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September 26, 1968

Churchmen Advocate New
Approaches To Alcoholism

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--Church leaders advocated a new strategy on the problems of drinking during the 28th International Congress on Alcohol and Alcoholism here.

Bishop James K. Mathews of the United Methodist Church described the new strategy developed among some church groups as comprehensive, interdisciplinary and ecumenical.

"The old legalistic-moralistic attitude is fading," Bishop Mathews told delegates to the world's largest scientific meeting on alcohol and alcoholism. It is being replaced by a new freedom of choice for the individual and active involvement in society, he explained.

Mathews said the church's new strategy sees the total person in society and the inter-relatedness of various alcohol problems. The religious community, according to the Methodist leader, is seeking the opportunity for a healthy wholeness of life for everyone.

"The concern is for man, for the whole man and for man to be truly whole. It is this spirit, I think, that exemplifies the church today at its best...." It is this that should cause the church to understand "with both head and heart" all the problems which beset humanity, he said.

Bishop Mathews is chairman of the board of the Boston-based North Conway Institute, an interfaith association for education on alcohol and drug problems. The institute was one of the 19 national and international bodies sponsoring the congress.

"Religion and Church" was one of 16 topical areas considered by scientists and other professionals from all over the world. Over 2000 participants from 40 nations, including several East European countries, registered for the five-day congress.

The new stance, for churches, one that other professionals arrived at earlier, is based on the concept that alcohol is a problem to man because man is a problem to himself.

Dr. Morris Chafetz, a psychiatrist who is director of the Alcohol Clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital, stated that alcoholism is really "a symptom of psychological and social abnormalities."

He described it as a "complex problem that doesn't fit into a nice, neat package."

The church's strategy, according to Bishop Mathews, must see the interrelatedness of all alcohol problems such as health, teen-age drinking, family disorders, employment, traffic safety, humane treatment of chronic drunkards, legal controls and public attitudes, beliefs and practices on drinking and **abstinence**.

The Methodist spokesman urged a re-examination of the entire legislative control system over the sale and distribution of alcohol beverages. It is time that we looked at our entire control system and questioned some of our "sacred cow" concepts which churches can usually be expected to support, he suggested.

Sunday sales, local option, liquor-by-the-drink and minimum age requirements were cited as examples of laws that should be evaluated.

"Local option, for example, seems like a hopelessly outmoded system in the age of the automobile," he pointed out. He also mentioned the need in the United States for strong drunk driving laws such as those of Great Britain and Scandinavia.

The Methodist leader urged clergymen to work on these issues at state and national as well as on local levels with public and religious agencies and groups. He asked especially for more unity among churches "in understanding and action" on alcohol-related problems.

"The religious community simply cannot afford splintered and contradictory approaches if it is to have any impact on these issues," he emphasized.

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Another church leader, John C. Ford, S. J., professor of pastoral theology at Weston College in Massachusetts, proposed that exponents of total abstinence and moderate use come to terms on "the common ground of Christian sobriety."

The Jesuit priest said he recognized that "this is not possible in some denominations." But, he observed, there "is no intrinsic reason why two social-religious movements, one for total abstinence and one for virtuous moderation, should not work side by side as friendly allies in a common cause."

The catholic theologian urged a study of a whole list of what he called "chemical comforters" from tea and coffee, through tobacco down to tranquilizers, barbiturates and narcotics and their relationship to Christian virtue.

Ford said he personally was not disposed to make total abstinence from any of these chemicals an essential part of a Christian way of life. He cited dangerous consequences of depriving people of satisfactions derived from moderate use of some chemicals, including alcohol and nicotine.

An example included in his prepared manuscript told of the man "who first cut out smoking, then cut out drinking, and is now cutting out paper dolls."

The Catholic teacher pointed out that while Christianity inculcates self-denial, it is not a religion which excludes human pleasures whether of the body or of the mind.

In making a plea for Christian sobriety, he said there is a "rather nice line to be drawn between a use of pleasures which is legitimate and Christ-like, and a use of pleasures which is hedonistic and excessive."

This approach is especially important for any kind of preventive program among young people, the priest said. Few young persons would be motivated to be total abstainers because of some far-off possibility of becoming alcoholics, he pointed out.

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Youthful Texan Appointed
Watts Missions Director

(9-26-68)

ATLANTA (BP)--Sidney Smith, Jr., a 24-year-old native of Corpus Christi, Tex., has been named by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to direct a special missions emphasis in the renown Watts area of Los Angeles.

He was appointed by the department of metropolitan missions as director of cooperative Christian ministries of Los Angeles. He formerly served as a correctional officer for the (now-dissolved) San Quentin Federal Penitentiary in Marion County, Calif.

