(BP) BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU
BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631

March 3, 1969

News Analysis

# Report Says America Is Closer To Two Societies

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--Many Baptists and others were alarmed last year when the National Advisory Commission and Civil Disorders (Kerner Commission) made its report and concluded that the nation is "moving toward two societies, one black, one white--separate and unequal."

Now, one year later, a follow-up warning has come--this time from private groups--declaring that the nation has not reversed the movement apart. In fact, racial divisions and hostilities have increased and the United States is "a year closer to being two societies, black and white, increasingly separate and scarcely less unequal."

This major first-anniversary assessment of the country's response to the Kerner Report is entitled "One Year Later." It will be printed soon in paper back form.

The study was made by Urban America, Inc., chaired by Terry Sanford, former governor of North Carolina, and The Urban Coalition, headed by John W. Gardner, former secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Both are independent, nonprofit organizations dedicated to stimulating action on big-city problems.

White concern mounted last year when the 1400-page Kerner Report was published detailing deplorable, explosive conditions found in most inner-city ghettos. Religious leaders in all denominations and many local churches studied the report for its implications regarding the mission of the church to society and to individuals.

This concern for action was intensified in April 1968 with the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., and the subsequent disorders across the country.

But, the new report says, this concern was "subsumed by concern for law and order" in the months following the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and continued to decline during the presidential campaign.

The report states that this deepening of concern about ghetto conditions on the part of some white persons and institutions has been "counterbalanced--perhaps overbalanced--by a deepening of aversion and resistance on the part of others."

The 98-page study done by the staffs of the two urban groups finds that white migration from inner cities has sharply increased. Before 1966 whites moved at an average rate of 140,000 a year. Between 1966 and 1968 the rate climbed to nearly a half million a year, according to census bureau statistics.

The rate at which Negroes are moving into central cities decreased even more dramatically. From 1960 to 1966 Negro population in central cities grew an average of 370,000 per year, according to census reports. In the past two years this has dropped to about 100,000 a year. The growth in slum populations is attributed to natural increases.

Though some blacks are moving from the inner city slums (about 220,000 a year since 1966), a large number of them are changing the inner city slum for a suburban slum, the urban study reveals.

The report describes some of the steps taken in the cities to eliminate racial discrimination and poverty conditions, and to improve the city hall and police relations with slum residents. But it concludes that these are "not enough."

Progress in dealing with the conditions of ghetto life has been "nowhere in scale with the problems...at present there are no programs that seriously threaten the continued existence of the slums," the report states.

-more-

Jobs, housing and education are three areas cited for some progress. The black jobless rate at the end of last year was the lowest in 15 years. But, the study says, "even the 1968 figures...showed whites in the large metropolitan areas to be in the midst of historic prosperity and blacks in recession."

In 1967 unemployment among black youths in the cities was at a staggering 34 per cent. By 1968 this was reduced to 27.3 per cent. The gain is significant but it still leaves many idle youths on the streets of slums and ghettos.

The urban specialists acknowledged the progress brought about by the passage of the 1968 Housing Act and the Federal Fair Housing Law. But it concluded that in both cases the impact was blunted by insufficient funding by Congress.

The findings regarding education are the most dismal of all. Some progress toward school integration has been made in small and moderate-size cities, but the report flatly states that "education in the slums and ghettos is a failure."

In spire of increased employment and a rise in overall income, welfare rolls went up in one year a total of $2 billion. The urban study group attributed this to the increase in the number of Negro families in central cities headed by females. This number reached 35 per cent in 1968.

The current mood of the blacks and white reaction to militancy is discussed at length in the last half of the report. Just where the mood of the blacks stands in the spectrum between militancy and submission is difficult to determine, but the report states that it "is not moving in the direction of patience."

"There remains a wide gulf between the way blacks and whites see America, which may again prove explosive, and the fuse is of indeterminate length," it concludes.

In a summary statement on where the country is heading in relation to its troubled inner cities, the panelists paint a dismal picture, saying the nation "in its neglect may be sowing the seeds of unprecedented future disorder and division."

Mayor John Lindsay of New York City, a member of the panel, said at a press conference releasing the report: "Americans can do better and must do better if the happenings of the past do not become the epitaph of the future...the commitment to do the job must come soon. Later may be too late."

-30-

Radio-TV Commission Wins
Medal For "MasterControl"* (3-3-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--The Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission here has won a George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom's Foundation for production of a 1968 Independence Day Special on the radio program "MasterControl"*.

Broadcast between June 28 and July 4, the "MasterControl"* program commemorating the 192nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, was carried on 520 radio stations.

The program featured interviews with Mrs. Mozelle Christian, who lectures on the U. S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other basic freedom documents at the Freedom Barge at Callaway Gardens, Ga.; and with Debbie Saridakis, a guide at Athens, Greece concerning the first seat of democratic government and the founding of democracy through individual voting.

In the religious vignette which is part of each program, W. Morris Ford, a Baptist pastor in Longview, Tex., pointed out that the Declaration of Independence is a threefold declaration, pronouncing men's independence from the tyranny of unjust rule, their dependence upon God, and their interdependence as "laborers together with God."

-30-

Rutenber to Teach at American
Baptist Seminary of the West (3-3-69)

COVINA, Calif. (BP)--The president of the American Baptist Convention, Culbert G. Rut nber, will join the faculty of American Baptist Seminary of the West here in September of 1969.

