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**BAPTIST PRESS**  
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
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April 24, 1968

**Textbooks For Parochial Pupils Attacked In Court**

**REGIONAL OFFICES**

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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

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He argued that the public loan of any textbook, regardless of its nonsectarian contents, to pupils in parochial schools is an aid to religion, and therefore unconstitutional.

Mrs. Jean M. Coon, assistant attorney general of New York, represented the New York commissioner of education, James E. Allen Jr., as the defendant.

She said that New York provides public school approved textbooks to all school children and that therefore the aid is not to religion but to pupils and their parents.

The case known as School Board v. Allen reached the Supreme Court after a rocky course in New York's courts. In August 1966 the New York Supreme Court declared the textbook law unconstitutional. In December of that year the appellate division reversed the lower court and said a local school district lacks jurisdiction to challenge the law.

In June 1967, however, the court of appeals, in a four to three ruling, gave the local school board the right to file suit in the matter, but declared the law to be constitutional under both the state and federal Constitutions.

Five parents in New York joined the suit as intervenors by the time it reached the U. S. Supreme Court. They were represented by Porter Chandler, a prominent New York constitutional church-state lawyer.

In addition to New York, other states lending publicly financed textbooks for parochial school pupils are Louisiana, Mississippi, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, books and other instructional materials are supplied to parochial school pupils.

Supporting the challenge to the New York textbook loan act were nine Jewish organizations, the New York Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

On the other hand, Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) briefs supporting the law were Louisiana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, National Catholic Education Association, Lutheran Education Association, National Conference of Yeshiva Principals, and the New York State AFL-CIO.

So important did the Supreme Court consider this case that it gave a full two hours to the debate. It will announce its ruling by the time it adjourns at the end of June for summer recess.

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Baptists Named To Georgia  
Prison Study Commission

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4/24/68

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Baptist ministers named to the panel are James P. Wesberry, pastor, Morningside Baptist Church, Atlanta; William Holmes Borders, pastor, Wheat Street Baptist Church, Atlanta; T. Edward Carter, director of institutional chaplaincy, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta; and H. Park Tucker, retired chaplain of the Atlanta U. S. Penitentiary and now chaplain at Woodward Academy and pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, College Park, Ga.

Areas that the commission will likely probe include classification of incoming prisoners, separation of juvenile first-offenders from hardened criminals, drug and homosexual violations, rehabilitation programs, and professional standards for penal personnel.

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Baptist Press

Baptists Ask Help For  
Poor People's Campaign

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By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Executive Board of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention has called on its churches to help during the Poor People's Campaign slated to begin the last of April.

The resolution voted by the Baptist board also urged "upon Congress and the President of the United States their continued concern for the domestic crisis and accelerated action toward eradicating poverty, discrimination and racism from the land."

The action of the Baptist board came at a meeting that was delayed a week because of the curfew imposed on the District of Columbia during the civil disorders that followed Martin Luther King's assassination.

Earlier in an editorial in the Capital Baptist, publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, James O. Duncan defended the Poor People's Campaign and urged Baptists in the area to cooperate with it.

The campaign, directed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of which Ralph D. Abernathy is head, is designed to be a massive, nonviolent lobby activity to influence Congress and the administration to begin immediately to end poverty.

Specifically, the objectives of the campaign are: meaningful jobs, adequate income, elimination of the welfare system, adequate housing and medical care for all people.

The leaders of the Poor People's Campaign declare that their purpose is to try to solve the crisis of the cities by nonviolent methods. They conceive of their plan as an answer to the riots and burned cities the nation experienced last summer and which are anticipated the coming summer.

The plan is for talks with the President, Congressmen, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Department of Labor prior to the main thrust of the campaign to get assurances that adequate programs will begin to help the poor.

In the event that these talks fail to produce satisfactory results, the campaign leaders will move in approximately 3,000 poor people from all parts of the nation. These people will live in a camp, called "New City," as close to the U. S. Capitol as possible.

Nonviolent demonstrations are planned on the issues of jobs, incomes, welfare, health, housing, education, human rights. These demonstrations will be aimed at government centers of power.