Smith is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He served as a Home Mission Board student summer missionary in California, Mexico and Texas.

Others appointed as career missionaries include Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lynn Scruggs of Gibson County, Tenn., to assist in the weekday ministry of Central Nassau Baptist Church in Westbury, N.Y.; Kay Carolyn Brooks of Monroe, La., to assist in the weekday ministry of Eighth Avenue Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.; Arlie A. Watson Jr., of Colorado City, Tex., as superintendent of missions for the Eastern Baptist Association in Salisbury, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Thomas Eason of Alabama and Mr. and Mrs. William Houston Rutledge of Tennessee as students at the Mexican Baptist Bible Institute in San Antonio, Tex., before assignment to a language missions field; and Lewis W. Newman of Corpus Christi, Tex., as director of in-service guidance at the University of Corpus Christi.

All were appointed in the September meeting of the board of directors of the Home Mission Board.

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Four Student Programs Begun
In Northern Plains Convention

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP)--After 6,000 miles of travel and 55 days of work on 11 campuses, four new student programs have been established in Southern Baptists' newest convention, the Northern Plains Baptist Convention with offices here.

Carrol W. Smith, director of Baptist student work at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, and three Texas college students traveled throughout Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota this summer seeking possibilities for starting student work.

Before the project began, only the University of Wyoming and Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont., among 47 colleges and universities in the Northern Plains Convention territory, had Baptist student programs.

As a result of the summer enlistment project, the University of Montana, Missoula, Mont.; Eastern Montana State College, Billings, Mont.; Casper Junior College, Casper, Wyo.; and Northwest Community College, Powell, Wyo., were added to the student work program of the Northern Plains Convention.

The project was sponsored by the Texas Baptist Student Union summer missions program, the student department of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Northern Plains Baptist Convention.

The team spent five days in each of 11 college communities compiling lists of prospects, meeting with college administrators, faculty members and students, seeking support of local church leaders and participating in local church worship programs.

Wayne Holbrook, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Missoula, will serve as volunteer Baptist student director at the University of Montana. He will give his time, even though he must work at a secular job now in order to serve his church as pastor.

The response was so gratifying that team director Smith said, "Perhaps the biggest thing we did was to let the Northern Plains Convention people know of the potential of student work, and to enlist the support of pastors, state leaders, and church members for the student programs began this year, and for the programs of the future."

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Baptist Group Plans Lay
Seminar On National Crisis

(9-26-68)

CHICAGO (BP)--Solutions, rather than problems, related to the national crisis will be explored in depth in a special seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention here early in 1969.

The seminar, which will seek to give Baptist businessmen a first-hand look at problems of the inner city and emphasize solutions, is slated for March 24-26, 1969.

Members of the Christian Life Commission's advisory committee meeting in Nashville recently approved general plans for the meeting.

In an effort to get more laymen involved, the committee decided that any pastor attending the seminar would be asked to bring one or two laymen to participate.

Foy Valentine, executive secretary-treasurer of the commission, explained that scheduling of the seminar broke a long-standing commission practice of conducting a conference on national issues every other year, saying "the seriousness of the hour and the need for practical solutions made it necessary" to have seminars two years in a row.

Valentine added that the meeting was scheduled as a part of the commission's response to the recent "Statement Concerning the Crisis In Our Nation" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston last June.

Emphasizing the seminar significance Valentine said, "This is not a meeting to talk about sociological problems, it is rather a conference designed to help Southern Baptists find Christian answers to such critical problems affecting human lives as violence, unemployment, underemployment, poor housing, and substandard education."

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National Safety Standards
Would Affect Church Camps

WASHINGTON (BP)--Rep. Dominick V. Daniels (D., N.J.) is pushing for action in Congress for stricter safety regulations in the more than 11,200 resident, travel and day camps in the nation.

National attention to the problem of safety in youth camps is being pressed by Mitchell Kurvan of Westport, Conn. In 1965 Kurvan's son, David, age 15½, was drowned in a canoeing accident. Since that time he has led a one-man campaign to improve safety standards in youth camps.

A number of bills on the problem have been introduced in Congress. Two days of hearing were held by the select education sub-committee of the House Education and Labor Committee. Rep. Daniels is chairman of the sub-committee.

The measures, if enacted into law, would affect church youth camping programs, and other camping activities where organized groups gather for five days or more.

The proposals that are being made in Congress do not involve in any way the nature of the camping projects or the programs that are carried on in them. The bills deal exclusively with the safety, health and welfare of the youths in such camps.

Daniels' bill specifically prohibits governments "acting under this law to restrict, determine, or influence the curriculum, program, or ministry of any youth camp."

