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June 30, 1969

New Orleans SBC Record
Registration Hits 16,678

NASHVILLE (BP)--It's official: the number of registered messengers (delegates) to the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans broke all previous records, according to SBC Registration Secretary W. Fred Kendall here who released the official figures.

The final, official count of the registration cards set the total at 16,678. The previous record was 16,053, recorded at the 1965 convention in Dallas.

Each messenger registration card was microfilmed and counted here by the Historical Commission of the convention, which keeps the official records in its archives, and tabulates the cards for the registration secretary.

A state-by-state breakdown tabulated by the commission disclosed that the largest number attending the convention, 1,804, came from Texas, which has the largest population of Baptists in the nation.

Second in attendance was Louisiana, the host state, with 1,680 registered messengers.

Nearby states Alabama and Mississippi almost tied for third, with only two messengers more coming from Alabama. Alabama had 1,424 registered messengers to Mississippi's 1,422.

Other states, listed in ranking order, and the number of messengers from each, were reported as follows:

North Carolina, 1,368; Georgia, 1,323; Tennessee, 1,231; South Carolina, 1,116; Georgia, 766; Kentucky, 761; Virginia and West Virginia, 700; Missouri, 642; Oklahoma, 530; and Arkansas, 447;

Illinois, 244; Maryland Convention (includes New England and New York areas), 200; California, 193; Ohio, 186; Kansas, 99; Indiana, 96; New Mexico, 85; Colorado, 70; Michigan, 66; District of Columbia, 59; Arizona, 58; Oregon-Washington, 38; Northern Plains Convention (Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota), 24; and Hawaii, 18.

Puerto Rico, 8; Panama Canal Zone, 6; Alaska, 2; and Venezuela, 1.

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Welsh Named Utah-Idaho
Acting Executive Head

(6/30/69)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (BP)--Darwin E. Welsh, associate executive secretary of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention here for the past 4½ years, has been named acting executive secretary-treasurer of the convention pending election and installation of a permanent secretary-treasurer.

The post was vacated by the resignation of Charles H. Ashcraft who becomes executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention effective Sept. 1.

A native of Texas, Welsh is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. With Utah-Idaho Baptists, he has been missions, stewardship, Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador secretary in addition to his work as business manager and associate executive secretary.

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McCall Named To Texas
Education Commission

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Abner V. McCall, president of Baylor University, is one of six men appointed by Texas Gov. Preston Smith to serve on the Education Commission of Texas, which sets the state's education policies.

McCall has been president of the Baptist school since 1961. Before that he served as dean of the Baylor School of Law from 1948 to 1959 and as an associate justice on the Supreme Court of Texas.

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W. Marvin Watson Named
To Hardin-Simmons Board

(6/30/69)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--W. Marvin Watson, former Postmaster General of the United States and now president and chief administrative officer with the Occidental International Corp., has been named to the Hardin-Simmons University board of development.

Watson, 44, relinquished his government post, January 20. An active Baptist deacon, Watson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and was an instructor in Baylor's economics department during the early 1950's.

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Baptist Courier Issues
100th Anniversary Paper

(6/30/69)

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--The Baptist Courier, official publication of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, observed its 100th anniversary with a 36-page Centennial Issue.

The weekly Baptist state paper was established in 1869, being published for 51 years as a privately-owned Baptist paper, and for the last 49 years as an agency of the state convention with a separate board of trustees.

With the centennial issue, Editor John Roberts began his fifth year as the eighth editor of the paper.

In an editorial commenting on the paper's history, Roberts wrote that "the Courier's second century can eclipse its first if it maintains its policy of objective reporting significant news while using the editorial page to lead, chide, provoke and stimulate to thought and response as it speaks the truth in love."

The paper has a circulation of 97,000.

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