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October 11, 1968

**Catholic Leader Debunks
Outmoded Church Ideas**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Roman Catholic specialist in foreign relations charged here that both Baptists and Catholics have been "far too anxious about a United States Ambassador to the Vatican."

Monsignor Marvin Bordelon, director of the Division of World Justice and Peace of the U. S. Catholic Conference, addressed the 12th annual Religious Liberty Conference, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The theme of the conference was "The Role of The Christian Through Church and State in International Relations."

"I suppose that in some Roman Catholic circles there still exists a secret and gleeful hope that our government will appoint an ambassador to the Vatican. But this is not the dominant Roman Catholic position," Bordelon declared.

The Monsignor called on both Baptists and Catholics not "to waste time and energy on this chimera."

"I suggest that Christians would do much better by getting on with the real work of the church and of the world," he continued.

The Catholic spokesman hit hard at false ideas in both Catholic and Baptist circles that hinder them in their universal world mission. "The view of the church as a pyramid with all power and virtue and grace concentrated at the top, simply isn't valid anymore, if indeed it ever was," he declared.

As a result of Vatican II the key phrase depicting the church is "people of God," Bordelon said. This, he continued, has led to a de-emphasis of hierarchical structure in the Catholic Church.

He chided Baptists who continue to hold to outmoded concepts of the Catholic Church. "When Baptists keep insisting that there is more than ample reason to fear the all-powerful Holy see or all-powerful and conniving Vatican State or Roman Church hierarchy, they are not helping Catholics become more mature in their ecclesiology," he said.

Bordelon hit hard at rigid "institutionalism" and church structure, both in Baptist circles and in the Roman Catholic Church.

He declared that "at least three baneful consequences follow over-involvement of church-as-institution." They are (1) the church playing the role of state; (2) the obligations of conscience are not fulfilled; and (3) personal moral integrity is eroded.

Bordelon set forth five marks of the people of God as the church in relation to diplomacy and international affairs.

1. "The church must be incarnate, this-worldly, intimately involved in the stuff of this world;
2. "The church must be universal in vision and universal in action;
3. "The church must respect her own limited competence and limited mode of operation;
4. "The church should give direction but not directives; and
5. "The church must do everything in her power to help promote this ideal: a world that is human, a world in which every man, woman and child can hope at least to live a human life."

Poor people should become the special concern of the people of God, Bordelon declared. The poor of the world have no effective voice, he said. "They have no constituency to speak and act for them, no congressmen to represent them. The church of service needs to give dramatic, believable attention to the Christ in them, and do this both in word and in deed."

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The Catholic spokesman called on the church in the U. S. A. to respond to the "global problems of material hunger and spiritual poverty." He said that "any self-respecting U. S. Baptist congregation or Roman Catholic parish should budget 50 per cent of its time, talent, treasure...to help alleviate misery and destitution" through the world.

Likewise, he continued, what can be done together as churches, in consort with each other, should not be done alone, confessionally.

The church should never undertake any program that any other agency can accomplish creditably well, Bordelon concluded. Where the church has been effective in the past, but where others can now manage, it should retreat "in order to redeploy its resources in money and people to new causes, objectives and goals," he said.

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Baptists Media Blasted
For "Socialistic" Stress

(10-11-68)

Washington (BP)--A Southern Baptist evangelism leader, closing the first session of the Continental Congress on Evangelism, charged the Baptist press with dividing the denomination through a socialistic emphasis.

C. E. Autrey of Atlanta licked the Baptist press with the secular press, which he said "is doing all in its power to spread this country with socialism.

"As the secular press is building socialism, so the Baptist press is trying to build a socialistic emphasis into the denomination."

The director of the division of evangelism for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board then added, "Redemption comes first, all else is secondary."

He suggested that the Baptist press "tell it like it is--tell the good things God's people are doing. We must stop those who would side track us."

When questioned about his use of the term "Baptist press," Autrey explained that he was referring to "many of our publications, state papers, and magazines."

Autrey was speaking to more than 1,100 Baptist leaders from nine conventions here as part of the Crusade of the Americas, a western hemisphere-wide emphasis on evangelism involving 24 million Baptists.

