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February 23, 1968

Debate Rages On Crusade
Parade On Nation's Capital

By Jim Newton

WASHINGTON (BP)--Editorials in two Baptist state papers have expressed strong reactions against staging a parade at the nation's capital as part of the Crusade of the Americas Continental Congress here.

As a result, the idea could be put "on the back burner," but as for now, plans for the parade are marching on.

An editorial in the Maryland Baptist called the idea "disturbing" and an editorial in the Baptist Courier of South Carolina called it "a tragic mistake."

But Crusade of Americas North American Regional Coordinator Wayne Dehoney of Louisville said that the crusade steering committee has twice spoken in favor of the parade, and unless it says otherwise, the parade will continue.

Dehoney had announced plans for the parade from the Capitol steps down the mall to the Washington Monument during a recent planning session for the Crusade of the Americas Continental Congress, slated here Oct. 12-14.

Dehoney said then such a parade, with Baptists carrying placards proclaiming the Crusade theme, "Christ the Only Hope," would "take the gospel outside the walls of the church and into the streets."

During the meeting here, there was some reaction to the idea, but the strongest reaction has come from editorials in the Baptist state papers, and from another Baptist editor in Washington quoted in The National Observer, a weekly newspaper reporting national events in depth.

"Psychologically, this city is not interested in more parades," James O. Duncan, editor of the Capital Baptist in Washington was quoted in the National Observer. "Most parades here are in terms of protest."

The editor of the Maryland Baptist, Gene Puckett, put it in stronger, more detailed terms.

"We doubt that paraders carrying placards will accomplish what is desired," Puckett wrote in questioning the wisdom of the march in Washington.

"If Baptists take to the streets in Washington in October, they will invariably be identified with all other protestors and the causes they have espoused," Puckett said. "Though we may shout from the housetops that we are not marching 'in protest but as a witness,' the general public may see only the marchers and miss the point of the parade."

Puckett's editorial pointed out that Washington has become the favorite city for marching, picketing, and protesting.

"For Baptists to use such tactics is to hazard the reaction of a weary public who may not understand our motives or objectives," he added. "The effort to gain attention for our cause might well result in a hostile or negative public reaction to the Crusade of the Americas.

"Frankly," Puckett continued, "we feel a parade with placards saying 'Christ is the only hope' is a questionable way of exalting our Lord. It may be well intended but it smacks of the world and appears beneath the dignity of the name of Christ.

"Marching on the streets of Washington may not communicate the gospel at all," he added. "It might be an exploitation of the city's name and purpose which would speak volumes to the world that we would rather not have heard."

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Puckett advocated a big rally, perhaps in Washington Stadium "where thousands of Baptists can pray and sing and say to the world we are concerned about lost men everywhere," but he concluded: "Let's leave the marching to men like Dr. Martin Luther King, Dr. Benjamin Spock, and Father James Groppi."

In a similar editorial, John Roberts, editor of the Baptist Courier of South Carolina, said that the site and timing for such a march could hardly be worse.

Roberts said "the rash of violent and irresponsible acts which have accompanied many demonstrations in recent months have made anything other than a horn-blowing parade unpalatable to responsible people.

"If Dr. Dehoney persists in having the march, it will have an adverse effect on the planned crusade," Roberts claimed.

"The average viewer will look casually at the marchers and wonder fleetingly if Christ's name is being used by some group of protesters."

Contacted in Louisville, Dehoney said that at the present, plans for the parade are going right on despite the negative reactions, saying that he had received letters from many Baptist leaders urging that parade plans be continued.

One Baptist leader from another convention even advocated televising nationally the parade, saying that this could be the greatest form of witness Baptists have ever undertaken, Dehoney said.

The former Southern Baptist Convention president who now is pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville said his letters had been running four-to-one in favor of the parade. He said he wrote to the leaders of all Baptist bodies involved in the crusade, Baptist editors, and all members of the steering committee asking for responses.

Dehoney cited two major factors that must be taken into consideration. First, he said, the Continental Congress in Washington is a part of the overall Crusade of the Americas, and the parades and open air rallies have been a significant part of the crusade in South American countries. Such a parade and rally will be held as part of the Continental Congress in Southern South America (Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay) the week before the Washington rally.

Second, Dehoney said, "While we are concerned about the image of Baptists in Washington, the plans must be made in consideration of the total impact and total witness, not just to the local people, but across the nation and around the world. It isn't that we don't care what they think in Washington, but that the total picture must be considered."

