

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 15, 1968

**Kentucky Convention Slaps
College For Allowing Dancing**

FLORENCE, Ky. (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Convention, in two separate votes, took slaps at Georgetown Baptist College in Georgetown, Ky., for allowing on-campus dancing at the Baptist school.

For a total of perhaps three hours, the convention debated the dancing issue during two different sessions. All of the votes were close.

From the start of the three day convnition to the finish, the dancing issue seemed to be the over-riding concern of the messengers, who seemed intent upon taking a slap at those in positions of authority who make decisions the grass roots do not approve.

The question did not seem to be whether to slap the hands of the Georgetown trustees, who voted in October 17-3 (one abstention and 15 trustees absent) to approve of on-campus dancing at the request of the students. Rather the question seemed to be how hard to chide the trustees.

In the opening business session, Wendell Rone, Owensboro, Ky., pastor who has in previous conventions opposed Georgetown College for accepting federal loans, made a motion condemning dancing and Baptist approval of it.

Instead of adopting Rone's motion, however, the convention narrowly passed a substitute motion by C. R. Daley, editor of the Western Recorder in Louisville, which softened the blow to the Georgetown trustees.

Rone's motion would have asked the Kentucky convention to "declare it to be its firm conviction that individual Baptist Christians, Baptist churches, and Baptist institutions should never approve or condone or participate in mixed dancing by both sexes."

Daley's substitute, approved by an 11-vote margin of 231-220, stated that in the light of the known moral convictions of a great number of Kentucky Baptists on social dancing, "we regret action of Georgetown trustees...and we respectfully urge that henceforth trustees of Kentucky Baptist insitutions not take actions which are contrary to stated convention policy or contrary to known moral convictions of a large segment of Baptists in Kentucky."

The substitute, however, did not satisfy the critics of Georgetown College. The next day, after exhausting the time of two miscellaneous business sessions, the convention extended the time to hear additional motions on the dancing issue and for discussion.

After nearly two hours of debate, the convention approved a motion expressing "vigorous opposition" to what the Georgetown trustees had done, that the trustees be respectfully requested to reconsider the dancing vote, and that the trustees' decision concerning this request be published in the Western Recorder, official state Baptist paper.

The motion passed by a 20 vote margin, 184 to 164.

During the same session, a substitute motion by Franklin Owen, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., which re-affirmed faith in the Georgetown trustees was defeated by a vote of 174-152. Owen is a trustee for the college.

The dancing issue completely overshadowed all other actions by the Kentucky convention, which also approved a record \$4.15 million budget after debate on the need for more funds to meet human need, adopted a resolution forbidding use of Cooperative Program budget funds to repay government loans, and elected a rural pastor as president.

The 1969 budget allocates 69 per cent to the state convention, \$2,859,350, and 31 per cent to Southern Baptist worldmission causes, or \$1,290,650.

An effort to ammend the budget was made by Bob Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, to provide at least \$140,000 to meet human needs in Kentucky.

No plan was presented outlining exactly how the \$140,000 would be spent, or how the current budget could be parred to provide the \$140,000, but Brown urged use of the funds for

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

charity work in hospitals, to help poor people, for vocational training, for housing, shelter, clothing, and other aspects of a Baptist welfare program. Brown's proposal would have asked the finance committee to find where to cut and how to use the funds.

The motion was tabled for one day, and after an explanation of the difficulty of completely revising the budget overnight, the convention voted to establish a seven-member committee to study the possibility and bring a report next year to the convention.

A resolution was adopted stating that Cooperative Program funds kept within the state could not be used to repay government loans made by Baptist institutions. A. J. Smith, pastor in Mexico, Ky., made the motion, stating that if the institutions could find funds from other sources to repay government loans, it would be fine, but Cooperative Program funds should not be used.

Elected president of the convention was J. T. Miller, pastor of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Hancock County not far from Owensboro, Ky. Miller, a member of the convention's Executive Board who preached the annual convention sermon, is the first rural pastor in many years to be elected president.

In another major action, the convention approved establishment of a new hospital in the St. Matthews area of Louisville. The proposed 175 to 200-bed hospital costing about \$8 million will be the second Baptist hospital in Louisville, and the fourth in the state.

Kentucky Baptists approved unanimously the "Statement on the Crisis in Our Nation" adopted earlier this year by the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, and received five Negro churches into membership. The five join three others already received. All are also dually-aligned with the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

A resolution was also adopted urging the predominately white churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to align dually with the General Baptist (Negro) convention. None have done so thus far.

