

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 13, 1969

Georgia Federal Aid Debate  
Delays Decision Till 1970

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention, plagued by annual debates over government funds for Baptist institutions--and Mercer University in particular--will have to deal with the issue again next year.

At its 1969 session, here Mercer and its federal aid policies were almost the sole topic of discussion and debate. The final outcome of the 1969 convention was a compromise motion which continues the matter for another year.

Mercer trustees consumed more than one hour of convention time explaining their action of last February in which they applied for three federal construction grants, totaling \$570,000, despite three convention votes in the past five years against any tax monies for Georgia Baptist institutions.

The essence of the trustee explanation was a reaffirmation of the autonomy of the trustees, and assertion that their action was "not flauntive of the convention," but a necessary action in light of financial pressures.

The trustees' statement concluded: "We have sought only to assume the full measure of our responsibilities and duties as trustees. We prayerfully and earnestly solicit your understanding and your support."

But heated debate followed, revolving around the issue of control--whether or not the convention had legal power to overrule the federal grants applications of the Mercer trustees.

The issue seemed to be resolved when the convention adopted a compromise motion made by J. Thornton Williams, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Moultrie, Ga., and a former convention president.

Williams' motion reaffirmed the autonomy of Mercer trustees, but "remained them" that "we have placed in their keeping sacred trusts," and asked them to "remember their commitment to Baptist principles, and to the well-being of our total tasks of which the institution is a part."

The next morning, however, a three-pronged motion relating to Mercer and federal aid was made by B. R. Anglin, pastor from Harrison, Ga., and a long-time spokesman for church-state separation in Georgia Baptist Convention sessions.

Anglin's processed motion asked for a special committee to be appointed to raise \$3 million in two years for Georgia Baptist schools; for Mercer trustees to rescind their action to seek federal grants; and for Mercer trustees to "embark on a planned concerted course of action to improve the Christian atmosphere and witness of our institutions,"

After more debate, the convention approved a substitute motion that Anglin's motion be referred to the convention's Executive Committee for further study and report at the 1970 convention in Augusta.

Alan B. Comish, pastor of Waldrop Memorial Baptist Church in Columbus, Ga., made the substitute motion, which passed by just 20 votes.

But at the next session, Anglin was back at the podium with another motion, this one requesting Mercer trustees to withhold any appeal for, or acceptance, of, government funds until the Executive Committee makes its report in November of 1970.

This time Anglin's motion passed with little discussion and an overwhelming majority vote.

In other convention action, the messengers authorized Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta to borrow up to \$6 million to add new patient facilities and renovate existing facilities. The proposed addition will cost about \$11.8 million and \$3 million is already on hand in gifts and pledges.

The authorization to borrow the \$6 million spelled-out that it would come from "a commercial lending institution or private person." A similar vote in 1968 had said "at the lowest interest rate available," and had been construed by many as authority to make a government loan.

Georgia Baptists also approved a major overhaul of their constitution. The biggest and most controversial change is one which gives more voting power to larger churches which give larger financial support to convention causes.

A 1970 Cooperative Program budget of \$5,648,000 was approved representing a five per cent increase over 1969. About 10 per cent will be deducted for administration and promotion with the remainder divided equally between Georgia and Southern Convention causes.

Walter L. Moore, pastor of Vineville Baptist Church in Macon, Ga., was re-elected to a second term as president. The convention will meet for its 1970 sessions at First Baptist Church, Augusta, Nov. 9-11.

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Stop Building Church-State  
Walls, Sherman Challenges

11/13/69

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A biting challenge to Southern Baptists to "stop building walls around people through church-state arrangements" was issued here by North Carolina Pastor Cecil Sherman.

Sherman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., told the annual Christian Laymen's Forum sponsored by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that Baptists have been as heavy-handed as Catholics in forcing their religious views on society, especially in areas where Baptists are the dominant religious group.

He mentioned blue laws, anti-obscenity fights, Christian pageants in public schools and censorship of "bad books" from school libraries as examples of "wall-building through church-state arrangements."