Another bill sponsored by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D., N.Y.) would provide for a study of laws, regulations and enforcement in the states concerning safety in youth camps.

At the present time, according to testimony before the subcommittee, there have been no national studies to indicate actual conditions in youth camps on which to base national safety standards.

The American Camping Association (ACA), however, reports that interest in and demand for camping has been increasing. The association testified that camps operated under voluntary and private auspices have increased 85 per cent from 1950 to 1965. This is a growth from 6,032 to 11,200 camps.

According to the findings in a doctoral dissertation at the University of Michigan, John J. Kirk reports that 19 states have no legislation regulating the care of children and youth in camps.

Of the 33 states that have specific or enabling legislation relative to the operation of youth camps, Kirk points out, only 26 issue licenses, permits, or register camps. And of these states only 21 provide for and require annual inspections of operating camps.

The American Camping Association has sought to establish high standards of safety in youth camps. However, only 3,069 camps are members of the association, and the voluntary nature of its membership makes it impossible to enforce compliance with safety standards.

A spokesman on the staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor said that the proposed camping laws have little chance for consideration this year due to the desire of Congress for early adjournment.

However, a staff member on the select sub-committee on education said that if Congress comes back after the election in November congressmen would press for action this year.

This means, according to the advocates of the proposed Youth Camp safety Act, that a new bill will be introduced next year in the new Congress and that action then will be pressed.

Although little opposition has developed to the proposal thus far, there have been significant misgivings by the Boy Scouts of America, some members of the American Camping Association and others, that federal standards are not needed.

Another point of objection that is being made is that there should be no federal funds for the enforcement of such standards, lest there be "federal control" of camping in the nation.

An attempt is being made to satisfy these objections by locating the funds and the authority in the states. It may be provided that if the states do not provide adequate camping safety standards, then the federal government will step in and set the standards.



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WASHINGTON (BP)--Bi-partisan members of both Houses of Congress say they are launching a campaign to establish a department of Peace. Their proposals would bring together several internationally-oriented agencies and programs for one concerted voice on peace at home and abroad.

The rallying cry is that "peace is everybody's concern and nobody's business."

The new proposal calls for a secretary of peace to develop policies and programs to foster peace. He would coordinate "all federal activities" affecting the principle of peace.

Sen. Vance Hartke (D., Ind.) has teamed with Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield (Ore.) and Sen. Ralph Yarborough (D., Tex.) to sponsor the Senate proposal.

The companion legislation in the House was introduced by Rep. Seymour Halpern (R., N Y.) and co-sponsored by 22 members from both parties.

Rep. Halpern told the House of Representatives that they must face the reality that in the government of the United States "there is nobody in charge of peace...there is no department working at the problem full time..."

This may explain, he continued, "why we have failed to convert a peacekeeping intent into a peacekeeping capability."

Halpern admitted that much of the federal effort is devoted to the goal of peace, but he described these efforts as "too widely diffused, too separated from one another and without that single executive leadership required for fulfillment of this mission."

On the Senate side of the capitol, Hartke, the senior law maker from Indiana, said that peace efforts must be redoubled, not as an adjunct to "a State Department too often committed to uphold Defense Department policies," but as a new and positive force at the top levels of official structure.

Hartke testified before the Democratic Platform Committee in August making an appeal for a plank in support of Department of Peace.

The proposed department would reorganize the executive branch of government by transferring the following agencies into the new department:

* The Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency now under the Department of State;

* The functions of the Bureau of International Commerce in the Department of Commerce which relate to the policy on the general agreement on tariffs and trade;

* The functions of the International Agricultural Development Service, now in the Department of Agriculture;

* The Export-Import Bank

* And "any other agency or office, or part of any agency or office in the executive branch of government" if the bureau of the budget agrees that its functions are pertinent to the Peace Department.

In addition, the proposed legislation which is reported to be "gaining a lot of momentum" calls for the creation of an international peace institute, in many respects parallel to the Military academies, and also, for a Peace By Investment Corps to establish and expand people-to-people relationships in the economic field, particularly in underdeveloped countries.

This is not the first time such a department has been proposed. A number of previous bills have been introduced, with efforts increasing in the last two or three decades. In 1945 and 1947 hearings were held by House committees on similar proposals.

Legislative assistants for both Sen. Hartke and Rep. Halpern admit that they do not expect action on the legislation before the end of this session of Congress.

The bill will be reintroduced in the new Congress as a "first order of business" they said, and a concerted effort will be made then to push for more support and to gain hearings before the Senate and House committees on government operations.

A spokesman in one of the peace churches, Miss Frances Neeley of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, said that in the past they had had "reservations" about this kind of approach. She said it is "pretty impossible to separate a secretary of peace from the secretary of state."