Rutenber, currently a professor at Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Centre, Mass., is one of the major speakers on the program of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, June 10-13.

-30-

Winders Elected President
Of State Student Directors

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (BP)--Ralph Winders, secretary of student work for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was elected president of the Southern Baptist State Student Directors' Association in its annual meeting here.

Winders succeeds W. F. Howard, director of the division of student work for the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Dallas.

New secretary of the group is John Appleton, sutdent secretary for the Alabama Baptist Convention.

-30-

Ward Named Education Head
By Utah-Idaho Convention

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (BP)--Effective March 1, Guy Ward of Salt Lake City will become secretary of the education department of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.

Ward is currently pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church of Salt Lake City, and is a native of Simpson, Okla.

He was pastor of several churches in Oklahoma and was superintendent of missions in the South Canadian Baptist Association before coming to the Salt Lake City church in 1965.

Before entering the ministry, he was for 12 years in an administrative position in the Air Force. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Ward is the fourth professional-level staff member to join the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, said Charles H. Ashcraft, the executive secretary. Others are Darwin E. Welsch, Roland A. Smith, and Ashcraft.

-30-

EP PHOTO 152A With featu 3-3-69

TRAVELERS' WORSHIP SERVICE: A typical w rship servic at a Holiday Inn is conducted by the motel chain's chaplain, W. A. "Dub" Nance of Memphis. (BP) Photo

(BP)--FEATURES
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
produced by Baptist Press
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

March 3, 1969

Motels' Worship Services
Reach Traveling Families

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently the editor of the Illinois Baptist, Robert Hastings, called editorially for Baptist churches in Illinois to respond to the idea of conducting worship services at hotels and motels for traveling families. Here is Hasting's report on how the Holiday Inns of America is trying to do something in this area.

By Robert J. Hastings

MEMPHIS (BP)--While on vacation a few summers ago, the W. A. Nance family of Memphis stopped in transit for Sunday morning worship services at a church. To do so, they had to stop in a small town well in advance of 11:00 a.m.

They took the children to a less-than-spotless service station to change. By the time they had changed clothes again after the service, almost a half-day of travel time had been lost.

The Nance family is unusual. Most families do not take time to seek a church for worship when they travel.

But as a father and as a minister, Nance had mixed feelings. He felt his family should be in church; yet he fretted at the inconveninece and delay.

Today, W. A. Nance is chaplain of Holiday Inns of America, and he is trying to do something about both. This spring he is spearheading a drive for Sunday morning worship services in more than 1,040 Holiday Inns in over 700 cities in 48 states, Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe.

His first step was to survey vacationing families, tourists and businessmen. The opinion takers found that Protestants seldom ask directions to a local church, though Catholic and Jewish guests at Holiday Inns often do.

Why? Nance cites two reasons: First, the traditonal 11 o'clock worship hour comes right in the middle of a traveling day. Second, families hesitate to attend a strange church wearing casual clothing designed for travel.

As a result, they are passing up worship services in droves as they hit the highway for vacation and business.

Hence Nance began the effort to encourage Holiday Inns to offer their facilities for worship services conducted by local churchmen for the benefit of travelers.

"We are not trying to compete with the churches," Nance was quick to point out during an interview at his Memphis office. "In fact, we're making sure that churches in the immediate neighborhood are named in our lobby directories. We won't even publicize our services to local residents."

Here is how the plan works:

(1) Each Holiday Inn will furnish a meeting room, piano, and lectern. Worship service leaders will be local ministers, on a rotating basis.

(2) Each Innkeeper will encourage his employees to attend, as well as inviting Saturday night motel guests.

(3) On Saturdays, the maids will place advertising pieces in each room, telling of the services. Posters will be displayed in the lobby.

(4) A worship kit will be available, including two white faille cloths to cover a banquet table and the lectern, and (for ministers who desire to use them) a 24-inch gold cross and two electric candles. Certificates of attendance will be available for children.

-more-

(5) A 30-minute service is suggested, sometime between 7:30 and 9:30, consisting of two hymns, prayer, children's story, and sermon. (No announcements, no offering, no denominational emphasis.)

As a bonus, the officiating minister and his wife will be guests for Sunday dinner at the Inn.

"We are hoping local ministerial associations will take the initiative," Nance said.

"But frankly, Baptists have shown more interest than any others. Where the local ministerial group is apathetic, a single pastor can take the initiative in contacting one of our Innkeepers," he added.

Nance seemed to keep repeating the word "apathy" during the interview.

"We don't expect people to run over themselves to attend," he admitted. "Frankly, the chief obstacle is plain old apathy."

As examples, he cited the local minister who feels he already has too much to do on Sunday without preaching in a motel; and the local Innkeeper, who merely announces the services but fails to attend them enthusiastically himself; and the traveling public, who may find it easier to turn over for another 30 minutes of sleep or hit the road a half-hour earlier.

Nance said he got a letter recently from a minister strongly critical of the services, saying they would destroy the churches.

In reply, Nance used a scripture from John 4, the conversation of Jesus with the woman at the well. She seemd greatly concerned about the proper place for worship, but Jesus underscored that God is a spirit, and that the attitude of the worshipper is more important than the place where he worships.

-30-

BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers

**BAPTIST PRESS**

*460 James Robertson Parkway*
*Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203



**News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention**