

(BP)---FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

produced by Baptist Press

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
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September 12, 1969

Pop Festivals Produce
New Problems For Society

By John D. Carter
Baptist Press Staff Writer

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Logistics problems created by gigantic drug and rock music marathons have forced law officers to think more in terms of containment than "law and order."

Some small-town officials, never faced with a decision more complex than ticketing a speeding driver, find themselves suddenly confronted with hundreds or thousands of hippies and fellow-travelers--some clothed, some not; some rich, some poor; and a large percentage on marijuana or a drug of some description.

In Lewisville, for instance, the kids have come and gone, gleefully leaving the "establishment" to all the breast-beating and recriminations that must surely follow when traditional concepts are flouted openly.

The mayor and now resigned police chief of Lewisville find themselves the target of abuse of private citizens who wonder how in the world a spectacle such as the festival could happen so close to home.

After all, they say, those drug, sex and protest movements were reserved for decadent states such as California or New York. Nowhere was the "it can't happen here" philosophy so classically destroyed.

The disillusion was made complete when reporters on the scene confirmed that although there were quite a few out-of-staters at the popfest, many were high school and college-age Texans. They streamed in from Corpus Christi, Austin, San Antonio, Houston and, of course, the Dallas-Fort Worth complex.

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Hester, a staff member of the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and a former Baptist foreign missionary, recounted the incident this way:

"When we saw that filthy needle and syringe draw up that liquid out of a dirty old spoon, and that girl hold out her arm to take the junk into her system, we just lost our heads, I guess," Hester recounted.

"My wife broke into tears and rushed over to that pretty child and pleaded, 'Please, please don't do it. Come live with us--anything.'"

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Congress Later Apologizes

by Toby Druin

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Ford had been seated in the balcony when the uproar began. Ford reportedly told a congress official seated beside him, "Let's go down there and straighten that out. It's not right."

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"One would have to say, if he is honest at all with the impressions, that there is developing a conflict between what the missionaries feel needs to be done and what many have in the states wanted to see done," Duncan wrote.

The editor pointed out that "the missionaries we talked with were dedicated Christians who are giving their best, plan to continue their work, believe that what they are doing is of God, but who at the same time and for the sake of a Christian witness want some changes made."

Duncan also said he recognized that an editor could not get the whole picture of Baptist work in a week's visit to three countries, and that "one gets a different picture from one missionary than he does from another."

The editor also had words of praise for the dedication of the missionaries in the Far East. "One is impressed by their commitment and, for the most part, their ability. They have given sacrificially of themselves and their families just to be and do what they think the Lord wants of them.

"...We have seen missionaries all our lives," the editorial continued. "We have heard them speak, read their literature, looked at their reports, but never have we been exposed to so many who wanted to talk, not about their success, but really about things they feel are not right and the changes that they feel need to be made."

After making his suggestion for a total study of Southern Baptist foreign mission work, the editor concluded by saying:

"Missions is the very heart of our work. This is why we feel if such a task is under taken, everyone involved will give their wholehearted cooperation."

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The editor pointed out that "the missionaries we talked with were dedicated Christians who are giving their best, plan to continue their work, believe that what they are doing is of God, but who at the same time and for the sake of a Christian witness want some changes made."

Duncan also said he recognized that an editor could not get the whole picture of Baptist work in a week's visit to three countries, and that "one gets a different picture from one missionary than he does from another."

The editor also had words of praise for the dedication of the missionaries in the Far East. "One is impressed by their commitment and, for the most part, their ability. They have given sacrificially of themselves and their families just to be and do what they think the Lord wants of them.

"...We have seen missionaries all our lives," the editorial continued. "We have heard them speak, read their literature, looked at their reports, but never have we been exposed to so many who wanted to talk, not about their success, but really about things they feel are not right and the changes that they feel need to be made."

After making his suggestion for a total study of Southern Baptist foreign mission work, the editor concluded by saying:

"Missions is the very heart of our work. This is why we feel if such a task is under taken, everyone involved will give their wholehearted cooperation."