Next session of the convention will meet Nov. 11-13, 1969, in Lexington, Ky.

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Imprisoned Cuba Missionary's
Son, David Fite Jr., Returns

(11-15-68)

MACON, Ga. (BP)--The father of a Southern Baptist missionary imprisoned in Cuba on illegal currency charges told the Georgia Baptist Convention here that the 12-year-old son of Missionary David Fite is returning to the United States.

Clifton E. Fite, pastor of Rosemont Heights Baptist Church in Waynesboro, Ga., made the announcement, and added that his imprisoned son David has been allowed to write his first letter during his four years in prison.

"As of this morning (Nov. 13), our oldest grandson is on the way out of Cuba, to Mexico, and then to Decatur (Ga.) to live with his uncle, Dr. Donald Fite," said Clifton Fite.

The youngster is J. David Fite Jr., age 12, oldest of the three sons of David Fite who was arrested in April of 1964 along with his father-in-law, Herbert Caudill.

Caudill, superintendent of Southern Baptist mission work in Western Cuba, and Fite, who taught in the Baptist seminary and was pastor of a Cuban church, were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for illegal currency exchanges.

Caudill has since been placed under house arrest and is with his wife. He has undergone extensive eye surgery and is not able to see, only able to write.

David Fite remains in prison. He father said that his first letter while in prison arrived only 10 days before the convention, and that it "was an encouraging letter."

Mrs. David Fite, the former Margaret Caudill, remains in Cuba with her other two sons, John, age nine, and Mark, age four. Mark was born just one month before his father was arrested.

Dr. Donald Fite, the Decatur ophthalmologist with whom the 12-year-old David Fite Jr., will live, is a twin brother to the imprisoned missionary.

Clifton Fite told the convention that there are "many encouraging signs that all this is fitting into the plan of God and that our son will soon be released.

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"We wish to say from the depths of our heart," Fite added, "that no one could be more Christian than the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have been in our time of need. We deeply appreciate your prayers, and pray they will continue."

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Oregon-Washington Baptists
Elect Executive Secretary

(11-15-68)

SALEM, Oregon (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington meeting here elected a new executive secretary, adopted a five-year plan for advance, and authorized a study of the possibility of changing the convention's name.

Elected executive secretary of the 35,000-member convention was William Eugene Grubbs, who for the past three years has been director of the department of evangelism for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, in Fresno, Calif.

Grubbs, nominated by the convention's Executive Board, will succeed Roland P. Hood who is retiring Nov. 30. Hood has been working in the two-state area for 20 years, and was director of the cooperative missions division and associate secretary of the convention for 14 years.

Grubbs, former pastor of Baptist churches in Florida, Alabama, Missouri, and California, was a Southern Baptist foreign missionary to the Philippines and Indonesia before directing the California evangelism work.

The five-year plan for advance approved by the Oregon-Washington convention will be coordinated by Grubbs as a cooperative effort among the 225 Southern Baptist churches in the two-state area.

Goals set as part of the five-year program call for establishment of 203 new churches and missions, total baptisms of 16,950 for the five years, a total resident membership of 45,000 by 1972, and a Cooperative Program goal of \$570,000 by 1972.

In another action, the convention voted to ask its Executive Board to study the possibility and wisdom of changing the name of the convention to some short appropriate name such as "Northwest Baptist Convention," and to likewise study the possibility of changing the name of the state missions offering to "Northwest Mission Offering" or something similar.

The convention elected the first Negro in its history to the Executive Board, naming Mrs. Irene James of Tacoma, Wash., to the post.

New president is C. E. Bolin, pastor of University Park Baptist Church in Eugene, Oregon.

He succeeds Harry G. Bonner, former pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Wenatchee, Wash., who was introduced to the convention not only as president, but also as the newly-elected secretary of the Northwest Baptist Foundation.

Bonner had earlier been elected to head the Foundation, but no announcement had been made publicly. He assumed the position the day after the close of the state convention.

In other action, the convention adopted a 1969 budget of \$300,000, an increase of \$30,000 over the current budget. It allocates 20 per cent, \$60,000, to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

The 1969 meeting of the convention will meet Nov. 4-6 in the tri-cities area of Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick, Washington. Exact place of the convention was not set.

