

April 25, 1969

Baptist VIEWpoll Report

First VIEWpoll Opposes Vatican
Representative, Favors Israel

by Martin B. Bradley*

RECEIVED
APR 28 1969

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers oppose the President appointing an official representative to the Vatican, according to the first Baptist VIEWpoll report.

This is a key finding from a nation-wide survey conducted among 575 panel members of the Baptist VIEWpoll.

The VIEWpoll is conducted bi-monthly among the pastors and Sunday School teachers of the panel. It is operated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's research and statistics department.

Panel members are selected and represent Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers by size of church and geographical location of their churches.

Another key finding of the first report is that over two-thirds of the pastors and Sunday School teachers surveyed indicated sympathies to be far more on the side of the Israelis than with the Arab states.

The first question for the VIEWpoll panel was, "Do you feel it would be appropriate for the President to appoint an official representative to the Vatican?"

Based on 92% response by mail, only 1.7% of the pastors and 3.7% of the Sunday School teachers answered "yes, as an ambassador."

Answering, "Yes, as liason representative for communication purposes only" were 11.6% of the pastors and 18.2% of the Sunday School teachers.

"No" was the response of 84.6% of the pastors, 70.3% of the Sunday School teachers.

Persons in the survey (99.2%) who said they had heard of the troubles between Israel and Arab states were asked, "In this trouble are your sympathies more with Israel or more with Arab states?"

The pastors reported 71.8% with Israel, 3.0% with Arab states, and 25.2% neither or undecided. The Sunday School teachers reported 69.3% with Israel, 1.7% with Arab states, and 29% neither or undecided.

When a comparison of responses of pastors and Sunday School teachers is made with those obtained in nation-wide surveys of the U. S. adult population by the Gallup Poll, it appears that pastors and Sunday School teachers are somewhat more pro-Israel.

The Gallup Poll of January, 1967 reported 55% with Israel, 4% with Arab states and 41% neither or undecided. In the Gallup Poll of January, 1969, 50% were with Israel in sympathy, 5% with Arab states, and 45% undecided or neither.

Other items in the Baptist VIEWpoll to be released in the near future: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President? Are you in favor of the death penalty for persons convicted of murder? Do you now think integration will be pushed faster, or not so fast?



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

April 25, 1969

**Illinois Board Names
Two New Staff Members**

CARBONDALE, Ill. (BP)--The board of directors for the Illinois Baptist State Association elected a new state student director and an associate in the state-wide Baptist Sunday School department, and authorized the sale of the Baptist student center at Champaign, Ill.

Named as state secretary of student ministries was Robert E. Blattner, who has been campus Baptist Student Union secretary at Southern Illinois University since 1967. He succeeds Lee H. Swope who resigned last year.

Donald E. Herman was named associate in the Sunday School department, succeeding John Perkins, who recently was elected secretary of the Sunday School department. Herman is currently minister of education at Parkway Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.

In other major actions, the board approved a resolution requesting removal of lein against the Baptist Student Center at Champaign, to free the property for sale. The education committee was authorized to list the center with a realtor at a price of \$900,000.

The executive committee of the board of directors was authorized to follow through with the sale of the Champaign property.

The board also approved the sale of a 160-acre farm eight miles west of Golconda, Ill., for \$25,000. The farm was willed to the Baptist Children's Home in Carmi, Ill., by the Clara Field Easterly estate.

Compulsory retirement for all employees of the state convention was set at age 65. Previously, 62 was mandatory for women, and 65 for men.

The board extended a lease with the State Department of Public Health for space in the Baptist Building here until June 30, 1971, for a total of \$17,500.

A goal of \$150,000 for the state mission offering was authorized by the board, which also approved a state calendar of activities for 1970.

There was some discussion of the possibility of making an historical site out of the Bethel Baptist Church southeast of Collinsville, Ill. The church's present house of worship was built in 1839, and served as a way-station on the underground railway in Civil War days. A large trap door in the center of the building still leads to the hiding place used by runaway slaves.

Illinois Baptist State Association Executive Secretary James H. Smith reported that Cooperative Program gifts as of April 1 were 17.2 per cent ahead of the same time last year in the state. Next meeting of the board is Sept. 16.

-30-

**Mrs. Elliott, Seminary
Librarian's Widow Dies**

FORT WORTH (BP)--Mrs. L. R. Elliott, wife of the late director of libraries and professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, died in her home here on her 83rd birthday, April 14.

She had lived in Fort Worth since 1919 when her husband became assistant librarian at Southwestern Seminary. He became librarian in 1922, and director of libraries in 1956.

Mrs. Elliott had recently published a biography on her husband entitled, From Faith to Fact.

Funeral services were held here April 16. Both were long-time members of Broadway Baptist Church.

-30-

North Carolina Association
Reports 1,091 Decisions

GRAHAM, N.C. (BP)--A Crusade of the Americas evangelistic effort in a high school gymnasium here resulted in 1,091 decisions for Christ, including 571 professions of faith, the superintendent of missions for the Mount Zion Baptist Association has reported.

Bill Glass, professional football player for the Cleveland Indians, led the services, preaching to 35,000 people in eight nights.

Participating in the crusade were 26 Baptist churches, two Methodist, two United Churches of Christ, and a Pilgrim Holiness church. A total of 153 trained counselors talked with each of those who made decisions.

Two weeks after the crusade, a special service called a "Share-In" was held at the First Baptist Church of Graham, during which 300 of the 328 people present committed themselves to witness to at least one person each day during the Crusade of the Americas, said W. Frank Ingram, superintendent of missions for the association.

Ingram said the "Share-in" actually turned out to be nothing more than an old-fashioned singing, preaching and testimonial service, but no one would have showed up if they had called it a testimonial service.

The crusade was advertised in the north-central part of North Carolina with two full page ads and 164 one minute spot announcements on three radio stations featuring Congressman Richardson Preyer, Bill Glass, local TV personality Bill Kirkpatrick, and a number of local teenagers.

Ingram said that of the 38 churches within the association, all but one participated in the crusade. "Exciting things are happening in our association," he said. "God is richly blessing our association."

-30-

Historical Commission Studies
Negro History, Writing History

4/25/69

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting here in annual session, heard lectures and panel discussions on how to write Baptist history, and a major address on Negro Baptist history.

-30-

UNRECORDED COPY
APR 25 1969
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
NASHVILLE, TENN.

