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February 20, 1969

**Two Percent Increase Proposed
For 1970 SBC Operating Budget**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted here to recommend a 1970 Cooperative Program budget of \$27,158,119, giving all but four of the 19 SBC agencies which receive such funds a two percent cost-of-living increase.

In addition to the \$27,158,119 operating budget, the Executive Committee recommended a revised capital needs goal for 1970 of \$1,317,749. The total 1970 Cooperative Program Budget goal will be \$27,560,000.

Final approval of the budget proposal must come from the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans.

The proposed operating budget is an increase of \$597,100 over the 1969 Cooperative Program operating budget, the smallest increase in many years.

"This means we can't even hold the line," said Executive Committee chairman James Pleitz of Pensacola, Fla. "It is imperative we get word back to the states that we need help," and that "we must do something about it," he told the committee.

Earlier, the executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, Porter W. Routh of Nashville, said that the best statistical projections of giving trends indicates that 1969 Cooperative Program gifts may be about \$26,756,800.

If the projections are correct, he said, this would be only about \$200,000 more than the 1969 operating budget and about \$600,000 short of the capital needs for 1969.

He added there is a possibility that the convention will not be able to pay much if any to the agencies for capital needs in 1970, and very little on the 1969 capital budget.

"We will work and pray and hope that this will not be true," he said.

He pointed out that the convention still has \$722,530 to pay on the 1968 capital needs allocations that were not met last December. A 16 percent decrease in giving for the month of December caused the convention to fall short of the capital needs by \$722,530.

In another recommendation to the Executive Committee, the finance committee recommended that 1969 operating funds be given priority over any balance due on the 1968 capital funds.

The finance committee also recommended that the agencies not borrow against anticipated income from the capital needs section of the budget without approval of the convention or Executive Committee "in view of the fact that it now appears that 1969 Cooperative Program receipts will be somewhat less than the budget goal."

Last year two agencies received permission to borrow against future capital needs allocations, and three agencies requested such permission at the February meeting. "We made it clear it might be two, three or even four or five years before the capital needs might be met," said Alan Stocksdale of Baltimore, Md., chairman of the finance committee.

The loan requests came from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and the SBC Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth.

The proposed operating budget for 1970 would grant only a two percent cost-of-living increase to 15 of the 19 SBC agencies aided by the Cooperative Program.

The \$597,100 increase in the allocations to the 19 agencies for operating expenses was in contrast to requests for increases totalling \$5,363,776 for 1970 by the 19 agencies. The \$5.3 million requested was obviously not available.

A recommendation was made that if the convention does go over its 1970 operating budget and the 1968 and 1969 capital needs budgets, that the balance be distributed to the agencies requesting increases on the basis of their percentages of the 1970 budget.

All but the Southern Baptist Hospitals, American Seminary Commission, Annuity Board, and the SBC Operating budget will receive the two percent cost-of-living increase. Only the Annuity Board had requested a budget increase for 1970. The others requested the identical 1969 allocation.

The Annuity Board, which receives Cooperative Program funds for its relief program to help widows and others on relief, was granted an increase of \$75,000 over their 1969 allocation of \$125,000 to bring the allocation back to the same level before it requested last year a decrease of \$75,000 because of a surplus in 1968 in relief funds.

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PROPOSED 1970 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
SBC Operating Budget	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ --
Foreign Mission Board	13,836,619	14,113,351	276,732
Home Mission Board	4,984,000	5,083,680	99,680
Annuity Board	125,000	200,000	75,000
The Seminaries	5,103,000	5,205,060	102,060
Golden Gate	525,000	535,500	10,500
Midwestern	475,000	484,500	9,500
New Orleans	875,000	892,500	17,500
Southeastern	693,000	706,860	13,860
Southern	1,148,000	1,170,960	22,960
Southwestern	1,387,000	1,414,740	27,740
Foundation	80,000	81,600	1,600
Hospitals	36,000	36,000	--
American Seminary	95,000	95,000	--
Brotherhood Commission	260,000	265,200	5,200
Christian Life Commission	170,000	173,400	3,400
Education Commission	125,000	127,500	2,500
Historical Commission	102,000	104,040	2,040
Radio-TV Commission	1,250,000	1,275,000	25,000
Stewardship Commission	83,000	84,660	1,660
Joint Committee	111,400	113,628	2,228
TOTAL	<u>\$26,561,019</u>	<u>\$27,158,119</u>	<u>\$ 597,100</u>
Operating Total	\$26,561,019	\$27,158,119	
1968 Capital Needs	722,530		
1969 Capital Needs	800,000		
1970 Capital Needs		<u>1,317,749</u>	
TOTAL NEEDED	<u>\$28,083,549</u>	<u>\$28,475,868</u>	
TOTAL EXPECTED	<u>\$26,756,800</u>	<u>\$27,560,000</u>	
EXPECTED BALANCE	\$1,317,749		

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Churches Could Do Better
To Aid Poor, Senator Says

(2-20-69)

WASHINGTON (BP)--Churches as well as government agencies at all levels "could do better" than they are now doing in the fight against hunger, Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D., S.C.), said here.