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Suit Filed To Stop Sale
Of SBC Organization Site

(11-15-68)

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP)--Sixteen members of the First Baptist Church here have filed a suit seeking to stop sale of the site where the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845.

The First Baptist Church of Augusta voted in May to sell its present building and property and to move to a new site several miles away. The present edifice is not the building in which the convention was organized, but it rests over the place where the old church sanctuary stood.

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Superior Court Judge William F. Flemming of Richmond County has set a hearing for Dec. 9, on the suit challenging the sale of the property. He issued a temporary injunction forbidding sale of the building until the case is resolved.

When the church announced its plans to move last May, Pastor R. J. Robinson stated that appropriate historical markers will be placed at the site designating it as the place where the Southern Baptist Convention was organized.

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Clifton J. Allen Retires
From Sunday School Board

(11-15-68)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The retirement of Clifton J. Allen, editorial secretary of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, effective Dec. 31, 1968, has been announced by the board's executive secretary-treasurer, James L. Sullivan.

"Although Allen does not reach mandatory retirement age for several months, it is at his own request that he is retiring from the multiple duties of editorial secretary in order to devote his full time to the "Broadman Bible Commentary," said Sullivan.

"He will continue by request the work as general editor of this twelve-volume commentary on a contractual basis."

Allen became associate editorial secretary of the board in 1937, and has been editorial secretary since 1945. He is a member of the Committee on the Uniform Series, International Sunday School Lessons, and has prepared a treatment of the lessons for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission which is broadcast weekly by about 100 radio stations.

He has been recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention since his first election to the post in 1965. He is chairman of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Bible Study and Membership Training.

Allen has written "Points for Emphasis" annually since 1953, and is the author of "The Gospel According to Paul."

Sullivan stated that he will present a nomination for a successor as editorial secretary at the elected Sunday School Board's annual meeting in Nashville, Jan. 28, 1969.

"Southern Baptists owe Dr. Allen an expression of deep gratitude for the innumerable ways in which he has made significant contribution to the advancement of Bible study and church member training through the years," Sullivan said.

"His guidance of the editorial ministry of the Sunday School Board has been perceptive and effective. I have great personal appreciation for his ministry, and for his willingness to serve now in a specialized way as Broadman Press prepares for distribution of its most monumental work," he concluded.

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Kansas Church Loan Association
Said Insolvent, SBC Aid Asked

(11-15-68)

TOPEKA, Kan. (BP)--The Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists meeting here for its annual session voted unanimously to ask the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to help save the convention's Church Loan Association from a "hopeless and insolvent condition."

Facing a financial crisis in the loan organization, the Kansas convention adopted a 10-point resolution giving the SBC Home Mission Board full management of the state-wide loan association, and also voted to reorganize the state convention staff and budget to provide more funds to solve the problem.

The resolution adopted by the convention indicated that the Church Loan Association is unable to meet its obligations, that its liabilities exceed its assets, and that drastic action was needed to protect the integrity of the convention.

Tommy Grozier of Bellevue, Neb., president of the two-state convention, presented the resolution from the Executive Board of the convention.

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The Church Loan Association of Southern Baptists (in Kansas) is an agency of the state convention with offices in Wichita. It operates under a separate board of trustees appointed by the convention.

The convention has backed to the extent of 25 per cent current loans to 77 churches in the convention, and as many as 45 of the churches are delinquent on their loan payments. Amount of the delinquency is about \$380,000.

The church loan association faces a deficit estimated at about \$500,000, but no accurate figures are available since official audits have not been completed of the books, said N. J. Westmoreland, executive secretary of the convention.

Four preliminary financial reports have been conducted of the Church Loan Association books and all four report differing figures. All agreed that the organization was insolvent.

Audited figures showing assets and liabilities were not available, said Westmoreland. He added that if all the loans to churches backed by bonds were paid off, the association would receive \$3,111,131. A total of \$3,599,466 would be needed if all current bonds were to be paid off immediately, although the bonds are due over a long period of time.

Although these figures could not be considered assets and liabilities, they give an indication of the financial situation.

Westmoreland said that during the past 10 years, the loan association had issued bonds, totalling \$4 3/4 million with the help of the A. B. Culbertson Bond Co., trustee for the association.

During the same period the association has made 254 loans to 115 churches totalling \$3,550,453.

The complicated financial situation is made even more difficult by the association's bookkeeping system, and by differing accounts by the four financial studies.