But, Sherman warned that "the walls are tumbling down. The situation has changed, and we Baptists don't know how to act when the rules are changed. There is as much freedom for what we call evil as for what we call good. Christian ideas are challenged and they must fend for acceptance in the idea markets of the world."

Sherman said "moral choice has been inserted into our society, and we must teach our people how to make moral choices...We need a new kind of man, not sheltered from the world by an outer wall, but made strong by inner braces."

He proposed three solutions for lay witness in the 1970s. "Recognize the world," Sherman said. "Recognize the power of secularity; it is a massive power. Don't underestimate your enemy."

He also suggested that "the church must help people build inner braces. The gospel is stronger than secularity."

His third proposal was that Christians "look for people like yourself." He said "there are times when personal survival in the faith is a major problem. Then we need strength from others like ourselves...Our fellowship is redemptive."

A highlight of the Christian Laymen's Forum was presentation of the annual Southern Seminary Foundation Award to Arthur Smith, country and western music star from Charlotte, N.C.

Seminary President Duke K. McCall presented the award to Smith, citing him as a nationally-known entertainer "with a long record of church involvement."

Smith has written about 100 hymns and produced many top-flight radio and television programs. He is a deacon and Sunday School teacher in Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte.

In another major address at the Laymen's Forum, Kenneth Chafin said "our denomination needs to learn how to lay some foundations for evangelism" in the 1970s. It's not glamorous to lay foundations, but it's the desperate need of our entire denomination."

Chafin, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern seminary, said four foundations must be "laid or renewed" among Southern Baptists. These he cited as worship, "adult relevant Bible study," fellowship and ministry.

A panel of seminary students, speaking on evangelism among young people in the 1970s, told forum participants to "work for openness," to "be totally honest with young people," to "demonstrate genuine concern and build interpersonal relationships," and to "back up what you say about compassion and forgiveness."

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The young seminarians also urged more experimental ministries for youth, such as coffee-house ministries, and more opportunities within church structures for youth expression and youth participation.

In the forum's closing address, Southern Seminary President Duke K. McCall said, "we have got to get the world back to a basic concept that relationships are valuable, that things do matter--such as love, caring, friendship and especially other people."

McCall said "such a concept can only be approached from a standpoint of faith--from a realization that Jesus is still moving toward man. Without that reality, 1970 onward, will be a terrible age in which to live."

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Criswell Repeats: Leave SBC  
If Statements Unacceptable

11/13/69

ATLANTA (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas, said here he was bewildered about adverse reaction to an address he made in Nashville in September calling on dissidents within the SBC to adhere to historical confessions of faith or to leave the denomination.

"I don't know what they (objectors to his remarks) are raising cain about," said Criswell, pastor of the 15,000-member First Baptist Church, Dallas. "Evidently they're just hitting at me."

Criswell continued to say that the "bunch of arch-liberals" in the SBC should "get out and form their own church."

The outspoken Dallas pastor termed liberals "termites who would destroy the church" by boring from within.

He said some of these would do away with baptism by immersion, some want to throw the denomination into a Presbyterian form of government, and some no longer believe in the authority of the scriptures.

He said, "When you're that way, you ought to join another church. You're not a Baptist any longer."

Criswell made the remarks in a press conference at the Georgia Baptist Convention where he preached.

In the same conference, he lashed out at anti-war demonstrators, calling them "traitors."

"Anti-war activities such as Moratorium Day destroy every hope we have in shortening the war," he said.

Criswell repeated remarks he had made earlier on the doctrine question before the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, and on the Moratorium Day during a sermon at his Dallas church. In both cases, however, his press conference remarks were even stronger than his previous statements.

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Maryland Baptist Emphasize  
New York Convention Formation

11/13/69

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (BP)--The end of an era--the end of the 60's and the leaving of Baptist churches in New York to form a convention of their own this year--was emphasized during the meeting of the Baptist Convention of Maryland.

Hosted by College Avenue Baptist Church here, some 700 messengers heard Paul S. James, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of New York, discuss the history, development, and prime ministry of the convention.

