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**Get Involved In Government,
Baptist Conference Urged**

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Christians must be involved in formulating governmental policies and programs if they are to be on the major firing line against human suffering, a political scientist asserted during the annual Southern Baptist Christian Life Conference here.

Daniel R. Grant, professor of political science at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and a Baptist deacon, told the conference that policies dealing with disease, war, slums, unemployment and underemployment, racial discrimination and economic exploitation must be the concern of Christians if they expect to have a hand in alleviating human suffering.

"It should be increasingly clear that governmental action, involving a total urban community, an entire state, or even the whole nation, has become in many cases the only practical or efficient way to work for the accomplishment of certain ethical teachings of Christ," said Grant.

Speaking on "Christian Action in Practical Politics" at the conference at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here, Grant urged new understandings of how to be involved in politics.

"Personal visitation of the sick is not obsolete nor will it ever be," Grant said, "but why should not the Christian so support with all his political skills the taxes and laws necessary for a massive program of research in preventive medicine to eliminate disease altogether?"

Noting difficult problems in applying Christianity to politics, Grant chided Southern Baptists for having an "off-again on-again" attitude.

"Southern Baptists have been inconsistent in tending to have a flexible taboo against "mixing politics and religion" that has too often meant looking with favor on entering the political arena so long as they agree on the position being taken," the professor said.

Grant identified himself as a Southern Baptist and stressed, "When we (Southern Baptists) have disagreed with the cause, especially when legislation to eliminate racial discrimination has been the burning issue, we have defended our silence by saying that 'the church should keep out of politics,' or 'the church should not try to legislate morals.'

"Our silence in such situations may well be a kind of political action in defense of the status quo that is just as powerful as that of other religious groups openly applying pressure on legislators," he observed.

"Our inconsistency mainly concerns the label we apply to our efforts to shape governmental policies, and it must be recognized as a serious handicap to effective Christian citizenship," he said.

In another speech, Grant said that the time may come when a Christian must change his political party but it should not be done lightly because "it is doubtful if more than one or two changes in a lifetime can be made without serious loss of political influence."

He compared this loss of influence in politics to religious life this way: "It would be unrealistic to expect a person to be influential in the decisions of a religious denomination or local church if he changes his affiliation frequently."

Grant, who strongly defended the "party man" over the "independent," argued that political scientists have discovered that most "independent" voters tend to be non-participating citizens who have already missed the boat in helping formulate specific public policies, choose delegates to conventions, or nominate the candidates the independents must elect later.

If the Christian has a special stake in government policies and programs, it is simply imperative that he come to terms with the realities of the organizational structure of political life, not the least of which are political parties, Grant said.

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Denominational leaders and clergymen should guard against the ethical and strategic hazards of making party endorsements, Grant warned. "It is true that there are obvious limitations to the denominational leader's role as a party man, but it would be far more serious if he would retreat into the role of a political eunuch, with a pristine political neutrality as a horrible example for all church members."

He encouraged church leaders to help church members to participate actively in party decision-making all along the line, leading them to sift the important issues from the unimportant, helping them to be informed on the little-publicized facts that the public may not have access to, and leading them to apply the Christian faith and encourage especially qualified persons to run for public office.

Asking whether it really matters which political party wins the presidency, Grant suggested that the answer probably lies between the two extreme pictures of "all important" versus "no importance" of a particular party's winning the presidency.

"The difference between the proposed programs of the two parties are not so great as campaign oratory would suggest," Grant observed, "but neither are they as insignificant as the political cynic suggests. The capacity of a party to carry out its program once in office is considerably weaker than it would admit."

The Baptist professor concluded that the difference between the presidential candidates nominated by the two parties are never so great as their partisans would claim, but it is an unusual election indeed when there is no significant differences in their leadership capabilities, ideological direction, experience, and integrity.

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Waco TV Station To Carry
Special On College Life

8/15/68

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University, a Baptist school here, will be one of five major universities featured in a one-hour color television special entitled "The Time Of Their Lives," shown over television stations in Waco, and Bryant, Tex.

The television special tells the story of non-academic campus life of one fall weekend, spotlighting Baylor, the University of California, the University of Indiana, William and Mary College, and Yale University.

According to Ralph Webb, program manager for KWTX-TV in Waco which will carry the special, the program is the story of the student who wants an education but also wants the fun and excitement of campus activities.

"It shows an exuberant, involved and able group of students enjoying themselves in ways that are hardly different from the pastimes of their parents or even their grandparents," Webb said.

The special was produced by Warner Brothers-Seven Arts.

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New Children's Home Sponsored
Jointly By Buckner's, Church

8/15/68

TYLER, Tex. (BP)--In a unique arrangement, Green Acres Baptist Church here and Buckner Baptist Benevolences of Dallas, have jointly established the Green Acres Home, a foster group home for dependent children here.

It is believed to be the first home of this type sponsored by a church.

R. C. Campbell, president of the Buckner Baptist Benevolences System, called it a completely new innovation in small group child care. Campbell said there are a few agency-owned foster group homes, but none owned and sponsored by a church.

Under the cooperative arrangement, Green Acres Baptist Church will finance the physical care of the children, and Buckner Benevolences will provide the professional services of house parents and social work administration.

Children in the Green Acres Home will come from Tyler and nearby areas. The home will care for six children at the present time, but it is licensed to house up to ten. Houseparents are Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Garner, who have been foster parents for Buckner since 1964.