Westmoreland said that the news came as a shock to most of the messengers to the convention. The announcement was met with sadness, dismay and disbelief, he said.

Cuts were made in the state convention budget in an effort to find \$50,000 per year to repay the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board which will help the Church Loan Association pay off its obligations.

The budget cuts eliminated two existing positions forcing the dismissal of Garth Pybas, secretary of the departments of evangelism and Brotherhood, and Ray Gilliland, secretary of the department of Training Union and student work.

Westmoreland said he deeply regretted the necessity to cut the budget, but that the funds had to come from somewhere. The programs of Sunday School, Training Union, church music and Brotherhood will become the responsibility of Harold Inman, named director of the newly-created division of religious education. Westmoreland himself will assume the evangelism responsibilities.

A motion asking for the executive secretary's resignation was defeated in a secret ballot. The convention then gave Westmoreland a vote of confidence.

Westmoreland said that he tried to get the Executive Committee to take action on the problem three years ago, but said he met with no success.

No action was taken by the convention concerning the employment of Howard H. Whatley, executive vice president of the Church Loan Association, since the association has a separate board of trustees. Whatley is also executive secretary of the Kansas Southern Baptist Foundation, another separate convention agency.

When asked if there was any dishonesty or fraud involved, Westmoreland said it is too early to pass judgment since the official audit had not yet been completed and signed by the auditor. "The full story may not be known for another six months or more," he said.

The ten-point resolution adopted by the convention asked the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, through its church loans division, for "advice, direction and assistance," and created a management contract giving the Home Mission Board full control of the association for ten years.

It specifically called for the following additional actions:

---A refinancing of the convention's office building at Wichita to provide \$100,000 for the Church Loan Association's sinking fund.

---Purchase by the Home Mission Board of up to \$400,000 of church loans to add to the sinking fund.

---Creation of a standby fund of \$300,000 by the Home Mission Board to pay maturing obligations of the association.

---Budgeting of \$50,000 annually for at least 10 years by the Kansas convention to meet obligations of the association.

In asking for adoption of the resolution, Grozier said, "If this is done, we feel that sufficient funds will be available to pay the bond holders both principal and interest as coupons and bonds mature.

Bob Kilgore, director of the church loans division for the Home Mission Board, told the convention that their request would be presented to the board's directors meeting Dec. 4 in Atlanta, and that every consideration would be given to the request.

The convention-adopted budget of \$538,000 for 1969 is an increase of \$41,333 over the 1968 budget. The goal includes anticipated income of \$300,000 from Kansas Baptist churches, up \$46,000. The budget allocates \$51,000 or 17 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes through the Cooperative Program.

The convention elected W. E. Thorn, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church of Wichita, Kan., as president, and set its next meeting in Bellevue, Neb., Nov. 11-13, 1969.

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Baptist College Gets Strong
California Convention Support

(11-15-68)

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Adopting a five-year financial plan, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California gave strong support to California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif.

The convention's Executive Board had recommended an annual increase of \$60,000 for the five year period, but the proposal was amended from the floor to add \$10,000 per year for the Baptist college. The other \$60,000 provides a "basic cost of living increase" for all other programs of the state convention.

Also approved was a formula for distributing all contributions which are received over the budget, called the "advance section." In 1969, the college will receive 80 per cent of the advance section, while the percentage gradually decreases to 50 per cent in 1973.

Missions causes, receiving 15 per cent of the advance in 1969, will get 30 per cent in 1973; and Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes will get five per cent of the advance section in 1969 and 20 per cent by 1973.

In other major actions, the convention adopted a proposed budget for 1969, adopted as its own the "Statement Concerning the Crisis in Our Nation" approved by the Southern Baptist Convention last June, and called for prayer for President-elect Richard M. Nixon, a Californian.

Another resolution referred to the Vietnam war and called on Southern Baptists to pray for an immediate and honorable and lasting peace through the current Paris peace talks.

The convention activated a full-time department of stewardship and promotion, naming James C. Graves, who presently is both stewardship and Brotherhood secretary, to the position. Brotherhood work was combined with the half-time music department, and Duane Barrett, music and Training Union secretary, was named to that position.

The 1969 Cooperative Program goal was set at \$1.3 million, with 26 per cent going to Southern Baptist Convention causes. California Baptist College will receive \$210,000 out of the basic goal.

In addition, a long-range endowment program was assigned to the college for implementation. Goal for the program is \$14 million in endowment funds.

