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127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS COMMENT ON MYRON C.
TAYLOR RESIGNATION; URGE NO SUCCESSOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(BP)—The resignation of Myron C. Taylor as President Truman's personal ambassador to the Vatican brought immediate rejoicing to Protestant leaders and groups, who have repeatedly called on the President to abolish the special post Taylor held. Taylor had served as personal envoy to the Pope for ten years. He was first named to the post by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dr. Joseph M. Dawson, executive director of the Joint Conference Committee on Public Relations of Baptists of the United States, with offices here, wired the President immediately upon announcement of Taylor's resignation: "On behalf of 14,000,000 Baptists in the United States who have consistently protested Myron Taylor's appointment to the Vatican I wish to express satisfaction that he is no longer the occasion for controversy and national disunity. Our earnest hope is that in complete recognition of the American principle of separation between church and state, Mr. Taylor will have no successor in the office he has held."

Dr. Dawson had predicted that eventually Taylor would resign and thus relieve the President from withdrawing him in fulfillment of a promise made in June 1946 when he was visited by a group of representatives from seven Protestant denominations. The group presented the President with resolutions stating that the President's personal representative to the Vatican was "unauthorized," "unconstitutional," and "contrary to the historic American principle of the separation of church and state."

The delegation reported they were given assurance that the appointment of Taylor was "a temporary expedient to give the President the fullest opportunity to make his contribution to the peace, that it might terminate at an early date but would certainly terminate with the signing of the peace treaties."

"It occurs to me," Dawson said, "that Mr. Truman will discover that whatever political advantage there may be in retaining the favor of Roman Catholics, a minority in this country, he will conclude there is more support to come from a right attitude on this matter from Protestants who constitute, with those who think like them, more than 70 per cent of the people in the nation."

Dr. Louie D. Newton, Atlanta Baptist pastor, who as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1946 was a member of the delegation that visited the President, commented on the resignation of Taylor: "It is earnestly hoped that the President will use the advantage of the Taylor resignation to terminate U. S. relations with

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the Vatican, which he promised in June 1946 he would do at an early date. This emergency appointment threatens to become a permanent arrangement already embodying full-time services of at least one career diplomat and embassy staff costing taxpayers \$40,000 annually. Congress ended original diplomatic relations with the Vatican in 1867 stating that no money shall be paid for support of American legation at Rome after June 20 unless Congress authorizes and approves resumption of diplomatic relation with the Vatican. The President assumes great responsibility in continuing the present arrangement."

Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, said in Nashville, Tenn.: "In private conversation President Harry Truman has indicated that he felt justified in continuing the appointment of Myron Taylor as special ambassador to the Vatican because it was a matter inherited from the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Without in anywise approving the continuation of the appointment, some of us have been able to understand the President's position. We rejoice now that without embarrassment to any part of his political constituency he is relieved of his problem and may freely chart his own course.

"It would be appropriate at this time for all who have repeatedly petitioned the recall of Myron Taylor to send a personal communication to the President indicating rejoicing that this embarrassing relationship is now terminated and urging that regardless of the pressure no successor be appointed."

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COMMITTEE ON LOCATION OF NEW SEMINARY IN EAST HAS MEETING

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—(BP)—A Southern Baptist Convention committee on location of a new theological seminary somewhere in the southeastern states met here last week to receive proposals from Charlotte and Ashville, N. C.; Washington, D. C.; Greenville and Spartanburg, S. C.; and Columbus and Atlanta, Ga.

Members of the committee present at the meeting were Doctors Claud Bowen, Greensboro, N. C.; J. W. Storer, Tulsa, Okla.; J. H. Buchanan, Birmingham, Ala.; Wade Bryant, Roanoke, Va.; Vernon Richardson, Baltimore, Md.; A. E. Tibbs, Greenville, S. C.; Duke K. McCall, Nashville, Tenn.; and Louie D. Newton, Atlanta, Ga.

The committee announced to the competing cities that its next meeting will be held in Birmingham, Ala., February 21, at which time final qualifying under terms of minimum requirements will be considered. The committee will make its recommendation to the 1950 session of the Convention in Chicago in May.

ORPHANAGE EXECUTIVES
HOLD MEETING IN DALLAS

DALLAS, Tex.—(BP)—H. Truman Maxey, Oklahoma City, was re-elected president of the S.B.C. orphanage executives in the Association's annual meeting at Dallas. Wade B. East, Oklahoma City, was elected secretary-treasurer.

New regional vice-presidents elected are Tom M. Smith, South Carolina; W. C. Creasman, Tennessee; T. M. Johns, Florida; D. C. Black, Louisiana. Twenty-six executives attended from thirteen homes. Next annual meeting of the group will be held in Lakeland, Fla., January 25-26, 1951.

In his report to the Association President Maxey called for a study of advisability of an S.B.C. orphanage commission with full-time secretary.

A move sponsored by Sam M. Smith, of South Carolina, to include the term of "social service worker" in the S.B.C. Handbook was defeated on the ground that it would unduly emphasize one particular department of the homes.

Hal F. Buckner, Texas, cited need for Baptist-supported homes for delinquent teen-agers. He suggested that they be operated as part of the orphanage systems but not on the same grounds. Texas Baptists have two such homes, a boys' ranch and the Bethesda home for girls in San Antonio.

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S.B.C. HAS 1950 GOAL OF 520,000
NEW MEMBERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Southern Baptists must take full advantage of the momentum which in 1950 seems to be the natural atmosphere of their work. They must realize that more people can be reached, and reached faster. This is the opinion of Dr. J. N. Barnette, secretary of the Sunday School Department of the Sunday School Board.

He cited the net annual growth for the past five years as proof that it can be done.

"In 1944," Mr. Barnette said, "Our total net gain was 80,000. In 1949 our total net gain was 327,000. The average church gain is a thrilling story." It is as follows: 1944 — 2; 1945 — 6; 1946 — 9; 1947 — 11; 1948 — 12; 1949 — 13.

He gave two outstanding 1949 examples of gains. First Church, Dallas, gained a net average of 16 each Sunday. A small rural church, Mt. Gilead, near Guffin, Georgia, gained a net average of 4.5 per Sunday.

When asked how this information would help to shape the Southern Baptist Sunday School program, he said, "We are adopting as our goal an average net gain of 20 for each Sunday school." If Southern Baptists reach this goal in 1950 it will mean a total gain in Sunday school enrolment of 520,000.

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S.B.C. ALREADY GIVEN
MILLION FOR MISSIONS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—More than a million dollars for Southwide and world-wide mission causes reached the offices of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention during the first 16 days of 1950. The exact total, announced by Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, was \$1,019,843.30. This compares with \$1,210,626.91 for the entire month of January last year.

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