Hunger is "everybody's problem and everybody's fault," the Senator declared in testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. Sen. George McGovern (D., S. Dak.) is chairman of the special committee set up last year to make a nationwide study of the extent of malnutrition among the poor.

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Hollings, the junior Senator from South Carolina, urged the committee to set as a national goal the elimination of hunger and slum conditions in America in the next 10 years. There is "no reason" why this can't be done, he said.

The reference to churches' responsibility to help combat malnutrition came after Sen. Hollings had described a three-day tour he had made to destitute areas in South Carolina where, he said, there is "substantital hunger"...among poor blacks and whites.

"Yes, it is worse than I expected," Hollings said in answer to a question from McGovern.

The South Carolina Senator, a lay member of the Lutheran Council of America, enlarged on his challenge to the churches in a statement to Baptist Press. The Senator has in mind for churches "to form eleemosynary corporations" to provide various types of low income housing for the poor.

"Hunger and bad housing are a hand-in-glove proposition, and you'll never have the eradication of one without the other," the Senator said in the statement relayed to Baptist Press.

Hollings urged churches to join with local welfare organizations and community action groups to help educate the poor on nutrition and health problems.

The need for education to help destitute families know what to eat and how to prepare it came up several times in the Senator's discussion with the committee. "Food and housing without education would be futile in the extreme rural poverty areas that I have in South Carolina," he declared.

Even though South Carolina has a food stamp program operating in every county, the Senator spoke of seeing on his tour "literally hundreds of hungry families" who have never heard of the government's food stamp program.

"But perhaps this is a blessing," he said, "for if they did, they wouldn't qualify anyway. They can't afford the initial cost." For \$3 a month a family can buy \$45 worth of food stamps.

The Senator was especially critical of what he called the "red tape worm" of federal guidelines that create bottlenecks for services to the poor. This is a "greater blight perhaps than poverty," he said.

Hollings urged that guidelines be eliminated for the "downright destitute," and that food stamps be given free to the poorest families. He recommended also that similar stamps be provided for clothing and school feeding programs.

Sen. Hollings who was governor of South Carolina from 1958 to 1962 acknowledged that as a public official he was "late to the problem" of hunger. Even so, he is one of the first Southern political leaders to acknowledge the existence of widespread hunger and malnutrition among his constituents and to call for emergency measures to eliminate it.

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SBC Executive Committee Ends
Three-Year Name Change Study

(Final Wrapup)
(2-20-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--After two days of hearing pleas from 19 Southern Baptist Convention agencies, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee quickly adopted a \$27,158,119 Cooperative Program operating goal for 1970, passed a strong resolution opposing possible appointment of an ambassador to the Vatican, and in effect ended its three-year study of changing the convention's name.

The Executive Committee also heard a report from its public relations subcommittee which said it found "no compelling reason" to change the name of the Cooperative Program, and adopted a recommendation suggesting that the 125th anniversary meeting of the convention in 1970 begin on Monday night instead of Tuesday.

In a statement addressed to President Richard M. Nixon, the Executive Committee expressed concern about reports that he might appoint an ambassador or special representative to the Vatican, and told the President the overwhelming majority of the 11 million church members affiliated with the SBC would not favor such official representation to any religious body.

"We urge that you do not assign to any church either the roles or the functions of government," the statement to the president said.

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Such an appointment would likely hurt a "new spirit of openness and trust" and "a growing mutual spirit of respect and goodwill among the various religious bodies in the United States today," the statement said. "American representation to the Vatican would not aid our progress away from rivalry and fear."

The proposed 1970 budget, which must be approved by the convention in New Orleans next June, would be an increase of only \$597,100, granting a minimum two percent cost-of-living increase to each of the 17 SBC agencies which requested budget increases totalling \$5.3 million.

The minimum increase was necessitated by decreases in Cooperative Program giving during the last part of 1968 and the first part of 1969, which set statistical projections of the amount of money available at an estimated \$27,560,000 in 1970.