Convention officials noted it was the second time since 1962 that the convention had given top priority in its five year programs to the Baptist college in an effort to solve serious financial problems.

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Both a resolution and a formal letter addressed to President-elect Nixon were approved by the convention, assuring him of concern and prayer. The resolution urged prayer for Nixon as he assumes office "in a period of great social and moral turmoil."

A resolution pledging support for California Gov. Ronald Reagan and other concerned officials who are seeking to control obscenity also scored the breakdown of moral integrity in movies and television programs, and in the spread of obscene literature.

Other resolutions supported the Crusade of the Americas evangelistic campaign and upheld separation of church and state.

Re-elected president was Glen Paden, pastor in Ridgecrest, Calif. In a further show of support for the college, J. L. Harden, business manager of California Baptist College was elected first vice president.

The convention voted to meet at the college city, with at least one session on campus, in 1970. The 1969 meeting will be in Santa Monica, Calif., Nov. 11-13.

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Mississippi Baptists Dedicate
Building, Spotlight Crusade

(11-15-68)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--The Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting here dedicated its new office building, heard messages emphasizing evangelism and the Crusade of the Americas and adopted a record \$4.2 million budget for 1969.

The new \$1.1 million convention building was dedicated with a ceremony featuring Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas as the speaker.

The convention also held a memorial service for the late Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary of the convention board who died last summer in Peru on a mission tour.

A plaque in memory of Quarles was presented to the convention by Merrill D. Moore, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in behalf of the SBC Executive Committee.

The committee to nominate a successor to Quarles reported at the pre-convention session of the convention board that it was not yet ready with a nomination.

The convention voted to ask all churches in the convention to observe Nov. 24 as a special day of prayer for divine guidance on this matter.

For the first time in several years, no resolutions were presented to the convention.

The \$4.2 million budget for 1969 is an increase of \$400,000 over the 1968 goal. It will be divided three ways: \$1.3 million for Southern Baptist Convention causes, \$2.3 million for state causes, and \$460,000 for capital needs.

Elected president of the convention was John C. McCall, pastor of First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss. The convention will meet in 1969 at the same place, First Baptist Church of Jackson, on Nov. 11-13.

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Oklahoma Baptists Elect
President By Close Vote

(11-15-68)

TULSA, Okla. (BP)--In a close presidential election, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma elected a Tulsa pastor, D. A. Williams Jr., as head of the convention by a 14-vote margin.

Williams, pastor of Tulsa Memorial Baptist Church, won over John Bisagno, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, a suburb of Oklahoma City. The church led the Southern Baptist Convention in the number of baptisms last year.

A resolution was adopted endorsing the 1968 Southern Baptist Convention "Statement On the Crisis in our Nation". The convention also asked all Christians to "pray earnestly for our president and president-elect for guidance and wisdom in these crisis times."

A resolution declaring opposition to legislation permitting liquor by the drink was approved, along with a commendation for a state-wide alcohol and narcotics education organization.

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The convention approved a Cooperative Program budget goal of \$3.6 million for 1969 which represents an increase of \$100,000 of the 1968 figure.

The convention's basic operating budget will be \$3,247,804 to be divided 57 per cent state and 43 per cent Southern Baptist Convention.

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Virginia Baptists Delay Phase-Out
Of Schools, Pass "Racism" Statement

(11-15-68)

HAMPTON, Va. (BP)--After more than six hours of debate and discussion, the Baptist General Association of Virginia referred back to its special committee of 24 a recommendation that financial support be phased out by 1975 for five Baptist schools, but adopted the remainder of the committee's sweeping report.

The annual "convention" of the General Association also adopted as its own the "Statement Concerning the Crisis in Our Nation" approved by the Southern Baptist Convention last June, and an even stronger statement on "racism" from its Christian Life Committee.

The committee urged Baptists in Virginia to support open housing laws and strongly opposed racism as unbiblical and unChristian.

"Yet white Americans, many of whom are Christians, have practiced white racism to the extreme that they have created, maintained, and condoned conditions that others find intolerable and destructive to their right as human beings," said the report of the Christian Life Committee.

Citing the passage of an open housing law in 1968, the statement stated that "The Church of Jesus Christ has failed again to lead the way, and now we must be coerced into providing fair housing." It urged Baptists to work for open housing in their own communities and to "do everything possible to free the housing markets of their communities from discrimination of any type."

