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Government Agency Clarifies
"Misleading" Federal Aid Report

WASHINGTON (BP)--The National Science Foundation here has taken steps to clarify its statistical tabulations of federal aid to colleges and universities in the wake of complaints from several Baptist college presidents who claimed the reporting system is misleading and inaccurate.

An official of the National Science Foundation said that in the future, cancellations of student loans would not be included in their reports, and that amounts reported will be footnoted to explain that the figures are rounded to the nearest \$1,000 upward.

The protest from Baptist college presidents was prompted when Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, reported last October that the National Science Foundation had released information in a study indicating that 48 Baptist colleges and universities had received \$55.8 million from the federal government during 1963-1966.

Nine of the 48 Baptist schools were listed in the report as having received \$1,000 each from federal sources, but the study gave no indication for what purposes the federal funds were used.

Almost immediately, presidents of two Baptist schools in Alabama, one in California, and one in Arizona protested the report, saying they had no knowledge or record of the alleged \$1,000 in federal aid.

Investigations by W. Barry Garrett, Washington regional editor of the Baptist Press, disclosed that most of the \$1,000 alleged federal funds to Baptist colleges were in the form of refunds for student loans cancelled by teaching.

California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif., for example, received about \$50 to repay the school's portion of a National Defense Education Act student loan which was partly cancelled when the student began teaching after graduation.

Under the statistical tabulation system used by the National Science Foundation, each entry was rounded off to units of \$1,000; thus a \$50 student loan cancellation was entered as \$1,000.

In a letter to Congressman John Tunney of California, National Science Foundation Congressional Liaison Officer Theodore W. Wirths stated that the foundation did not anticipate that the upward rounding of very small amounts would be a source of concern or embarrassment to the institutions, and expressed "regret that this has occurred."

Wirths also outlined steps that the Foundation is taking to assure "that this problem will not recur.

"First," he wrote, "the National Science Foundation will conduct a thorough review of amounts reported as \$1,000 to make certain that they are correctly reported under the guidelines of the study, and will call attention to the fact that amounts reported as \$1,000 may represent much smaller awards.

"In addition, the Office of Education will exclude teacher cancellation payments (on student loans) from future reports.

"To correct the misunderstanding regarding earlier reports," Wirth added, "we will include an explanation of these transactions in the next report on federal support for universities and colleges."

Wirth also stated that the figures were intended to represent statistical information rather than records of specific amounts, hence the rounding to units of \$1,000.

The president of California Baptist College, Loyed R. Simmons who had been one of the most vocal presidents in objecting to the report's publication, expressed appreciation to Wirths, and added: "apparently it does pay after all to protest to the Federal Government."

At the meeting of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California last November, Simmons told the convention that the college had not received the \$1,000 in federal aid as reported, and indicated that the school would repay the money if it was later discovered that the college did in fact receive the funds in any form.

The convention responded by adopting a resolution calling upon the National Science Foundation to issue a public retraction of the allegation if it could not show proof of the aid.

The resolution called the "accusation" an "affront to the name and character of California Baptist College and its administration and parent organization," the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Other Baptist colleges listed in the National Science Foundation report as having received \$1,000 were Howard College (Samford University), Birmingham, Ala.; Judson College, Marion, Ala.; Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.; Clarke Memorial College, Newton, Miss.; Louisiana College, Pineville, La.; Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N. C.; and Anderson College, Anderson, S. C. Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss., was listed as having received \$2,000.

The report was entitled "Federal Support to Universities and Colleges, Fiscal Years 1963-66." It did not indicate the purpose or type of federal aid, but reported four categories of aid were included, none of which were loans or grants for housing.

The four categories were: (1) research and development, (2) research and development plant or facilities, (3) other scientific activities, and (4) nonscientific activities.

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New Education Bill Puts
People Before Buildings

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Johnson's new education message to Congress calls for more aid for college students and for less spending on construction and equipment on college campuses over the next five years.

New education programs are requested and the funding of old ones continued to especially aid disadvantaged students.

The main thrust of the omnibus education bill submitted to Congress is to remove all economic and racial barriers so that every qualified young person can have "all the education he wants and can absorb."

Current student aid programs will be strengthened and expanded at the expense of buildings and books. Under the proposed bill, for example, college construction and equipment spending would go down from \$817 million this year to about \$300 million next year.

Significant cuts are requested also for Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title III of the National Defense Education Act. Title II provides testbooks and similar aids, and Title III offers remodeling loans for public and private schools.

"We must carefully set our priorities," the President said in submitting his proposals. He told the Congress that several programs had to be reduced or deferred in order to meet urgent needs within a "stringent overall budget."

"We can reduce expenditures on construction of facilities and the purchase of equipment. But, many of our urgent education programs which directly affect the young people of America cannot be deferred. For the cost--the human cost--of delay is intolerable," Johnson said.

Johnson, who has often said that he would like to be known as "the education president," told Congress that federal investment in education has almost tripled in four years to a total now of nearly \$12 billion annually.

Under current aid programs, 1½ million college students are being assisted. About 30 percent of these are freshmen. Under new program proposals 1½ million students are expected to benefit.

Hearings have already begun on administration proposals to reduce or defer some programs and to add others in order to strengthen student loans, scholarships and work-study grants.