Finally, if the government does not respond, the same philosophy of civil disobedience used in the civil rights demonstrations of Selma and Birmingham will be used here.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference declares that it will stay in Washington with its Poor People's Campaign until the government responds.

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention Board's resolution confessed failures to help meet the issues before the nation. It said that Baptists have had "apathetic attitudes" and that they have been guilty of "failure to act" with Christian courage.

The board said that "we commit ourselves to the task of rebuilding that which has been destroyed physically and that which has been destroyed in the attitudes and spirits of men."

Duncan's editorial said: "During the summer, when the poor are here, there will be things that churches can do to help."

"These people will need food, medical supplies, etc. The food will have to be brought to them. It will not be an easy summer for any of us," he said.

The District of Columbia Baptist editor pointed out that other lobby groups in the nation's capital have plenty of money to promote their interests, but that the poor are devoid of the means to make their influence felt.

The other groups, Duncan said, can afford hotel rooms, big meals, expensive gifts, luxurious entertaining. "The city likes for these people to come because they spend money," he said.

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"The poor will live in tents, in church basements, in ghetto houses," he pointed out. "They can't afford to lobby like others, yet in a democracy they have every right to state their grievances before the nation. The right of redress is one that belongs to all citizens," the editorial declared.

Many other religious groups and organizations had already endorsed the Poor People's Campaign. Among these are: Interreligious Committee on Race Relations, Disciples of Christ, Jewish Community Council, Priests of the Washington Roman Catholic Diocese, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington.

General Board of Christian Social Concerns of the Methodist Church, Board of Directors of the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ, the Cooperative Lutheran Parish Council, Lutheran Planning Council of Metropolitan Washington, Church Women United in Greater Washington, Washington City Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Church, USA.,

The Council of Churches of the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area, Unitarian-Universalist Association of the Metropolitan Area, the Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, American Baptist Convention's Department of Christian Social Concern, National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice, General Brotherhood Board of the Church of the Brethren, Department of Social Justice of the National Council of Churches and the American Friends Service Committee.

The campaign was to have gotten underway earlier in the month but was delayed because of planning difficulties and then because of Martin Luther King's death. The new schedule called for a beginning in Washington the last days of April and for demonstrations in Memphis in the early part of May.

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Belmont Offered \$1.2 Million  
For Quality Business School

324

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4/24/68

NASHVILLE (BP)--Belmont College, a Baptist school, here was offered a \$1.2 million gift to build and staff "a business school of national reputation" by the chairman of the board for Kentucky Fried Chicken Corp., Jack C. Massey of Nashville.

The gift would include \$500,000 toward construction and equipping of the new school, \$50,000 a year for 10 years to supplement faculty salaries, and a site for the school valued at \$200,000.

Massey announced his gift plans during dedication ceremonies for Belmont's new \$1 million Massey Auditorium and Fine Arts Building.

He stipulated that the \$500,000 construction fund offer would be subject to approval by the college board of trustees provided that an equal amount of money be raised from other sources.

The establishment of a school of business is needed, Massey said, because "there has not been here a modern comprehensive school of business administration of the stature of many well-known schools in the East of Far West."

He suggested that the school would teach the latest in management techniques, marketing, business communications, and use of computers.

Site for the new school of business has already been purchased by Massey, and is directly across from the college on the corner of Belmont and Acklen avenues. It is the same property which the Tennessee Baptist Convention had planned to build offices, but was denied permission by the zoning authorities.

Herbert C. Gabhart, president of the Baptist school, said no plans are being formulated yet on what type of building or what specifications for the school of business will be developed.

Gabhart said that the college is planning a \$1½ million fund drive this spring, with possible use of one-third of that amount to meet the requirements of Massey's gift. The business school should be ready for use in about two years, he added.

"Nothing to date has happened in the life of Belmont College that will so stimulate and encourage all of the friends of the institution like this generous proposal from Mr. Massey," said Gabhart.

Massey earlier had given the school \$250,000 toward construction of the new auditorium and fine arts building, and the trustees decided to dedicate it in memory of Massey and his late wife.

Massey was the founder of the Baptist Hospital here and served as president for 12 years. He is also a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foundation and the Tennessee Baptist Foundation and is a Baptist deacon.

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