The thread of the social relevance of the Gospel wove its way throughout the opening session. American Baptist Cral Tiller of Washington spoke to both extremes when he praised the three objectives of the crusade: spiritual renewal, evangelism, and establishment of moral bases to better mankind's welfare.

Tiller, an advisor on budgetary development for the U. S. Bureau of the Budget, took issue with those who label social involvement as Communist influence."

He said the facts are just reversed. "It is the policy of Communist government everywhere to see that the churches in their nation are irrelevant to the society in which they find themselves.

So those who would stop the church from seeking to be irrelevant, are themselves taking a Communist path."

He also took issue with the other extreme: "They make their whole witness one of social action, and leave out the underlying matters of Christian conversion and conviction that alone give a sound foundation for social action."

The vice president of the District of Columbia city council, who is also a Baptist pastor and head of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, welcomed the delegates to the city.

In the welcome, Walter Fauntroy asked the Baptists "to join the human rights cause to feed the hungry, to make men sensitive to the needs of those less fortunate, to enlist the forces of good will in a way that we shall overcome the forces of evil with good."

The first address of the night came from Rubens Lopes of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who is credited with the origination of the mammoth crusade. He passed up the use of a translator, and spoke in an English that delighted the delegates.

He characterized the crusade with the words, "integration, dynamic, and evangelistic." He said it integrates churches, laymen, languages, and racists.

"What is the color of the soul?" he asked. "I don't know, but I know the color of the heart is red, like the blood of Jesus Christ. It is the same red in the black man, the yellow, the brown, the man, the woman, the child."

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He lashed out at apathy and the loss of dynamic religion. "We are like a lion who has lost his teeth and his claws," he said. "We are like soldiers who have changed their uniform for pajamas."

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Officials Face Baptists
With Non-Military War

(10-11-68)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two top government officials involved a group of Baptists here in discussing the need for non-military assistance to fight the war against poverty, ignorance and disease at home and abroad.

One was a military man, Brigadier General William A. Knowlton, secretary of the General Staff of the United States Army. The other was the mayor of the nation's capital, Walter E. Washington. The occasion was the 12th annual conference on religious liberty, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Representatives of seven Baptist bodies in North America heard the reports on government efforts to minister to human need at home and overseas. The two addresses set the stage for dialogue on the conference theme, "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State in International Relations."

Brig. Gen. Knowlton told of U. S. efforts to win the "other war" in Vietnam. By assisting in economic and cultural developments, the United States is helping to bring about a social revolution among the peasants there, he said.

Knowlton recently returned to the states after a two-year assignment in Vietnam where he directed the government's pacification efforts.

In the address of the mayor of Washington, D.C., neither of the two wars going on in Vietnam was mentioned. Instead, the mayor's speech focused entirely on the search for answers to the serious domestic problems in America's cities and the role of the churches in helping to solve these problems.

The "other war" in Vietnam, according to Knowlton, is presently involving some 48,000 persons working in small "revolutionary development" teams. These civilians, aided by the military, are working in over 12,000 hamlets in the Vietnamese countryside.

Knowlton explained that these teams are made up of persons trained to teach ideology, agricultural and educational methods and to give medical assistance.

The military man especially praised the work of many Christian groups who work independently or sometimes in cooperation with U. S. agencies. These groups, he said, are helping to provide inspiration and education, and are assisting the poor people of Vietnam to raise their standard of living.

Because of illness and a disturbance in one of the ghetto areas of the capital city, Mayor Washington was unable to deliver his address in person. Pinch-hitting for him was Carl D. Coleman, chairman of the parole board of the District of Columbia.

Washington, a Baptist layman, issued a straightforward challenge to the denominational leaders present to create more and better programs to involve the churches in the problems of the city.

"Unless the church...engages in a mission directed toward metropolitan society, it is not engaged in a mission designed to serve the needs in this contemporary world," he stated.

In his prepared address, the Negro government official asked pointedly if one can believe in churches that cannot provide moral leadership to help people face the problems of poverty, race, crime, violence, war, equal opportunity and mutual respect for the rights of all.

The mayor's speech included several suggestions for churches to educate their members and to participate in building better cities:

* Convince church members that they "are the city" and they hold its future in their hands and hearts.

* Develop faithful attitudes toward the poor, the weak and the racially different.

* Lead church members to participate in community planning and organization.

