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May 7, 1969

Day of Prayer Slated For Convention Service

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptists will observe May 25 as a day of prayer for a special evangelistic service scheduled next month in New Orleans as part of the denomination's annual meeting.

"Faith and Work for Victory" is the theme of the 7:30 p.m. meeting, June 13, the final session in the denomination's five-day convention. Also slated is an afternoon time of Christian testimony and prayer (for the evening service).

SBC President W. A. Criswell of Dallas, who called for the daylong prayer emphasis, in December appealed to the denomination's Home Mission Board in Atlanta to sponsor the evangelistic meeting to "put a little revival fire into the 'graveyard' end of the convention."

The missions agency accepted the appeal, and in addition to arranging the program funded a \$7,000 promotional effort--including handbills, and coverage in newspapers, radio and television.

Eual A. Lawson of the mission agency's division of evangelism asked all to pray for "the power of the Lord to be present in the service so we can win as many people as possible to the Lord."

Featured speaker for the service will be John Bisagno, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., which added last year 344 members by baptism, the largest number reported in the SBC.

Music will be provided by a combined choir from New Orleans Baptist churches under the direction of Charles Hayes, minister of music of the Metairie (La.) Baptist Church.

The afternoon session on Friday will be devoted to the theme, "Prayer and God's Word in Evangelism," as preparation for the evening service.

Featured will be testimonies by recently released Cuban missionaries, Herbert Caudill and David Fite; in addition to short presentations from E. L. Golonka of Atlanta, L. D. Clepper of Cottonport, La., Elie Woerner of Loreauville, La., and Seaman Missionary John Vandercook, of New Orleans.

Criswell will close the afternoon session.

-30-

Southern Baptist Negro
Elected Chapel Hill Mayor

5/7/69

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (BP)--A deacon and choir member in a Southern Baptist church here has become the first Negro mayor of a Southern town with a white majority.

He is Howard Lee, 34, a native of Georgia and the son of a share cropper. Lee, now personnel relations director at Duke University in nearby Durham, N.C., twice dropped out of high school before going on to college.

He came to Chapel Hill in 1964 and became a choir member and deacon of Binkley Memorial Baptist Church here. The church is named for Olin T. Binkley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Lee bears a striking resemblance to the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

In his campaign for mayor, he defeated Roland Giduz, a 12-year veteran on the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen. Lee polled approximately 54 per cent of the vote.

Chapel Hill has had a Negro Alderman for the past 15 years, but Lee will be the first Negro mayor in this university town.

-30-

President Proposes Major
Reforms in Food Programs

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon, in a surprise move, has asked Congress for a billion-dollar-a-year increase in federal food aid programs to feed the poor.

Declaring that hunger in the land is "embarrassing and intolerable," the President submitted proposals to boost the government's food programs to a total \$2½ billion in 1970.

The announcement of the administration's intention to increase hunger funds heads off recent reports that President Nixon was reneiging on his promise to launch a major attack in the war on hunger.

Under the President's proposals the food stamp program would undergo a major revision to:

* Provide poor families enough stamps to purchase a nutritionally complete diet, estimated by the Department of Agriculture to be \$100 a month for a typical family of four.

* Provide food stamps at no cost to those in the very lowest income brackets.

* Provide food stamps to others at a cost of no more than 30 per cent of their income.

President Nixon also declared that the food stamp program should be complementary to a revised welfare program, details of which will be released later this year.

In addition, the administration plans to strengthen the commodities distribution and the special package programs. The latter is a supplemental food program providing needy pregnant women and mothers with packages of especially nutritious foods.

The special package program is currently in the experimental stage in some cities. The new proposals call for issuing vouchers to needy pregnant women and mothers which can be redeemed at food and drug stores for baby formulas and other highly nutritious special foods.

The President said his long-range goal is to replace the direct distribution of commodities with the revised food stamp program. But until this can be done, the commodities effort will be strengthened.

Nixon pointed out that there are still 440 counties in the United States without any family food assistance program. He promised to establish programs in each of these counties before July 1970.

Only a portion of the proposals for revising the food programs would take effect this year. The president said that \$270 million is being reprogrammed in the current budget to permit some expansion of food stamps as soon as legislative and administrative arrangements can be made.

Earlier President Nixon was criticized by many Senators and Congressman because he had asked for only \$15 million in additional funds to feed the poor. This amount was requested for subprofessional nutrition aides to teach poor families what to eat.

The President's message stressed again the need to educate people to choose proper foods. Also, he announced that a special effort will be made to involve the food industries in the war against hunger. He said he would announce shortly a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to involve executives from the food industry.

A special feature of the Nixon administration's new food reforms is the establishment of a new agency, the Food and Nutrition Service, whose exclusive concern will be the administration of all federal food programs.

The President concluded his message on malnutrition by saying that "more is at stake here than the health and well-being of 16 million citizens who will be aided by these programs and the current child food assistance programs. Something very like the honor of American democracy is at issue."

He recalled the times in U. S. history when the nation has responded to needs in other parts of the world to feed starving people. "But the moment is at hand to put an end to hunger in America itself for all time," President Nixon declared.



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