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127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

SOUTHERN BAPTIST LEADERS OBJECT TO INCLUSION
OF RELIGIOUS WORKERS IN SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Southern Baptists have let loose a strong volley of objection to the U.S. Congress' latest effort to compel Protestant church and religious agency lay workers to enter the fold of the Social Security Act. The main attack came from Dr. Duke K. McCall, executive secretary of the S.B.C. Executive Committee, who sent a message to Dr. Walter R. Alexander, the Convention's representative at the Senate Finance Committee hearing on the question.

Dr. McCall pointed out the existing denominational social security plans for ministers and lay workers and said: "At great expense we have provided these security plans for our employees, both lay and ordained, because we do not believe it a part of our basic American principles for our religious bodies to become involved with our governmental agencies."

Following is the full text of his message:

"While genuinely appreciative of the humanitarian purposes embodied in House of Representatives Bill Number 6000, we Southern Baptists whose churches extend through the 23 states in an arc from Maryland to the state of Washington, numbering 27,286 churches, are gravely concerned over the mandatory inclusion of the lay employees of our churches and religious agencies. We feel that as a minimum the option to enter or not to enter into the benefits of this bill allowed employees of municipal and state governments should be extended to the lay employees of the Southern Baptist Convention and similar religious bodies.

"We frankly feel that the exclusion of members of religious orders which thereby exempts lay workers in the Roman Catholic Church without a similar provision for the lay workers of evangelical churches is discrimination sufficient to warrant the most extreme reaction. It is in order to preclude the necessity of violent attacks upon a bill whose purposes are of the highest humanitarian sort that we urgently petition the Senate Finance Committee to make exemption of lay workers of evangelic churches.

"The lay workers of the Southern Baptist Convention in most cases are already included in the plans of the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention which actually is more generous than the proposed plan under Federal Social Security. We feel that those who elect to be included in this plan provided by our denomination rather than the plan of the Federal government should be under no coercion in their choice.

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"At great expense we have provided these security plans for our employees, both lay and ordained, because we do not believe it a part of our basic American principles for our religious bodies to become involved with governmental agencies. We plead for the right to continue this relationship."

Dr. Robert G. Lee, Memphis, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, joined Dr. McCall in his protest. He said:

"The inclusion of nearly 600,000 employees of non-profit institutions other than ministers and members of religious orders in House of Representatives Bill 6000 is of concern to hundreds of thousands of the six and one-half million Baptists who compose the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Hundreds of our laity are participating through the ministers' retirement plan in addition to more than 10,000 pastors of churches. Moreover, thousands of individuals are participating through the Age Security Plan for lay church employees and hospitals, schools, colleges, orphanages, and other denominational agencies. The dues paying members have their dues matched by the employer.

"Our people urge you to give the same consideration to our lay employees as is accorded in the bill to the members of religious orders so that our lay workers shall have the same blanket exemption now granted the Roman Catholic Church. In the administration of our affairs as Southern Baptists the employer has agreed to and is maintaining the matching of the employees' money. This seems to be wise for all."

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HOWARD STAYS IN TEXAS, REJECTS SOUTHWIDE OFFER

DALLAS, Tex.—(BP)—"I am convinced that we can make Texas a 'spearhead' of advance into new areas and development of new techniques," is the way W. F. Howard, student secretary for Texas, explained his decline of an invitation to become Southwide Baptist Student Union secretary. "I see a greater challenge and opportunity for service in Texas" than in the Southwide department, he said..

With a much larger budget than any other state offers for this department, the Texas student office is now promoting four specific phases of work with young people. These are Baptist Student Union work on college campuses, teaching of the Bible at state-supported schools, youth evangelism, and a new program of ministerial student orientation in Baptist doctrines.

The department has led in establishing 13 Baptist student centers adjacent to state-supported colleges, 16 Bible chairs at colleges all over the state, and has sponsored more than 400 youth revivals in the past three years.

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NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY SOON TO BEGIN BUILDING PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—Two new buildings will be started on New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's new Gentilly Boulevard campus within the next few weeks. The announcement was made by Roland Q. Leavell, president of the Seminary, according to Dr. Wilson Woodcock, trustee, who has just returned from the annual Board of Trustees' meeting.

The two new buildings are a new two-story library with the first floor finished for use by graduate students and a 38-unit apartment building for married students without children. Both projects will cost \$400,000 and will probably be completed within a year. Minimum requirements for completion of the removal to the new campus will be completed by 1953 at an additional cost of \$1½ million.

According to Woodcock the board accepted the resignation of Fred Schatz, assistant to the president, who has been on a leave of absence in Germany for the past year. Dr. P. H. Anderson, professor of missions, was retired as emeritus professor of missions. Dr. C. Penrose St. Amant was granted sabbatical leave for a year's study in the University of Edinburgh to begin July 1.