A brief and vaguely-worded recommendation from the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee indicated that the three-year study of changing the convention's name has been ended for the time being. The recommendation stated:

"We recommend that the Executive Committee report to the Southern Baptist Convention that studies made during and before the SBC in Houston indicate that there is no gathering of preference around any change of the name of the SBC."

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, explained later that the recommendation means, in effect, that the Executive Committee will make no further recommendation on the name change, until it gets further instructions from the convention.

During the opening session of the Executive Committee, SBC President W. A. Criswell of Dallas made a strong plea for the annual meetings of the convention be strengthened, and that less emphasis be placed on the pre-convention sessions. He mentioned the possibility of the pre-convention sessions beginning on Sunday, and the SBC beginning "just as soon as we can get there", apparently meaning Monday.

Acting on a recommendation from its administrative committee, the 58-member Executive Committee recommended that the 125th anniversary convention in 1970 at Denver begin on Monday evening.

"We further recommend that the Executive Committee continue to study this matter and report to the 1970 convention," said the recommendation.

The recommendation asked that the sections of the convention procedure be set aside for 1970 as a special case in observance of the 125th anniversary.

Subject to approval of the convention in New Orleans, the Executive Committee recommended that the 1974 convention meet in Dallas, June 11-14, 1974.

In other actions, the Executive Committee approved of several future studies, either by special committees or subcommittees of the Executive Committee.

Studies were planned on the philosophy, purposes, basic understandings and promotion procedures of the Cooperative Program; on the relationship between pastoral care programs of Southern Baptist hospitals and seminaries; on the total relationship of the convention to its two hospitals in Jacksonville, Fla., and New Orleans; on the committee structure of the Executive Committee; and on continuing the study of policy concerning the allocation of earnings of undesignated gifts given to the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Minor changes in the charters, program statements, or articles of incorporation were approved for the SBC Foreign Mission Board, Radio-Television Commission, Stewardship Commission, and Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., subject to final approval by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Requests from the Baptist Sunday School Board to publish two new magazines, one for student workers called Collage, and another for pastors called Proclaim, were approved.

Additional office space requested by the SBC Christian Life Commission at the SBC office building here was also cleared.

Loans requests by three SBC agencies--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, the Radio-TV Commission and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Fort Worth--were approved, but only after the finance committee warned that income from the capital needs section of the budget may not be available to repay the loans for two, three, four or maybe five years.

The finance committee also reported it had received a full report of the action of the SBC Home Mission Board concerning problems of the Kansas Baptist Church loan association, and commended the Home Mission Board for its action.

Tribute was paid to Roland P. Hood, now retired as executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington.

The Executive Committee also requested each SBC agency to supply the SBC committee on boards with a statement on its usage of "local members" of boards, institutions and agencies, to help the committee on boards keep in mind the needs of each agency as they recommend persons for election to the agencies' boards of trustees.

In other actions, the Executive Committee authorized several expenditures from convention reserves, including a \$50,000 allocation to the SBC Stewardship Commission for a pilot project of Cooperative Program promotion; \$12,500 to Religion in American Life; \$7,500 for the completion of the current depth study on Baptist student work; \$6,800 for long range planning in connection with the '70 Onward program; and \$5,000 for the 125th anniversary film of the SBC.

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Seminary Grad Thanks
SBC For His Education

(2-20-69)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, after a two-day struggle in trying to meet 1970 budget needs with an inadequate amount of money, ended on a positive note with an unexpected testimony from a direct recipient of the budget funds.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, read to the 58-member group and visitors a letter he had just received from Delmer Allen, the pastor of Rollingwood Baptist Church in San Pablo, Calif. He wrote:

"I recently completed my course of study for the master of divinity degree at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Hallelujah!

"I want to thank Southern Baptists for their financial support for making this possible at a minimum cost to me, personally. I don't know how you can say it, or how the people will know, but wherever you have the opportunity, tell them of my gratitude."

"My prayer is that my life for the next years will be more effective because of the concern of Southern Baptists for training their ministers."

Immediately after Routh read the letter, former SBC President H. Franklin Paschall of Nashville told the Executive Committee: "We may feel we are not doing so well, but we need to thank God for what we have instead of complaining about what we don't have."

Routh later indicated that while the young minister was expressing his gratitude to Southern Baptists, the Executive Committee seemed grateful to the pastor for providing a positive note and testimony at a time when they felt some discouragement because of the lack of funds in the face of overwhelming needs.

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