Dehoney said that a meeting would be held in Washington March 1 with local committee chairmen and national leaders to restate the motives, objectives and purposes of the parade.

"There is possibility that we might put it on the back burner until after all the reaction is in, after Martin Luther King's spring marches, or after the long hot summer," Dehoney said.

As the writer for the National Observer article on the Crusade of the Americas, Terence Shea, observed: "The crusade marches on but the parade pauses."

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Methodist Hospital, Baptist
School Set Up Nursing Degree

2/23/68

DALLAS (BP)--In an historic, cooperative "mission of healing," Dallas Baptist College and Methodist Hospital here have set up a four-year nursing degree program beginning in the fall of 1968.

Under the degree program, students at the existing Methodist Hospital School of Nursing may attend classes at Dallas Baptist College and earn a degree, the bachelor of science in nursing degree. The hospital currently has a "diploma" program rather than a "degree" program.

Officials of both institutions have approved establishment of a new division of nursing to be operated by the college, using the hospital's educational and clinical facilities. Academic work will be at the college, clinical instruction at the hospital.

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Classes will begin in the new program in September of 1968 when Dallas Baptist College begins its transition from a junior college to a senior college. The first degrees will be conferred in the spring of 1972.

Methodist Hospital will establish a "chair of nursing" of \$25,000 annually to sustain the new degree program, said L. T. Potter, president of the hospital trustees.

Four reasons were given by Potter and the president of Dallas Baptist College, Charles Pitts, for the cooperative effort: (1) the nationwide trend toward collegiate nursing programs, (2) the proximity of the two institutions in Southwest Dallas, and (3) the availability of new facilities at both institutions, and (4) the advantage of combining the experienced nursing faculty at Methodist Hospital with the college's faculty.

The Baptist college will administer the degree program, including the determination of curriculum and the supervision of the nursing faculty beginning in the fall of 1970 when nursing teachers with a masters' degree become part of the college faculty.

Student entering the new program will attend classes on the Dallas Baptist College campus for the first two years, taking primarily liberal arts courses. Their junior and senior years will be spent mostly at Methodist Hospital and other clinical facilities.

Potter said he and the hospital's executive director, Bolton Boone, and other hospital representatives spent months surveying educational institutions in the Dallas area before approaching Dallas Baptist College with the proposal.

It is believed to be the first time a Methodist Hospital and a Baptist College have set up a degree program for nursing students.

-30-

I N S E R T

On story mailed 2-19-68, headlined "Memphis Baptist Hospital Dedicates Big New Wing," insert the following after graph 8 (beginning "Baptist Memorial Hospital is the largest...."):

During dedication ceremonies here, appraisals of the American hospital system were given by such notables as Dr. Milford O. Rouse of Dallas, president of the American Medical Association and active Southern Baptist layman; Dr. Philip R. Lee of Washington, assistant secretary of health and scientific affairs for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and Ray Brown of Boston, executive vice president of Harvard Affiliated Hospitals.

Dr. Rouse saw a need for more cooperation between physicians and hospitals for the betterment of the patient.

"What should and must change is the attitude of each party toward the over-all picture of patient care," Dr. Rouse said.

Picturing medical care at present as just a collection of bits and pieces, Dr. Lee called for an integrated system of health care where needs and services are brought together.

The hospitals of the future will need greater efficiency of operation, deeper consideration of the alternatives of hospital care and a system of comprehensive health care that meets the needs of patients of all segments of society.

Lee indicated it would take a working partnership between government and the American hospital system to accomplish those goals.

Brown said the time has come for people to accept the hard facts of hospital costs, including the matter of higher costs.

"It would be more than naive for people to think anything can be done to reduce hospital costs without undermining the quality of service," he said.

Brown attributed rising costs to such factors as competition for competent workers, cost of new medical services and techniques, and the inability of the American people to use properly the prepayment method of hospital care.

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(Pickup with story as sent, graph beginning "Management and control....")



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Church Groups Included
In Massive Urban Plans

157

By W. Barry Garrett

710

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Lyndon B. Johnson has challenged church groups as well as other private and governmental agencies to help solve "the crisis of the cities."

The President in a message to Congress called for a multi-billion dollar program to help meet urban problems which, he said, "rise from the decay of the decades."

"Today, America's cities are in crisis....the human problems of the city are stagging ring," the President declared. Among the problems he listed:

* Ghetto youth with little education, no skills and limited opportunity.