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Congresswoman Edith Green (D., Ore.) is chairman of the subcommittee considering the education bill. When Mrs. Green opened the hearings, she said the proposed legislation "is very impressive." She said it is "imperative" that work begin immediately to get the bill through Congress.

Under the proposed budget spending for education in all categories would go up from \$10.8 billion this year to \$22.6 billion next year, according to Harold Howe II, education commissioner.

The administration's new omnibus education bill includes:

- * Enactment of the Educational Opportunity Act of 1968 to give equality of opportunity to any student who wants an education regardless of income or race. This program will help 1½ million students attend college next year through the full range of student aid programs.

- * Strengthening the guaranteed loan program with the federal government paying administrative costs of the banks making the loans.

- * Fifteen million dollars for new programs of tutoring, counseling and special services to disadvantaged students entering college.

- * Passage of a Network for Knowledge Act of 1968 to pool resources of stronger schools to help weaker ones.

- * New help for graduate schools to meet the cost of educating students with graduate fellowships.

- * A new program to strengthen those graduate schools "with clear potential for higher quality."

- * An increase in government-sponsored research in universities.

The President also asked for the extension and strengthening of three current programs:

The National Defense Education Act of 1958 which has helped two million students go to college and graduate school; the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 which has helped nearly 1,400 schools; and the Higher Education Act of 1965 which, in addition to student aid, has strengthened college libraries and helped 450 developing colleges.

In addition the President proposed:

- * A new stay-in-school program for high school students. He requested \$30 million for family counseling and tutoring to turn potential drop-outs into high school graduates.

- * An increase of funds for Head Start, Upward Bound and Head Start Follow Through programs.

- * An increase of funds for handicapped children and adult education classes and a new appropriation to launch a bilingual education program for Spanish-speaking youngsters.

- * Unspecified amounts for the Teachers Corps and programs to train other teachers and administrators.

Sharp debate is expected in Congress, and some has already begun over the proposals to cut construction costs in order to fund other programs.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D., Ore.) who is strongly opposed to the war in Vietnam, said he found it difficult to reconcile the estimates for education with the \$79.8 billion recommended for defense.

He said a saving could be made in the areas of defense rather than at the expense of school children in America.

Morse concluded his speech to the Senate by calling for a speedy passage of the President's omnibus education bill, but without the recommended cuts in appropriations.

**Baptist College Plans
Ecumenical Institute**

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Plans for an ecumenical institute headed by former Southern Baptist Convention President Brooks Hays have been unveiled by Wake Forest University here.

It marks the first time that a Baptist school has developed plans for a scholarly center to deal with Baptist involvement in the ecumenical movement.

The institute will begin offering seminars dealing with the ecumenical movement from a scholarly perspective beginning in the summer of 1969. The seminars will be designed primarily for ministers as post-graduate study, and will not be aimed at the undergraduate level.

The institute will actually begin, however, on March 1 when Hays, a former Congressman from Arkansas and former special advisor to both Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, takes over as director.

Wake Forest University President James Ralph Scales, in announcing the institute, said he hoped that the unique program will show that Southern Baptists "are not in fact spiritual isolationists separated from the mainstream of Christian thought."

A committee of seven trustees and faculty members recommended creation of the ecumenical institute. Scales said that "we all felt that Baptists ought not to be closed to interfaith dialogue and scholarship."

Both he and Hays stressed that the institute would approach the ecumenical movement from the scholarly standpoint, and would center its work in study and research rather than promoting a point of view.

Scales said that the purpose of the institute would be to foster better understanding among various Christian groups, through scholarship.

The president, who came to Wake Forest about a year ago from Oklahoma where previously he was president of Oklahoma Baptist University and dean of arts and sciences at Oklahoma State University, observed that ecumenical studies should not be undertaken "in isolation."

The institute will draw on the resources of the university's departments of religion, sociology, history and English. The faculty for the seminars has not yet been enlisted, but one prominent professor has been named secretary of the institute.

Judson Allen, assistant professor of English and a specialist in medieval church history, will assist Hays in work of the institute. Allen is the son of Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The first year of the institute will be devoted to planning, defining the scope, devising curriculum, outlining research projects, and organizing the seminars, Scales said.

Scales added that reaction to the news of creation of the institute had been favorable. "Perhaps we Baptists are more mature than a lot of people have guessed," he added.

Both Scales and Hays told the Baptist Press that they feared some Baptists might oppose the institute because its name includes the word "ecumenical." Scales said some Baptists seem to go blind and turn red on hearing the word.

Hays added that the word "ecumenical" does not necessarily mean "organic unity" or formation of a "super church," but rather a spirit of unity and cooperation between fellow Christians.

Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1958-60, observed that the "evils in today's world are so great that no one church has the power to stem them," but rather must work together with other Christians cooperatively to be effective.

"It is my hope," said Hays, "that this venture of Wake Forest will make Southern Baptists more aware of the fact that part of our heritage is held in common with other faiths."

Scales echoed his remarks, saying that "an institution of higher learning is the proper center for studies which seek to re-discover the bases of our common heritage, going to the roots of mankind's beliefs."

"It is time for an established Baptist institution to give direction to the swirling winds of change in the area of religious thought and action," Scales said.