ga., Nov. 11-13, 1968.

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Merrill Moore Named
Insurance Chairman

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MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (BP)--The board of directors of Ministers Life and Casualty Union here has elected Merrill D. Moore of Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Stewardship Commission, as its board chairman.

Moore has been a member of the board since 1951 and has been vice chairman in recent years. As chairman, he will preside over the insurance company's quarterly meetings.

Ministers Life and Casualty Union provides life and health insurance for clergymen and their families, as well as for others in church-related vocations. It is a mutual company.

Moore, a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, heads the Southern Baptist Convention's programs of Cooperative Program promotion, stewardship development, and endowment and capital giving.

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Police Chief Named
Hawaii Baptist Chief

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HONOLULU, Hawaii (BP)--The chief of police in Honolulu, Chief Dan Liu, was elected president of the Hawaii Baptist Convention during its 25th annual session here.

Chief Liu, a member of Olivet Baptist Church, has received several national recognitions and honors as an outstanding law enforcement officer and Christian layman, most recently by the American Bible Society.

A resolution was adopted by the convention commending Chief Liu for his outstanding work of enforcing in a judicious and effective manner the law, and seeking to maintain personnel of high moral caliber and efficiency in the police department.

Another resolution expressed support of court efforts to test the constitutionality of legislation allowing the use of public tax funds to subsidize private and parochial school bus service.

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention was also commended for its program of work in making Southern Baptists aware of their Christian responsibilities.

The convention adopted a 1968 budget of \$485,421, including a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$82,000 which will allocate 25 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Another major action authorized a capital needs fund campaign for Hawaii Baptist Academy School.

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Utah-Idaho Reports Growth,
Baptism Ratio of 1 to 13

11/16/67

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IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP)--In its third annual session, the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention reported that its 70 churches and 7,500 members had won 4,575 new converts last year, an eight per cent gain over 1966.

Convention Executive Secretary Charles Ashcraft said the convention's baptisms represent a ratio of one conversion for every 13 members, compared to the current one to 30 ratio in the rest of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The convention, which has no institutions at present, adopted a resolution stating that no public tax funds shall be accepted by any of its agencies, organizations, institutions, missions causes or personnel, and that future institutions, buildings and property received shall be subject to this policy.

The resolution affirmed "the position of the historical Baptist distinctive of separation of church and state."

In other action, the convention adopted a budget of \$218,317, with a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$54,000 which allocates 20 per cent to Southern Baptist causes.

The convention also set up a Historical Commission and elected John Embery, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brigham City, Utah, as convention president.

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Maryland Convention Votes
To Kill College Severance

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BALTIMORE (BP)--The Maryland Baptist Convention meeting here voted to recommend that the proposed Maryland Baptist College be dissolved "with the greatest expediency", rather than merely severing ties with the proposed school as its trustees had suggested.

Property of the college in Walkersville, Md., would revert back to the Maryland Baptist Convention and a seven-member committee was authorized to study every possible use of the property or disposition of the assets and liabilities.

Although the action left little doubt that the idea of a private Christian school in Walkersville had been killed, the committee would still have the power to come back later with a proposal to dispose of the property by selling or giving it to another institution.

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The college trustees had earlier requested that the convention relinquish the school to establish a private, liberal arts college "eternally committed to the principles and beliefs of evangelical Christianity," but the State Mission Board of the convention rejected the school trustees' recommendation and asked for the school to be dissolved.

The convention approved the State Mission Board's recommendation which (1) requested the college trustees to dissolve the corporation and turn the assets and liabilities over to the convention, (2) authorized the current president to appoint a seven-member committee to study use or disposition of assets and liabilities, and (3) empowered the State Mission Board to take necessary financial and legal steps involved.

Only debate on the recommendation came over whether the State Mission Board should have the power to make the final disposition or for the convention to reserve this right.

An amendment adopted by the convention provided that the final disposition of the property will be decided by the convention in regular or called special session.

Reason given by the State Mission Board for refusing to accept the school trustees' recommendation that their convention ties be severed to establish a private Christian school was that "insufficient evidence" was presented by the trustees "to indicate that their action has been adequately finalized."

In his report to the convention, Maryland Baptist College President C. Eugene Kratz recounted the history of the embryonic college and said that he and the trustees chairman had enlisted five benefactors who would assume financial obligations of the school.

Kratz would not identify the five men, but said their total assets exceeded \$6 million, and that they were willing and ready to meet with a committee of the convention to negotiate terms of transfer of the college from convention ownership to a private corporation. He said the group included two Baptists, two Methodists, and a Lutheran.