The action on the report of the committee of 24 was strongly debated during an all day session. Although the report was finally adopted as a whole, with the exception of one item regarding educational institutions, several aspects were contested.

The phase-out of financial support for Averett College, Virginia Intermont College, Fork Union Military Academy, Hargrave Military Academy, and Oak Hill Academy was referred back to the committee after opposition spearheaded by Col. Joseph Cosby, president of Hargrave Military Academy.

Opposition also came to proposals that the budget committee be a committee of the state Baptist association instead of a committee of the General Board, and to a recommendation that the General Board shall act for the General Association between annual sessions.

After much debate, with opposition led by Ruben Alley, editor of the Religious Recorder, and Robert Alley, professor at Richmond University, the full report of the committee was approved.

The full report as adopted outlined recommendations concerning support of benevolent ministries, budgeting procedures, the role of the General Board, related ministries and miscellaneous recommendations which included a request for all Baptist agencies and institutions to consider employment or admission of any qualified applicant regardless of race.

Debate also centered around the report of the religious liberty committee, which presented a four-page printed report with six recommendations.

Three of the recommendations asking the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia (state legislature) to amend the state constitution to allow private colleges to issue low-interest, tax exempt bonds and participation in federal programs, were referred back to the committee for another year.

Three recommendations were adopted, reaffirming support of the principle of religious liberty, opposing violations of the rights of citizens safeguarding religious freedoms, and expressing confidence in the First Amendment of the Constitution to guarantee religious freedom.

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Text of the report stated that there have been considerable shifts of opinion among Baptists on the question of government aid to Baptist agencies, that "because of the problems facing our institutions and the inability or unwillingness of Baptists to give more support to these institutions, ... it seems essential to survival that government assistance be accepted.

"For too long," the report said, "Baptists have over-reacted to federal assistance. Let us not think of our national government as our enemy, but rather let us offer to our legislature some suggestions or safeguards that should be written into any legislation providing federal monies to private schools."

Then followed seven guidelines or safeguards offered to government officials for such aid. Included were such things as no aid for elementary private schools, no property at public expense going to religious institutions, no teaching of religion or sectarian doctrine with either direct or indirect aid, and no discrimination of race, religion, class, or national origin.

The report also cited 13 arguments for the use of federal funds.

A recommendation from the General Board that the 1967 policy authorizing and requesting boards of trustees for Virginia Baptist schools to set a policy on federal aid be extended also to other institutions governed by boards of trustees was referred back to the General Board by the convention.

In other action, the association adopted a record budget of \$4 3/4 million, an increase of \$100,000 over the 1968 budget. The budget provides \$2.9 million (62 per cent) for state-wide causes, and \$1.8 million (38 per cent) for Southern Baptist Convention mission efforts.

Elected president of the state association was Richard L. T. Beale, an insurance executive from Sparta, Va. The 1969 convention will meet Nov. 11-13 in Roanoke, Va.

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Texas Baptists Okay
Baylor Med Severance

(11-15-68)

By Bob O'Brien and John Carter

FORT WORTH (BP)--Texas Baptists sadly but firmly severed official ties with Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, so that the institution might, as a son come of age, make its own way in the world and compete successfully with its peers.

The proposal met little opposition as it threaded through Baptist General Convention of Texas administrative machinery. It was generally considered as the only solution for the school, which gets only one per cent of its more than \$21 million budget from the Texas convention and is under strong pressure from the state of Texas to double its enrollment.

The report of the convention's Christian Life Commission, which plunged into such issues as race, drugs, planned parenthood, war, and evangelism and ethics, passed with no opposition.

In amplifying the statement on drugs, Dr. Robert Bone, a physician from Corsicana, Texas said medical evidence has shown that chronic use of marijuana can and has resulted in organic mental deterioration and serious reaction from "bad trips."

He added that "educated speculation" has led to the growing conviction that undesirable genetic changes similar to those produced by LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs, can result from use of marijuana.

The report also called on local Baptist associations "to continue to strive to enlist Negro churches in all associational programs" and that "segregated Baptist congregations move toward the ideal of New Testament churches by ending the unbiblical practice of making race a factor in church membership."

A statement on evangelism and ethics struck a note with which several convention speakers, including convention president Gordon Clinard concurred. The report suggested that "ethics not be divorced from evangelism nor evangelism from social concern, but rather that both be viewed as proper expressions of the Christian life."