Ed B. Bowles, pastor of the Green Acres church and a Buckner trustee, worked closely with Campbell and Bill J. Baker, director of child care services for Buckner Benevolences, in the planning and preparation of the Green Acres Home.

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Webb Named PR Man
For Georgia Baptists

ATLANTA (BP)--Lawrence E. Webb, of Anderson, S. C., has been named secretary of public relations for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Webb, 34, a native of Nolan, Tex., was elected by the administration committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

A former journalism and Bible instructor, news director and publications advisor at Anderson College in Anderson, Ga., Webb succeeds Jim Lester, who resigned after 11 years in the post to become editor of The Baptist and Reflector, official journal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

An ordained minister, Webb is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He has also done special studies in journalism at the University of Maine, Orono.

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National RA Congress
Urged To Fight Disease

8/15/68

By Roy Jennings

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Dr. Robert Hingson, globe-trotting Baptist Anesthesiologist famed for developing the "Peace Gun," challenged 10,000 Royal Ambassadors here to help him stamp out disease in the world.

The Pittsburgh, Pa., physician who has dispatched inoculation teams using his "Peace Gun" to 70 countries, called the improvement of the health of the people of the world an excellent way for the United States to brighten its image.

God is concerned about the welfare of the people of this world, and more than 1 billion of them are plagued with disease, Dr. Hingson told the boys.

The boys got a look at Dr. Hingson's "Peace Gun" which is capable of inoculating persons for multiple diseases at the rate of 1,000 an hour.

Dr. Hingson told the Royal Ambassadors he is looking forward to the time when people in entire nations can be protected from disease.

The cost is not beyond reach, Dr. Hingson explained, for people can receive protection against five diseases for about 30 cents.

Explaining his concern about the health improvement projects, Dr. Hingson told the boys he believes God expects Christians to dedicate their talents to Him.

The address by Dr. Hingson capped the middle session of the three-day Royal Ambassador Congress.

He shared the attention of the boys with Maj. William Pogue, a Southern Baptist astronaut who spoke to the boys via simulated telephone call from the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston.

A record total of 10,323 boys ages 9 to 17 from 30 states registered for the national missions conference. Oklahoma reported 2,634; Texas, 1,501; Georgia, 665; and South Carolina, 579.

Among the most popular personalities were Sunset "Kit" Carson, professional sharpshooter from Phoenix, Ariz., and Don Demeter, of Oklahoma City, a former professional baseball player.

Carson, who popped balloons dangling from the mouths and heads of girls, and signed his name on picture books with his .22 caliber rifle, told the boys he attributed his steady aim to a refusal to smoke.

Demeter, who operates a boys ranch at Binger, Okla., gave a baseball demonstration as he recounted his Christian testimony.

"God gives us a winning attitude. We as Christians should play the game of life as if it had already been won--for it has," Demeter said.

The Walter Jetton Catering Service of Fort Worth, found the boys one of the hungriest groups it had ever fed. The boys consumed 2,500 pounds of barbecue and additional thousands of pounds of beans and slaw at a special dinner. A representative of the catering service said that the boys "cleaned us out."

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Missionaries attired in costumes drew boys by the hundreds for autographs and pictures.

A two-hour rodeo, conducted by Jim Shoulders, a Methodist layman of Henrietta, Okla., and featuring Bruce Oliver, Baptist missionary to Brazil, closed the Congress.

Oliver, a former Texas cowboy while at Baylor University in Waco, Tex., tried his luck at throwing two steers, but the steers won both times.

Oliver encouraged the boys to return home and share their Christian faith with others.

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PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers.

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Sunday School Board Votes
To Change Training Union Name

8/15/68

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The 64-member Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to change the name of Training Union and the board's Training Union department, but approved a recommendation not to release the new name until later.

In other major action, the elected board adopted a budget to include a projected income of \$37½ million for the coming fiscal year, and approved the building of additional guest accommodations at Glorieta Baptist Assembly and Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Assembly.

The new name for Training Union, to become effective Oct. 1, 1970, was approved on a motion which included a recommendation that "the actual new name not be released to the public until details of a planned program of communication have been completed by the Training Union department, and that 'Logo' be the working title until that time." Probable target date for release of the name will be during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans in 1969.

The name of the Training Union department was changed to "Church Training department" following the discussion of a new church training curriculum to be introduced in 1970. The departmental name change becomes effective immediately.

A projected increase in income of \$682,000 over last year's budget included an allocation of \$5,772,000 to the education and service programs of the board, an increase over the projected figure of one year ago by \$81,000, the board was told.

Two buildings approved by the board included the Chaparral Inn at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here, a guest house to accommodate 61 persons; and Royal Gorge Apartments at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C., a 16-unit building with a capacity of 96.

In other action, the board approved naming the new auditorium at the Sunday School Board Building in Nashville the "Van Ness Auditorium" in honor of Isaac Jacobus Van Ness, executive secretary-treasurer of the board from 1917-1935.

The board was told of plans for a joint Sunday School-Training Union leadership conference to be held next June 19-25 at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, marking the first time a joint Sunday School-Training Union Conference had been scheduled at the assemblies.

Elected president of the board was Landrum P. Leavell III of Wichita Falls, Tex., and re-elected were Julius Thompson of Nashville, chairman of the executive committee, and Roy W. Babb of Nashville, secretary.

The board set its next year's meeting dates for Jan. 28-29 in Nashville, and July 23-24 at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N. C.

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