A motion from the floor of the convention to retain Kratz as president of the college until final disposition had been made of the school was rejected in order to leave the decision in the hands of the college board of trustees.

Kratz said when asked his future plans that he had no comment to make at this time since the college trustees have not taken any action or given any consideration to the request of the convention.

It was reported during the convention that the college had received about \$600,000 in contributions including about \$108,000 in designated gifts for specific purposes. Trustees or the seven-man committee would have to decide whether the contributions should be returned.

Both the 140-acre campus in Walkersville and the chapel and office building were financed by loans totaling nearly \$500,000. Present indebtedness is set at \$536,500.

In another action, resolution committee's recommendation that last year's resolution on Vietnam be re-affirmed was adopted after proposed resolutions were presented by Maryland pastors representing opposite "hawk" and "dove" positions.

The three-part resolution (1) stated Christians shall not be resigned to acceptance of the inevitability of war, (2) encouraged prayer and commitment for peace on the part of international leaders, and (3) remembered "with Christian compassion all who are called into the viciousness of war," including the enemy.

A budget of \$1,023,408 for 1968 was approved by the convention, setting a state-wide Cooperative Program goal of \$814,000 which allocates 40 per cent to Southern Baptist causes. The overall budget is an increase of seven per cent.

Re-elected to a third term as president was C. Marion Hale, a layman from Silver Spring, Md. Hale, a contractor, is the first president to serve a third term in 19 years.

The convention will meet next year, Nov. 11-13 at Churchville, Md., about 30 miles from Baltimore near Bel Air, Md.

Alabama Convention Sets
Special College Studies

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MOBILE, Ala. (BP)--The Alabama Baptist State Convention authorized a special educational advisory committee to study issues relating to three Alabama Baptist colleges during the convention's 145th annual session here.

Main areas of consideration for the committee will be the services rendered by the educational institutions to the denomination, and the problem of adequate and equitable support for the schools.

The study, which involved Judson College in Marion, Samford University in Birmingham, and Mobile College here, will be conducted by a committee headed by James Landes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Birmingham.

In other actions, several proposed constitutional changes, a record \$6½ million budget, and the 1969 Crusade of the Americas shared the convention spotlight.

A concern for a larger voice by more people in denominational affairs was heard in discussions to alter the present method of members of boards of trustees, but the convention rejected a recommendation which would have increased the committee that nominates the members from nine to 76 members.

After lengthy debate, the convention voted to name a 10-man committee to report back on any constitutional changes.

Two of the convention's schools were authorized to borrow funds from private sources, but not from the federal government, for student and faculty housing. Loans totaling \$700,000 were authorized for Judson College, and \$1 million in loans were approved for Samford University.

The church-state issue was raised when the messengers voted to insure that both the schools would borrow only from non-governmental sources.

Some question came on the support of Baptist hospitals in Alabama, and the convention decided to continue its program of assistance to the locally-owned hospitals in Birmingham and Montgomery.

Dr. Max Vaughn, physician from Sylacauga said that the federal government was already telling the hospitals what to do and that convention money could better be spent elsewhere.

The \$6,405,000 budget for 1968, an increase of \$370,000, includes a state-wide Cooperative Program budget goal of \$4,670,000. Of that total, 35 per cent will go to Southern Baptist Convention causes, a gain of \$79,000. The remainder of the overall goal is in special designated offerings.

In the area of Christian citizenship, the convention's Christian Life Commission report said, "We are faced with a very difficult problem of determining where right ends and wrong begins.

"For example, the Christian must protect the right of a minority to register a legitimate protest, but oppose the right to protest in a manner which is more harmful than helpful to society in general."

In another section, the report quoted the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission as saying that "involvement in the problem of race relations is not optional for Christians."

Southern Baptist Convention President H. Franklin Paschall told the convention that if Christian's can't solve the race problem with the gospel, then the problem can't be solved.

Herman W. Cobb of Cullman, Ala., re-elected to a second term as president of the Alabama convention, deplored racial rioting and lawlessness, saying that Christians should seek to improve their environments, but should do so within the framework of the law.

A resolution adopted by the convention expressed prayerful support for President Lyndon B. Johnson "in the pursuit of his efforts for a just and honorable peace in Vietnam."

The convention will meet next year at Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 12-14, 1968.

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Cutlines 11/16/67 Baptist Press

NEW VIRGINIA EXECUTIVE: Richard M. Stevenson, former pastor of Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., has been elected the new executive secretary of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Effective Jan. 1, 1968, he will succeed Lucius M. Polhill.

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