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**Criswell And Texas Baptists
Support Welfare Amendment**

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By Robert O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)--Texans have decided to raise the state's welfare ceiling and Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell shattered a stereotype in the process.

By an almost 2 to 1 margin, Texas voters said "yes" to Proposition 5, a constitutional amendment to raise the ceiling from \$60 million to \$80 million for the benefit of the aged, blind, handicapped and poverty-stricken children.

The vote reversed a refusal by Texas voters on the same issue about nine months earlier. Criswell, pastor of the 15,000-member First Baptist Church here, two commissions of the 1.8 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas and The Baptist Standard, state newspaper for Texas Baptists, played an integral role in a massive, statewide campaign to support passage of the amendment.

They were joined by religious, civic, community and legislative leaders of all faiths and races.

Some, who had Criswell typecast in their particular definition of "conservatism," showed visible surprise at his participation. "Criswell for welfare?!" gasped a wire service reporter. "Man, that is a story!"

The 59-year-old SBC president, as is his custom, didn't mince words about his point of view.

At a legislative briefing, he told an interracial group of Dallas County pastors that the question of raising welfare payments should not degenerate into a debate between "liberals" and "conservatives."

"It's not being 'liberal'...(theologically) to minister to the needs of the hungry, the disabled and the sick," Criswell said, with a characteristic jut of jaw and jab of finger. "It's just simply being Christian."

The legislative briefing, held at First Baptist Church's chapel named for Criswell featured the SBC President and three Texas legislators.

Criswell, two prominent Negro Baptist ministers and the moderator of the Dallas Association jointly invited Negro and white Baptist pastors from Dallas County to attend. The speakers urged the pastors to support Proposition 5.

Criswell also supported the amendment by joining a 30-man, blue-ribbon committee of Dallas leaders, called "People Who Care."

Texas Baptists' Christian Life Commission helped set up and organize the Dallas legislative briefing and a similar one in Fort Worth.

The Christian Life Commission, among other activities, circulated a 25-page, in-depth fact sheet on the issue, which some observers feel played a significant role in opinion forming.

Members of the Christian Life Commission and the Texas Baptist Human Welfare Commission, which advises Baptist hospitals and facilities for children and the aging in the state, officially endorsed the amendment by unanimous vote.

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BP PHOTO mailed to Baptist state papers

Home Mission Board Names
Four Couples Missionaries

8/7/69

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Four Couples have been appointed as career missionaries by the Board of Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board meeting here for its annual summer session.

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They are Doyme and Martha Ann Robertson of Fort Worth, where he was pastor of Westland Heights Baptist Church. They were assigned to Capitan, N. M., where Robertson will be pastor of First Baptist Church.

Veryl Floyd and Cheryl Lynn Henderson of Corsicana, Tex., where he was pastor of Mildred Baptist Church. They were assigned to the city of Lahaina on the Hawaiian Island of Maui, where he will be pastor of Lahaina Baptist Mission.

Dale Wesley and Karen Sue Cross of Royal Oak, Mich., where he was pastor of Sixth Street Baptist Church. The Crosses were assigned to Detroit, where he will be superintendent of missions.

William James and Bella Jo Austin of Thornton, Colo., where he was pastor of First Baptist Church. They were assigned to Denver, where he will be superintendent of missions for Northern and Eastern Colorado.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Fuller stories on individual couples are being mailed to those cities and states most concerned.

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Churches Urged To Work With Government To Develop People

WASHINGTON (BP)--Both churches and government have supportive roles in helping people to be competent, according to a highly placed governmental official here.

Samuel C. Jackson, assistant secretary for metropolitan development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, addressed nearly 100 Baptist leaders at the 13th annual Religious Liberty Conference.

The conference was sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director. Theme for the meeting was "Emerging Patterns of Rights and Responsibilities Affecting Church and State."

"The competence of an individual may not depend on his efforts alone," Jackson declared, as he outlined government programs and challenged the churches to participate and use their influence in such efforts.

In addition to government programs to develop manpower skills, Jackson insisted that government has a responsibility in helping to provide an environment in which human competence can grow.

Although he said that all of government has a responsibility in this area, he discussed largely the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. (HUD)

Two major problems in the job market of the nation, Jackson said, are discrimination and personal competence.

"Discrimination, and not inadequate education or training, is the major factor contributing to the income gap" among the millions of Black and Spanish-speaking Americans, the HUD official said.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has found, according to Jackson, "that discrimination, deliberate or inadvertent, accounts for about two-thirds of the difference in occupational ranking between black males and majority group males."

The commission further observed that "more education is only a partial solution to the Negro's problem of low employment status because a lessening of the difference in years of schooling between Negroes and Anglos does not produce a proportional narrowing of the gap in employment status."

Jackson asserted that most of the 11 million people with employment problems suffer from multiple handicaps. Those he listed are: discrimination because of race or ethnic origin, many are women, youth under 21, relocation of industry to fringe areas, depressed or lagging regions of the nation, lack of education and skill, poor health, and physical and mental handicaps.

Emphasizing the housing programs of HUD, Jackson said that "there is no question that a person will be more competent if he has decent housing and lives in a suitable environment."

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"He will be healthier, will have less worries weighing him down, and will generally face life, including his job and/or training, with a more positive attitude than if he lives in inadequate housing that is overpriced and located in a deteriorating neighborhood," he continued.

The HUD official then challenged the churches to use their "substantial" influence and resources in their communities to help improve the competence of people. He urged the churches to use their influence to:

1. "Eliminate restrictive land use practices that prevent the construction of housing that low-income families can afford;
2. "Make planning agencies more responsive to the needs of the poor;
3. "Get communities to adopt or expand low rental housing;
4. "Assure that housing where the poor live is not ghettoized through restrictive site location policies;
5. "Make local governments more responsive to housing problems;" and
6. "Persuade government officials, interest groups, professional organizations, and the like that racial, social, and economic balance in housing is the only course which can result in a single nation indivisible."

Jackson then set forth "a major goal of American progress," saying it "should be a social and political environment where each man is free and able to develop himself and reach his full potential."

"To reach that goal," Jackson concluded, "every segment of American society must fill its own particular role. Government at every level must combine its efforts and resources with the efforts and resources of businesses, industry, private organizations, individual citizens, and churches such as yours."

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