A \$5000 appropriation was voted to apply on a proposed inter-seminary extension department to be located in a non-seminary city. Southern and Southwestern seminaries are expected to cooperate. Course will be offered by correspondence and extension in population centers, if the plan materializes, Woodcock said.

President Leavell announced that out of 538 students 357 are college graduates and 60 others have completed some college work.

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SEVERAL CITIES CONSIDERED AS HEADQUARTERS FOR FOUNDATION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—The Southern Baptist Foundation may move its headquarters. A tentative step in this direction was taken here in a recent meeting of the board of directors. The announcement was by Dr. Charles H. Bolton, secretary of the Foundation. A committee to study the proposed move was appointed with Judge John W. McCall, Memphis, as chairman. Named as the cities to be investigated as sites were Houston, Kansas City, St. Louis, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.

Nashville, where the Foundation has been located since its organization in 1947, is also to be considered as the permanent site.

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650 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST
RESULT FROM YOUTH REVIVAL

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—(BP)—More than 350 decisions for Christ were made here last week in a city-wide youth revival sponsored by the Baptist Student Union of Nashville in cooperation with more than 20 churches of the city. An additional 300 decisions were made in the three youth rallies and in various churches the month ~~preceding~~ preceding the revival as preparation was made for its public services.

Services were held each evening at the First Baptist Church where crowds overflowed the auditorium into a number of supplementary auditoriums and class rooms where the speaker's words were heard over a public address system. Many persons were turned away from each service. Public services for the week-long meeting ended at the Ryman Auditorium, where the Grand Ole Opera is broadcast each Saturday night and which was built in 1892 by a river captain converted under the preaching of Sam Jones, who came to Nashville for preaching engagements for 18 consecutive years. More than 5000 overflowed the Ryman Auditorium and it was estimated that more than 1000 persons were turned away.

Preacher for the revival was Howard E. Butt, Jr., youthful and successful business executive of Corpus Christi, Tex. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and has done graduate work in other schools in Texas. At present he is vice-president of the H. E. Butt food stores of Texas. Singer was Frank Boggs, also a graduate of Baylor University and at the present time a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. Both have been successful in youth revival work all over the South.

Services were under the direction of Floyd North, student secretary for the city of Nashville. Commenting on the revival, Mr. North said, "The main thing was that the young people all over the city prayed for a revival. No person deserves the credit. Only God could give such a revival. The result was beyond the expectation of anyone. We are hoping and praying that this is only the beginning and that it will keep going and spread from the city of Nashville into the adjoining rural areas. We are expecting almost immediately that young people making decisions in this revival will go out as youth workers in nearby communities."

The revival team went into all but two high schools of the city and a number of college and civic gatherings. From the beginning the entire project was geared to the local church. The city-wide committees were made up of college young people; but a corresponding committee was at work in each participating church. Those coming forward for decisions each evening were urged to "register this decision in your church Sunday morning." Many churches reported the largest attendance of the

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year in Sunday school and Training Union and church attendance. Pastors reported a great spiritual awakening in their services on the final Sunday of the revival with thirty, forty, and fifty decisions in many of them.

Pastor W. Leonard Stigler, moderator of the Nashville Association and pastor of Grace Church, where 55 decisions were made by young people in Sunday's services said, "This revival has stirred grade school, high school, and college students as well as shaking the very foundations of our churches. It has indeed been a great spiritual blessing to all of Nashville and to many of our surrounding communities."

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DELTA AIR LINES PROVIDES DISCOUNT
FOR CHICAGO CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

CARBONDALE, ILL.—(BP)—Delta Air Lines announced that for the first time in the history of commercial aviation the Civil Aeronautics Board had approved the special Southern Baptist tariff filed by the airline several weeks ago to provide for substantial discounts for messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Chicago, May 9-12.

Laigh C. Parker, vice-president of Delta, said that the discount of 33-1/3 per cent available to the messengers is intended to stimulate travel to the convention. The special Southern Baptist Convention fares will apply into Chicago from all Delta cities with the exception of Kokomo and Richmond, Ind., and stations west of Birmingham, Ala. As an example, while the regular round-trip fare from Miami to Chicago is \$149.80, the special Southern Baptist fare between those points will be \$104.80, or a savings of \$45.00 over the regular air fare on each round-trip ticket.

The new low rates will be in effect for those messengers proceeding to Chicago on May 5 through May 8, and the return portion of the round-trip ticket must be accomplished between May 10 and May 15.

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MISSISSIPPI EDITOR
HEADS PRESS GROUP

JACKSON, Miss.—(BP)—Dr. A. L. Goodrich, editor of the Baptist Record, Mississippi state Baptist paper, is the new president of the Southern Baptist Press Association. He is also vice-president of the Evangelical Press Association. Other officers of the Southern Baptist Press Association are Dr. L. L. Carpenter, North Carolina, vice-president; and W. Barry Garrett, Arizona, secretary.

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