* Citizens afraid to walk their streets at night.

* Negroes, Puerto Ricans and Mexican-Americans barred by prejudice from full participation in the city's life.

"Illiteracy and disease, a lack of jobs and even dignity itself--these are the problems of the city, just as its tenements, traffic jams and rats are problems," Johnson said.

"The problem is so vast," the President said, "that the answer can only be forged by responsible leadership from every sector, public and private."

The challenge "extends to church and community groups, and to the family itself," he continued.

Among the many proposals to help solve urban problems, the President is asking for grants, loans and technical assistance for private non-profit groups engaged in housing projects. Many of these are church groups.

The requests of the President are almost as staggering as the problems of the cities themselves. They run headlong into the economy mood of the Congress that cut back appropriations for many government programs last year.

In spite of congressional reluctance, the administration continues to call for a new anti-inflation tax, for fair housing legislation, for funding and strengthening of programs already approved, and for creative and expanded approaches to city problems.

In a press conference, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Robert Weaver, said that the new proposals of the President "have a magnitude, a clout, that others have not had before." He expressed the hope that the new proposals were comprehensive enough to overcome the resistance of many in Congress who have not supported the President's programs the past two years.

Among the President's recommendations in his 20-page message are the following:

1. Full appropriation of the \$2.18 billion already authorized for the anti-poverty program.

2. A Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 which will provide for the construction of 26 million new homes and apartments over the next 10 years.

3. A program to provide 300,000 housing starts in fiscal 1969 for the poor, the handicapped, the displaced and families with moderate incomes.

4. Full and additional funding of the model cities program already approved by Congress.

5. A federal-state-industry program for a National Insurance Development Corporation for protection of property owners and developers.

157

6. Plans for help to solve urban transportation problems.

7. A New Communities Act of 1968 which will provide funds to help develop new planned communities and cities.

The massive Johnson proposals inevitably will kick off controversy in Congress and around the nation. Naturally, economy-minded people will protest. Others with programs of their own will fight for their own proposals. Both political parties will vie for the spotlight in meeting the needs of people.

Unless escalating war conditions make it prohibitive, it seems certain that the nation is headed for a period of vast development and change in its approaches to problems of the cities.

The churches face crucial questions in helping solve the crisis of the cities. At least these issues before the churches must be considered:

* Will the churches understand the issues and participate in planning to solve human problems in the cities?

* Will the churches form partnerships with government and other private agencies in the new programs that are developing?

* How will the problem of religious ministry and of religious freedom be solved in the increasing number of planned communities and planned cities?

* Will the churches continue their traditional roles and institutional patterns in the new society or will they be flexible and develop new institutional ways of helping to meet human need?

-30-

Two Baptists Scream, Die;
God's Will, Family Believes

158

310

2/26/68

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (BP)--Five years ago, Beverly Joan Stephens, 17, swam the length of a pool, stepped out, screamed, and fell dead.

In January, her sister, Mrs. Patricia Carol Rush, 24, awoke in the middle of the night, screamed, and died.

The Baptist family of the two young women believes that the mysterious deaths were the will of God, but they can't explain why they died.

Neither can the physicians. Dr. John Blanchard, Santa Barbara County coroner, said that attending physicians in neither case could determine the cause of death.

"Obviously," he said, "there is a medical reason for both deaths. But our science isn't sophisticated enough to find some of the answers."

Two of the surviving sisters said here they felt the deaths were the will of God.

"I know it was God's will for them to go," said Barbara, 17. "In some way, I believe we will all benefit from it."

Another sister, Diana, 11, said, "I think God wanted them to be with Him. He needed them, that's why they went."

The father, Everett Stephens, added that he did not think anyone really knows why his daughters died. "I don't know how they could if the autopsy surgeons who have conducted extensive tests are unable to come up with an answer," said Stephens, a correctional officer at the California Men's Colony here.

The family, active in the First Southern Baptist Church here, has received hundreds of letters and phone calls offering "prayers and suggestions," he said.

The mother, Mrs. Stephens, said: "None of us is afraid to die. My children have been taught to believe that human beings are born to die, that they could die today or 100 years from now. It is up to the Lord."

The family also includes two sons, Larry, 20; and Robert, 17. Patricia was married to S. Sgt. Robert Rush who had returned from Vietnam only four days before she died. They had two children, Kimberley, 6, and Kristen, 6 months.

-30-

158