



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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September 25, 1969

Final Wrapup

SBC Executive Committee
Commends Camille Relief

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Virginia Executive Committee Member Albert Sims added that 52 members of one small Baptist church drowned in one night in the flood waters.

Carter said that the board had learned many lessons from the disaster, saying that one of the greatest problems is "that Baptists will not do anything with anybody except other selected Baptists, in the traditional Baptist way--do it mainly for Baptists or Baptist property--and thereby miss one of life's most unique ways of witnessing for Christ through concrete expression of love, compassion and concern.

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The action was taken in order to equalize the work load of the committees, deepen the study of the committees, and relate public relations to the total work of the Executive Committee, explained James Monroe of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., chairman of the committee.

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Students Call Executive Committee "Enlightening"

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"The act of your seeking our participation we view as a tribute to you largeness of spirit and strength of maturity," said the students' letter, which was drafted mostly by Dan Aleshire, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

In June, the committee voted to invite five students to participate in its discussions, and at the September meeting, voted again to invite three to five students to its February meeting.

One of the five students was Miss North Carolina--Meredith student Patsy Johnson of Raleigh, who told the Executive Committee the students had been "very pleased with everything that has gone on in this meeting."

The three other students, in a later interview, did not concur with "complete agreement with everything," but said they were pleasantly surprised by the way the denomination does its business.

"It shattered my stereotype image of the Executive Committee as a group of powerful heads all meeting together," said Paul Andrews, president of the student body at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Andrews and Robert Dalton, student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville both agreed they were impressed that the Executive Committee was "run like a business."

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The complexity of the business, however, sometimes seemed perplexing, the students said. "There wasn't a lot we could offer," said Miss Linda Fowler, student at Peabody College in Nashville. "It was the members who knew the facts and had studied the problems who had to make the decisions," she added.

At this point, the students themselves might have shattered some of the stereotype images the adult Baptist leaders might have had concerning students. They did not press for demands, and usually did not say much in the meeting.

"Just as members of our generation are known for desires to voice demands, we wish at this time to be equally vocal in expressing our gratitude," said the students in the letter addressed to the committee.

"We are students," the statement continued, "By this choice we have indicated to all that we realize that we are the novices, the inexperienced. We are likewise aware of the unique dangers of this level of development...We do not pretend to bring depths of profundity or heights of understanding, but we do strive to express our levels of faith in Christ, our desire to exalt Him, and our commitment to the church."

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To Advance BWA Objectives

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