



**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

May 20, 1969

**Foreman Demands Reparations  
At American Baptist Meeting**

SEATTLE, Wash. (BP)--Black militants led by James Foreman made four specific demands of Baptists for "reparations" during the American Baptist Convention here.

Foreman, chairman of the National Black Economic Conferences, made the demands in addition to earlier ultimatums asking for \$500 million in reparations from all Christian churches and Jewish synagogues. The demands were initially presented in the form of a Black Manifesto.

At the American Baptist Convention here, Foreman made these four demands:

1. Turn over unused convention-owned property in Southern states to the Black Conference for conversion into cooperative farms.
2. Donate \$60 million to the Inter-Religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO).
3. Invest 60 per cent of its financial holdings in black communities.
4. Spend \$700 million on black schools.

Foreman also charged that American churches have, along with government and business, exploited the black community, and that black people have helped create the wealth of the country but have been denied the opportunity to "participate in the fruits."

Over the objection of some delegates, Foreman was granted 15 minutes on the convention program. Equal time was allowed for positive and negative response.

A California pastor told the convention the requests were "invalid" and praised the capitalism that built the country, but a New York minister urged the convention to "put our money where our mouth is."

Earlier during the convention, Thomas Kilgore Jr., of Los Angeles, was elected as the first Negro president of the American Baptist Convention. Kilgore is pastor of Second Baptist Church, Los Angeles.

While Foreman was presenting his demands for reparations, a group called Young American Baptist Churchmen was staging a fast to dramatize the urgency of world hunger.

"Malnutrition kills approximately seven people every minute, 417 people every hour, 10,000 people every day--mostly children--while the garbage cans of America are filled to overflowing," said a statement issued by Young American Baptist Churchmen. "American Christians waste enough to feed the world."

The young churchmen chided the lavish meals consumed during the annual convention, saying the average delegate spends about \$40 for food during the convention.

In another development, Youth American Baptist Churchmen announced they will investigate the possibility of organizing a union for American Baptist ministers, saying they were frustrated with the influence of state and city organizations that deal with pastors individually.

A doctrinal debate drew heated discussion over whether the convention had the right to stipulate that "only immersed members will be recognized as delegates."

A recent legal opinion found this stipulation at odds with a convention bylaw which provides that the constituency of the convention "shall be all Baptist churches in the United States which cooperate in its work."

Under this bylaw, the 1,400 convention churches which practice open membership could not name delegates who were not immersed.

An amendment to the bylaws was approved by the convention giving the local church the final authority on qualifications of its delegates. The amendment provided that members elected by cooperating churches shall be recognized as delegates by the convention.

Ten strongly-worded resolutions were adopted by the convention. Among other things, the resolutions urged:

- A basic standard of subsistence below which no individual would be expected to live;
- More government assistance and a more effective national policy for aid to the poor, both rural and urban;
- A recommitment by American Baptists to a vigorous program of personal evangelism;
- American Baptist programs to improve attitudes about the poor, racial and ethnic groups, plus use of economic resources to further develop a more just society;
- More effective American Baptist confrontation with the issue of arms control and savings from the military budget which could be invested more constructively;
- A review of U.S. reliance on the military in foreign policy;
- Increased opportunities for women in American Baptist executive positions and elimination of inequalities in compensation;
- More liberal free trade policies to help developing nations, and reversal of the present trend toward decreasing foreign aid;
- More American Baptist efforts to reform social institutions which perpetuate injustice and racial oppression;
- Revision of curricula and educational methods regarding ethnic and racial history, and the elimination of racism from all levels of education;
- An immediate cease fire in Vietnam and immediate release of prisoners to facilitate an end to the war;
- Revision of the present draft law to give selective conscientious objectors to specific wars the same option that full conscientious objectors now have;
- Amnesty for all persons in jail or outside the country because of conscientious objection to the Vietnam war;
- Approval by Congress of 18 as the age of legal responsibility in all areas; etc.

The convention voted to kill out a section of the resolutions report recommending a freeze on production and use of ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) System and similar new weapons.



**BAPTIST PRESS**

460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 22 1969

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

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