* Mobilize communities for action by sponsoring recreation activities, making church facilities available for community meetings and acting as a major liaison between the people and "the establishment."

* Become pioneers in creating new religious strategies in housing, education, employment, consumer cooperatives and intercultural projects.

"We need experiments born of faith," he challenged the Baptist churchmen. He also urged more planning and coordination between denominational groups and more long-term commitments to meet the massive problems in inner cities.

The Baptist layman, appointed by President Johnson to be the first mayor of Washington, D. C., further challenged the church to take its own religious traditions more seriously. You can serve the metropolis and build stronger community organizations if you seek and build stronger congregations, he stated.

The message implicit in our cities today is one that is readily understood by men of faith, it was pointed out. "It is powerfully communicated to the eyes, ears and hearts of those who walk through the streets and alleys where the divine spark in humanity struggles to survive."

In sharing his concepts of a church that is faithful about "our Father's business," Mayor Washington warned that the church cannot "walk away from the gnawing, frustrating problems of the city and expect to live in peach and tranquility."

"The poor are men and women and children, not merely statistics...if we would hear the word of God, we must listen to the poor as well as the affluent," the Negro official challenged.

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Christians Have World
Role, Conference Says

(10-11-68)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Christian responsibility extends to human problems throughout the world and to all peoples, according to a consensus of 144 Baptist leaders gathered here from seven major Baptist bodies in North America.

Beyond this general agreement opinions varied widely and extended to sharp disagreement on such subjects as conscientious objection to wars, foreign aid, the settlement of international disputes and the relation of the gospel to culture and nationalism.

The 12th annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs drew participants from the Southern Baptist Convention (72), American Baptist Convention (34), North American Baptist General Conference (8), Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. (7), National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (5), Baptist General Conference (2) and the Baptist Federation of Canada (1). Fifteen others were from churches affiliated with both the American and Southern Baptist Conventions.

The theme of the three-day conclave was "The Role of the Christian Through Church and State in International Relations."

Next year's conference will be on "The Church and Emerging Patterns of Rights and Responsibilities." Major attention will be focused on the problems of dissent and conscientious objectors.

James M. Sapp, director of correlations services for the Baptist Joint Committee, was the conference correlator. He pointed out that none of the findings of the conference were official or binding on any Baptist body. The conference reports are given to the Baptist Joint Committee for whatever help it may find in them in the consideration of future policy.

The purpose of the annual conferences for the past decade has been to provide a forum for discussion of principles and practices by Baptists on current church-state issues facing the denominations, according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

The conference section on personal freedom agreed on five basic principles to guide the Christian in relation to public and international issues:

1. "The freedom of the Christian is limited by the dual Love Commandment of Jesus." This principle, the section said, not only grants to other persons equal freedom, but also often voluntarily restricts the exercise of one's personal freedom.

2. "A Christian is obligated to obey and respect the laws of the state except that where the demands of God conflict with said laws the Christian must give priority to God."

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According to the section consensus this principle would under certain circumstances require the Christian to practice passive resistance or engage in civil disobedience. According to this principle the section said that Baptists should support conscientious objectors to war, although there was no agreement on support for conscientious objectors to a particular war.

3. "The Christian has an obligation to participate actively and intelligently in the political process."

4. "The Christian should influence government policy so that in relation to other nations personal freedom in advanced and human needs are met."

5. "The Christian should strive to use governmental power to encourage self-determination by all peoples of the world, this being, in our view, of highest value."

This principle, the section said, should encourage the church to provide a means for discussing such crises as Vietnam, Biafra, Eastern Europe and the Near East. Also it said that the churches should distribute widely information on the United Nations.

The section on the Christian in Economic Development of Nations agreed that Christians have a positive role both through church and state to express their concerns for people.

Among ten suggested guidelines this section said that "the Christian conscience must endorse and support birth control programs in developing nations...leaving always the implementation of such information to the individual conscience and will."

In the context of economic development of peoples this section also said that "the relevant church of today should support such agencies as the United Nations, the World Bank and the World Council of Churches, which provide structural forms within and through which men may begin to act in the context of membership in a world community."

Questions addressed by the other sections of the conference include:

* Settlement of international disputes: "What constructive suggestions for the settlement of international disputes do Christians really favor?"