The Committee of 100, commissioned by the convention to review all phases of Texas Baptist life and increase lay participation presented its last report.

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All but one of its 58 recommendations passed by wide margins. The exception was a proposal to set up a rudimentary referral service that would assist pastorless churches in locating candidates for their pulpits. The motion to adopt was tabled indefinitely.

Immediately after the vote to approve the Committee of 100's termination, Herbert Howard, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, shocked the messengers by requesting that official notice be taken of "certain omissions" in the committee report concerning the recent audit and review of the conventions Church Loan Corp.

After heated discussion, Clinard announced that the Executive Board, which had closed out the church loan investigation in September, would restudy the audit and report in fuller detail at their next regular meeting.

The church loan controversy springs from charges by the Committee of 100 last year that certain errors in judgement may have taken place in past transactions. A special committee, headed by J. T. Luther, Fort Worth layman, exonerated the agency of misconduct in its report to the Executive Board.

Clinard, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Angelo, Tex., was re-elected by acclamation as president.

Pre-convention publicity and "grass-roots" preview sessions across the Lone Star State paved the way for unanimous passage of the record \$13.5 million 1969 budget without question or debate.

The new financial projection exceeds last year's budget by \$700,000.

Thirty-one missions workshops met on two of the convention afternoons, reflecting the instructions by the 1967 convention that this year's session be considered a World Missions Conference. The schedule permitted attendance at any three of the seminars.

The Church Development award was earned by Bethany Baptist Church, Dallas, pastored by Herbert Garrett, while Roy Bacus, general manager for WBAP radio-T.V., Fort Worth, garnered the public relations award.

Ten routine resolutions were approved, one of which supported the strong Christian Life Commission stand on narcotic and drug control. Another directed that a telegram be sent to president-elect Richard M. Nixon, assuring him of prayers and support.

The final evening session continued the heavy missions flavor by allowing messengers and guests to view a joint commissioning ceremony of home and foreign missionaries.

Next year the convention meets in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 4-6.

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Florida Baptists Release College,
Approve Joint Missions Program

(11-15-68)

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)--The Florida Baptist State Convention here voted to enter a cooperative mission program with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, and released state-wide trustees for a proposed Baptist school which has opened as an institution of the Palm Lake Baptist Association.

The cooperative mission program provides that all home missionaries working in Florida will be considered missionaries of both the Florida convention and the Home Mission Board, supported jointly, with administration through the Florida convention offices.

The action regarding the Florida Baptist college was a technicality releasing the trustees from state-wide responsibility and expressing good will and support for the new Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Jess C. Moody, acting president of the college and pastor of the First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach where classes are being held, reported that the association-sponsored college has 236 students enrolled in its freshman class.

The convention adopted a record budget of \$3.9 million, allocating 54 per cent to causes in Florida and 46 per cent to world missions outside the state. The budget is an increase of \$300,000, and includes a one per cent increase to world missions.

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November 15, 1968

11

Baptist Press

A special 15-member study committee presented a report recommending several bylaws changes, which were adopted by the convention .

The report provided a formula on which members of the State Board of Missions are to be elected representing each association, reduced the number of standing committees for the board, and provided for the election of an administrative committee.

In other action, the convention authorized the Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla., to borrow up to \$300,000 to construct a student center and 12 student houses, and established the Florida Woman's Missionary Union as a regular department of the convention, provided it is approved by the women's convention next February.

Elected president of the convention was Doyle I. Carlton, a banker from Merritt Island, Fla., and a Baptist deacon. Next session of the convention will be in Miami, Nov. 11-13, 1969.

-30-

C O R R E C T I O N

On Baptist Press story mailed 11-14-68, headlined "Alabama Baptists Urge Missions and Evangelism," please correct spelling throughout the story on the name Sam Granade, which is incorrectly spelled "Grenada" in both the story and the SBC annual. Correct spelling is Granade. Thanks.

Baptist Press



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(11-15-68)

NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: William Eugene Grubbs, former evangelism secretary for California Southern Baptists, has been elected new executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington. (BP) Photo

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BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

(11-15-68)

BASEBALL STAR HONORED: Ex-New York Yankee second-baseman Bobby Richardson (center) receives the 1968 "Churchman of the Year" award from Duke K. McCall (right), president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and from Francis Galloway, Tennessee businessman and chairman of the seminary's board of trustees. (BP) Photo