Beginning work in metropolitan New York was in 1958 with the establishment of the Manhattan Baptist Chapel under the sponsorship of the College Avenue Church, where the convention met.

Today, more than 7,000 Baptists now live in the greater New York area.

A budget decrease of \$27,000 in Cooperative Program receipts from local churches in Maryland is anticipated due to the departure of the New York churches.

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Total budget for the Baptist Convention of Maryland for 1970 is set at \$1,027,880, of which \$787,000 is expected in state-wide Cooperative Program giving, allocating 40 per cent to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Ralph D. Walls, a Bel Air, Md., automobile executive, was elected to a second term as convention president.

The 1970 meeting will be at Montrose Baptist Church, Rockville.

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Criswell Charges Baptist  
Hypocrisy On School Support

Baptist Press

By Robert O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)--W. A. Criswell, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has characterized the Baptist position on financial support of Baptist schools as "ecclesiastical, denominational hypocrisy."

The 60-year-old pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, said in an interview that he approves the traditional refusal of Baptists to accept federal aid for schools but is saddened by the lack of financial support given them by Baptists.

Enlarging on remarks he made during a press conference at the Baptist General Convention of Texas in San Antonio following a 1,203 to 728 verdict against government loans, Criswell said:

"Baptists have the money to endow every school in the Southern Baptist Convention, but they do not respond. What grieves me is that on the one hand we stand for great traditions and doctrine, but we turn right around and starve our institutions to death.

"That is ecclesiastical, denominational hypocrisy," the silver-haired preacher said. "We say and do not. We say we believe our institutions are vital and that we don't think they should receive federal aid because it would violate separation of church and state.

"But when the time comes to support our institutions and implement our beliefs," he said, "we don't do it."

Criswell added, "If the time came for Baptists to save the institutions or watch them go down the drain, I'm afraid we would let them go down the drain."

"Gradually," he continued, "we will be forced to turn our schools loose--and that would be as tragic as losing our churches."

"It seems that many of our people think that our schools are no longer distinctively Baptist. They appear to believe that our schools follow too much the pattern and leadership of our state schools," he said.

"It has become difficult for Baptist families to pay the difference in the cost of educating a young person in a Baptist school as contrasted to the cost in a state school," he said. "It has become even more difficult for Baptist families to support Baptist schools when they feel they are not much different from other schools."

The SBC president said he doesn't have any easy solutions for the dilemma but he urged Southern Baptists to recognize "that immeasurably priceless difference" between Baptist and non-Baptist educational institutions and respond to their financial needs before it is too late.

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Kentucky Baptists Pledge  
Efforts Meeting Human Needs

Baptist Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. (BP)--The Kentucky Baptist Convention pledged increased efforts at meeting human needs, approving a comprehensive report from a committee appointed to study the convention's involvement in such efforts.

The report pointed to four areas where churches in the state could minister to unmet human needs--improved housing for low income groups, loans or grants for vocational training, scholarships for Negro ministerial students, and information concerning ministries to handicapped persons.

A retired Baptist pastor, O. Y. Yates of Lexington, offered an amendment to the report asking the convention's Executive Board to study the feasibility of homes for the aged sponsored by the convention.

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Both the amendment and the entire report carried with little expressed opposition.

The report recommended specific action by the state Executive Board in three areas, calling on the board to provide loans or grants for vocational training for the needy, provide monies for scholarships for Negro ministerial students, and provide information about ministries to handicapped persons.

The committee called on churches and interested individuals to undertake programs to improve housing for low-income groups, citing as good examples the work of Owensboro Churches for Better Homes, and the Church Housing Association of Prestonsburg. Both are non-profit corporations working for better housing, involving Baptists.

In other major actions, the convention ventured into the never-never land of sex education, approved statements concerning taxation of church property and tax aid to parochial schools, and supported President Richard Nixon's Vietnam policy.

The convention requested its Christian life committee and state paper, the Western Recorder, to develop and disseminate to churches information about "a healthy approach to sex education" and also to help make churches aware of the dangers of pornography in Kentucky.