* Christian political role in international policy: "What religious or political activities regarding international relations commend themselves as Christian witness in the modern world?"

* Problems of culture and nationalism: "How can the church be basically international under God, without becoming nationalistic in its value system?"

The reports of the five sections of the conference were read and discussed before the final plenary session. No votes of approval or disapproval were taken by the whole conference. The reports are filed with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs for information and for future study.

Outside of the fact that the questions were fully discussed for three days by responsible Baptist leaders, the findings of the various sections are unofficial and are not definitive positions, Mr. Sapp, the conference coordinator reiterated.

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Hymn Writing Winners
Announced by Board

(10-11-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Seven winners of the 1968 Southern Baptist Hymn Writing Competition have been chosen from among 600 entries, according to W. Hines Sims, secretary of the church music department, Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

First place winner of \$200 is G. Temp Sparkman, minister of education at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., for his composition "Where's the Promise of the City?"

William N. McElrath, Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, received the second place award of \$100 for his hymn "O Son of Man, Who Walked Man's Way."

Five texts selected for honorable mention were written by Iris Deane Starkey of Asheville, N.C.; Mrs. Roland Q. Leavell, New Orleans, La.; Mrs. A. Moncrief Jordan, Camp Springs, Md.; Mrs. Davis C. Woolley, Nashville, and Felix O. Cox Jr., Baltimore, Md.

The biennial contest, sponsored by the board's church music department, is designed to encourage and stimulate creative hymn writing among Southern Baptists. Entries were received from 29 states and from Colombia, Indonesia, Lebanon and Costa Rica.

Oklahoma Baptist University
Receives \$300,000 Gift

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--A general endowment gift in excess of \$300,000 has been given Oklahoma Baptist University through the estate of the late R. H. Nicholson, long-time member of Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City.

Nicholson, an Oklahoma City real estate, insurance and contracting executive, died May 23. His will provided that one-third of his estate go to OBU, one-third to the Child Care Department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the remaining one-third to Olivet Baptist Church. The total estate will amount to about \$1 million.

He was a deacon at Olivet Baptist Church, member of the OBU board of trustees in 1943 and 1950-55, member of the Baptist Laymen's Corporation Commission and various Southern Baptist Convention and state convention committees.

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Texas Baptist Men
Name Pratt To Post

(10-11-68)

DALLAS (BP)--A. D. Pratt, an active layman in Texas Baptist Brotherhood work for more than 20 years, has been employed by the Texas Baptist Men's state office here as a field representative to churches and associations throughout Texas.

Pratt, past president of the Baptist State Men's organization, has participated and spoken in numerous lay crusades throughout Texas, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Mexico as a lay volunteer.

A business man for more than 40 years, Pratt's background includes 22 years as a J. C. Penny Company executive in three locations in Texas and 17 years as owner and operator of his own department store, The Style Mart, in Lake Jackson, Tex.

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Editor Says Clearer
Picture of Church Needed

(10-11-68)

FORT WORTH (BP) -- Southern Baptists need a clear picture of what it means to be the church in our day, Walker Knight, editor of Home Missions magazine, told student and faculty members at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Knight, who was on campus to speak to the Theological Fellowship, said today's needs call for a clear expression of the ideals of the New Testament. "We need to recognize what the ideal is and at least strive for growth," he said.

"Too often," he added, "the church waits as if it had a vested interest in the status quo."

The editor praised the statement on race relations approved at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston. "When have we ever had Southern Baptist leadership taking inventory in such a way?" he asked. He called the statement a "very significant" change of direction.

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Mrs. Melton Named
To Medicenter Post

(10-11-68)

FT. WORTH (BP)--Mrs. Alpha Melton, professor of social work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has accepted the position of professional social work consultant for the Medicenter of America here.

In addition to her regular seminary teaching duties, Mrs. Melton will be responsible for planning and projecting programs to meet the needs of those who are patients in the new center. Her services will include case work and group work, all done with the cooperation of a program coordinator.

The medicenter provides care for individuals undergoing a period of recuperation and physical rehabilitation.

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CORRECTION

(10-11-68)

On Baptist Press story mailed 10-9-68, "Texas Baptist Leader Succumbs," please change first graph to read: Wallace Bassett 83, holder of one of the longest pastorates...Thank you.

--Baptist Press



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