



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 20, 1969

Missouri Baptist Paper
Opposes State Aid Bills

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)--An editorial in the Word and Way, official journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention here, opposed three bills now before the Missouri legislature and urged Baptist readers to influence their legislators to vote against the measures.

All three bills would supply some type of state financial aid to private or church-related educational institutions in Missouri, or to students at such institutions.

"Let private causes receive their support from private sources; and public institutions from the public," wrote editor W. Ross Edwards of the Word and Way.

The editor, after indicating he had attended a public hearing where only three persons spoke out against the bills, described each proposal and gave his reasons for opposition. The bills included:

---House Bill 581, which would authorize the state of Missouri to enter into contract with certain private medical schools for the training of physicians;

---House Bill 520, which would provide contractual agreements between the state and several private and church-related colleges and universities for training Missouri college students, providing per-student appropriations to the schools on the same basis as per-student appropriations to state-supported colleges and universities; and

---House Bill 426, which would provide "competitive scholarships" to be awarded by the state to students at colleges, including both state and private or church-related institutions.

Editor Edwards wrote that he was "opposed to the state entering into contract with a church school" in the case of the proposed contractual agreement with church-related medical schools to train physicians.

"We feel that such an arrangement would delay or possibly preclude a first-class medical school in Kansas City," the editorial said.

The editor added that Texas Baptists, faced with a similar situation, severed ties with Baylor University College of Medicine, so that the medical school might pursue such a course with the state of Texas.

On House Bill 520 which would provide a state subsidy to students at church-related schools, the editor argued that the bill "would not be in keeping with the spirit of our Missouri Constitution or the United States Constitution."

"This bill," the editorial said, "would do injustice to many people (about 50 per cent) who have no religious affiliation. It ignores the rights of small religious bodies that have no schools."

On House Bill 426 proposing competitive scholarships by the state to students, the editor argued that "this bill would provide indirect aid to sectarian colleges if the scholarship winners chose to attend them."

The editorial closed by stating: "May we suggest that each of you (readers) get in touch with your representative immediately and urge him to vote against these bills."

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Johnson Elected Alabama
Baptist Brotherhood Head

(3-20-69)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--H. Mac Johnson Jr., pastor of Clayton Street Baptist Church here, has been elected secretary of the Brotherhood department of the Alabama Baptist State Convention Executive Board with offices here.

A native of Alabama, Johnson is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is former pastor of Baptist churches in Louisville and Gadsden, Ala.

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Baptist Schools May Help
With Summer Youth Camps

WASHINGTON (BP)--Four Baptist schools are among 129 colleges and universities being considered for a special program to bring 75,000 inner city youngsters onto college campuses this summer for sports and educational activities.

Announcement was made by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Astronaut James A. Lowell will head the program which will cost a total of \$4.5 million.

"Our prime target is to reach the inner city youngster who has no recourse but the streets during the long, hot summer," the vice president said.

The four Baptist colleges asked to enter bids for the day camp programs are: Houston Baptist College, Samford University in Birmingham, Grand Canyon College in Phoenix; and Bishop College in Dallas. The first three are affiliated with state conventions of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the latter is an American Baptist Convention institution.

The schools will contribute their gymnasiums, swimming pools, tracks, playing fields and special purpose rooms as well as a full time program director and capital sports equipment. Graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of athletic staffs, will serve as counselors.

Each college must enroll a minimum of 200 youth persons, boys and girls, from 12 to 18 years old. At least two hours of sports activity must be provided for a minimum of four days a week for a five-weeks period.

The 129 colleges receiving priority consideration are located in 40 metropolitan areas. Agnew said they were chosen on the basis of population size and the percentage of poverty-level families. At least 80 per cent of the youngsters in each program must meet poverty criteria.

The program will be administered by the National Collegiate Athletic Association under contract to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. It is called the National Summer Youth Sports Program.

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Black History, Federal Aid
Studies Set in California

(3-20-69)

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)--The board of trustees of California Baptist College here authorized a special course on black history, and voted to make a full-scale study of federal aid to church-related schools after lengthy debate.

California Baptist leaders said that the course on black history might become the first such study offered by a Southern Baptist college in the nation.

On a vote of eight to six, the trustees authorized a study of the possibility of receiving some types of federal aid at California Baptist College.

The recommendation to study the possibility came from Andrew Tucker of Riverside, president of the college trustees.

Tucker, who said he is personally opposed to the Baptist school's accepting federal aid, insisted that the trustees have a responsibility to study the question since more and more Baptists are coming out in favor of Baptist schools taking federal aid.

In other actions, the board expressed official opposition to plans for a freeway proposed by the city. The freeway would take nearly 20 per cent of the college campus, college officials said.

The board also voted to offer a master of arts in teaching degree in connection with the college's teacher credential program. It will become the first graduate degree offered by the college.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On BP story mailed 3-19-69, headlined "American Youth Has Lost Its Guts, Students Told," please change word "know" in graph 5, line 1, to become word "criticize", so that graph reads: "The missions leader added that youth have no right to criticize the church unless they have...."

Thanks, Baptist Press

Miami Church Ordains
Negro As New Deacon

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--Members of the 79th Street Baptist Church here ordained a Negro and two white men as deacons recently, which in the eyes of the pastor, indicates that "we're thoroughly Christian."

"We don't think in terms of red, yellow, black or white," said Baxter C. Phillips, pastor of the church. "We look upon people as persons."

There are about 40 Negro members in the congregation of 180. But the pastor is quick to point out there are also three Chinese families, an Indonesian, a Thai family with a Hindu background, and 25 Spanish-speaking people.

Andrew Madison, the newly ordained Negro, said here he felt his ordination "helps to show that our church recognizes leadership without regard to the color of your skin."

Madison, a meat packer, said he some day would like to be a preacher.

The area in which the 79th Street Church is located has become heavily populated with Negroes in the past 10 years, especially in the last five years. There are also many Latin Americans in the area now.

All three of the newly-ordained deacons--Madison, Winston B. Avery, and F. Leonard Miles--are optimistic about the church's future growth.

"We've seen a tremendous spiritual growth in the past year," said Miles, a construction foreman. "We've reached a maturity, a depth...Our pastor has given us the insight to see our potential as ambassadors for Christ to all people. And we realize that in God's plan, He is no respecter of persons."

Miles noted that the church passed through a period when it lost some members because of the shifting population. Not only have new members now come in, but the finances are on the rise again.

The church is going ahead with plans to add another educational wing to its building and has drawings for four or five small mission churches it hopes to establish with integrated memberships in nearby neighborhoods.

Miles emphasized that although the church has achieved a really integrated congregation, it has not been the result of a deliberate effort to attract Negro members because they are Negroes.

"It has been purely on a spiritual basis," he said. Madison, the Negro deacon, agreed wholeheartedly.

Phillips, the pastor, indicated that the church members have much more concern for the community now, and that the church facilities are used for a kindergarten run by the neighboring school. The church hopes to start a day care center as soon as it can raise the funds.

"The greatest thing that ever happened to me was being called as the pastor of this church," concluded Phillips. "It has given me the opportunity to have a full ministry for the first time."

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Dickens Elected Southwestern
Seminary Student Council Head

(3-20-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--Doug Dickens, a master of divinity student from Booneville, Ark., has been elected president of the student council at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Dickens, currently pastor of Lane Baptist Church in Lane, Okla., is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark.

Elected vice president of the student council was Malcolm Stuart of Honolulu, Hawaii. Miss Sandra Griffin of Macon, Ga., was elected secretary.

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