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460 James Robertson Parkway  
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Telephone (615) 244-2355  
W. C. Fields, Director  
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**Free Food Stamps Urged  
For Five Million Poor**

**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

WASHINGTON (BP)--Free food stamps to feed more than five million desperately poor Americans is the purpose of a bill sponsored in the U. S. Senate by 31 legislators. Called the Food Stamp Reform Act, the proposals call for an increase of \$1½ billion in 1970 for the food stamp program.

The chairman of the Senate's select committee on nutrition and human needs, Sen. George McGovern (D., S. Dak.) introduced the bill. He was joined by two republicans and 29 Democrats. The two Republicans are Oregon Senator Mark O. Hatfield and Theodore F. Stevens, the new Senator from Alaska.

The proposed legislation would raise the federal budget for food stamps from about \$300 million to \$1.8 billion. Under the bill's provisions free stamps would be given to some 5.2 million Americans who live in families with incomes less than half that of the established poverty level.

In addition, the purchase price of stamps would be lowered for those who pay, and families would be able to buy less than a full month's supply at times and places convenient to them.

Recipients of food stamps also would be able to buy soap and other products necessary for personal cleanliness and home sanitation which they are not permitted to do under the present law.

A new feature of the proposed reforms would permit the Secretary of Agriculture to bypass local officials who fail to comply properly with the act and authorize private non-profit agencies to administer the program.

In introducing the bill, Sen. McGovern strongly criticized the Nixon administration for failing to follow through on its promise to provide "vigorous, innovative" action against hunger.

He cited President Nixon's recent budget requests to Congress where only \$15 million in additional funds were asked for the War on Hunger. This amount was requested for nutrition aides to teach the poor what to eat.

This is "only the barest nod to the hungry," Sen. McGovern said, pointing out that it did not provide one additional dollar to help the poor secure the food they need.

The South Dakota Democrat said he was well aware of the budgetary problems faced by the President and agreed that peace and an end to inflation should be top priority problems.

"Are we to believe," he asked, "that our nation can afford 11 trips to the moon, a new multi-billion dollar manned bomber and a dubious antiballistic missile system, but that we cannot afford a penny more to feed hungry children because this would cause inflation?"

For the past four months Sen. McGovern's committee has held extensive hearings on the extent of malnutrition among the poor. These hearings have demonstrated that the one overriding cause of hunger and malnutrition is inadequate income, he said.

"We have already seen more than enough to know that Americans are hungry now. They have been hungry for years," he declared.

More than eight million Americans now live in families whose total income, including welfare payments, is less than half the federal poverty level, the Senator pointed out. A few of these eight million--no one knows how many--are served by present food programs, according to committee findings.

The South Dakota Senator appealed to concerns for both economy and morality in the fight against hunger. The high cost of malnutrition, he said, is seen in irreparable brain damage and stunted growth, belighted lives, lost manpower, chronic welfare costs and rebellion in the cities.

"Considerations both of economy and morality demand that we take some steps now to put an end to this enormous waste of life and treasure," McGovern told the Senate.

Atlanta Baptist College  
Cuts Expansion Plans

ATLANTA (BP)--Atlanta Baptist College, faced with financial problems similar to those confronting private colleges everywhere, has announced major cutbacks in its plans for expansions.

President Monroe F. Swilley said that the school will not add a junior class this fall as it had planned, and will not proceed with plans to build dormitories on campus by this fall.

The school opened last fall with about 200 students, including many in night classes. A major portion of the space in the school's four buildings is being leased to commercial firms for rental funds.

The college also plans to lease much of its 562 acres of land for commercial uses to gain more revenue.

Swilley said college trustees had approved budget extending through 1972 and had agreed to solicit funds to make up an anticipated deficit of about \$300,000 per year until 1972.

The trustees also raised tuition costs for a full-time student from about \$750 per year to \$990.

Swilley said the tight money situation throughout the nation, and the fact that large educational donors do not give monies to nonaccredited schools, are major reasons for the cutback in expansion plans.

He said an examining team from the University of Georgia in Athens had evaluated the college and agreed to accept academic credits from Atlanta Baptist College at the university.

Students asked the administration to issue an appeal for funds. Student Body President Steve Damos of Augusta, Ga., said students would make their own approach to "our own people in Atlanta who have expressed interest in the college."

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Church Federation Invites  
SBC Preachers in New Orleans

5/1/69

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--The Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches has suggested to its member churches that they invite a Southern Baptist preacher who might be attending the Southern Baptist Convention activities here June 8-13, to be a pulpit guest.

The invitation was extended by George Wilson, secretary of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches. A form has been sent to each member church asking them to notify the federation if they want a Southern Baptist to preach on the Sunday before the SBC.

In response, the general arrangements chairman for the convention here, former SBC President J. D. Grey, has urged each Southern Baptist pastor interested in preaching at a New Orleans church to write to him so that Baptist pastors can be paired with churches of other denominations.

Grey, pastor of the First Baptist Church of New Orleans, asked that Baptist pastors interested in preaching prior to the SBC at a New Orleans church write to the SBC Committee on Arrangements, P. O. Box 15125, New Orleans, La., 70115.

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Chicago Baptist Present  
"Good News" To Mayor Daley

5/1/69

CHICAGO (BP)--Seven ministers representing the various Baptist bodies in Chicago presented a special edition of the Good News for Modern Man New Testament to Mayor Richard Daley, launching the church revival phase of the Crusade of the Americas here.

The mayor, who seemed touched by the presentation, told the Baptist delegation he spent 15 minutes each day reading the Bible. Mayor Daley is a Catholic.

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The group was led by Ralph Hopkins, president of the (Negro) Baptist Ministers' Conference of Chicago and Vicinity. Hopkins, spokesman for the delegation, had met the mayor on at least one other occasion as a spokesman for Negroes when they were demonstrating at City Hall.

"Mayor Daley, as you know, I am here for a different purpose today, to tell you about the Crusade of the Americas and to present you this Bible, prepared especially for you," said Hopkins.

"You may not realize that there are 1 million Baptists in Chicago," Hopkins added.

The Bible presented to the mayor was one of 100 furnished by the American Bible Society for presentation to key government leaders during the Crusade of the Americas, a hemisphere-wide evangelistic crusade involving Baptists in North, Central and South America.

The Bible was bound in red leather with Mayor Daley's name stamped in gold.

Four Negro ministers represented Negro Baptists, including Hopkins, R. S. Jones, F. L. Porter Sr., and E. J. Jurineack. American Baptists were represented by Maurice Blanchard, pastor of Austin Second Baptist Church.

Southern Baptists were represented by Illinois Baptist State Association Executive Secretary James H. Smith, and Metropolitan Chicago Baptist Association Superintendent of Missions Preston Denton.



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