A report from the convention's public affairs committee expressed strong opposition to tax support for parochial schools "...through direct action or any subterfuge, because we believe that the funds of all the people should be used to provide the best public school system possible for all the children of Kentucky."

In the area of taxation, the committee supported taxation of non church-related business activity for profit, regardless of the use of the funds by churches. Strong opposition, however, was voiced to taxation of properties used for religious purposes.

Earlier, the convention's Executive Board had agreed to pay property taxes on the state headquarters building in Middletown, Ky.

The convention adopted a resolution supporting President Nixon's Vietnam policy, and asked the convention's executive secretary to notify the president of the action.

An emergency recommendation brought by the Executive Board asked the convention to "reaffirm and reiterate the action taken...that any and all allocations heretofore made to Kentucky Southern College be terminated." The motion was adopted.

The action was taken in light of a hearing scheduled about a week following the convention on a law suit against the convention and Kentucky Southern College involving about \$288,000 in funds promised to the former Baptist school by the convention but terminated when Kentucky Southern merged with the University of Louisville recently.

At the recommendation of the Executive Board, the convention voted to revise downward the Cooperative Program budget goals for the next two years, because contributions had fallen short of the goals for the past two years.

The current fiscal year goal of \$4,150,000 was reduced by \$150,000, and the 1970-71 goal of \$4.3 million was revised to \$4.1 million.

The convention voted to increase the amount going to world-wide mission causes through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program by one-tenth of one per cent each year for the next two years.

Elected president for the convention was Sidney Maddox, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, Ky. Next year the convention meets at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Nov. 10-12.

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Oklahoma Convention Opposes  
Liquor, School Sex Education

11/13/69

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma urged its churches to join in a fight against liquor by the drink, and voted to delete a section supporting sex education in public schools from a report of its Christian Life Committee.

The convention reaffirmed its opposition to use of beverage alcohol and urged churches to contribute funds to the Sooner Alcohol and Narcotics Education, Inc., (SANE) to provide funds for a campaign against a petition for a liquor by the drink election now pending before the Secretary of State.

Debate on sex education in public schools was led by Hugo T. Lindquist, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, who said the public schools are already doing plenty of sex education, and don't need any more encouragement.

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"Besides," Lindquist said, "I have seen what kind of sex education is going on in the schools and I don't approve of it."

The convention approved his motion to delete several sentences from the sex education section of the Christian Life Committee's report, which also touched on alcohol, communism, drugs, gambling, honesty, pornography and mass media poverty, race relations, and separation of church and state.

Removed from the section on sex education was a statement encouraging the public schools to supply a place for sex education, if such education were deemed important to all children.

The remaining portion of the section stated that sex education is the duty of parents and the church. It added that Baptist parents should become thoroughly familiar with public sex education programs according to the dictates of a Christian conscience.

Resolutions adopted urged Sunday closing of businesses, called on church members to refrain from unnecessary Sunday shopping, and commended the Oklahoma Publishing Company for refusing advertisements of "X" rated movies for its newspapers, radio and television stations. The resolution also called on other media owners to refuse such advertisements.

In other business, Lindquist submitted a constitutional amendment calling for a guideline to achieve equitable representation for each for the 37 associations on the convention's Board of Directors.

He pointed to the fact that an association with 10,000 members now has the same representation on the board as does an association with 90,000 members. Action on the proposed amendment is expected to take place during next year's convention meeting.

A constitutional amendment submitted to the 1968 convention by past president T. Hollis Epton was referred to the board of directors for further consideration. The proposed amendment called for messengers to the state convention to be from churches which cooperate with the convention and which are in good standing with the cooperating association with which they are affiliated.

Epton said his amendment was offered to avoid some unattractive things which have happened in other states, such as discussing the doctrinal integrity and polity of churches on the convention floor.

"These questions can be handled in the association rather than in the state convention," Epton said.

Messengers adopted a record basic budget of \$3,390,207 and set a goal of \$3.7 million for the Cooperative Program. Southern Baptist Convention world mission causes are to receive 43 per cent of Cooperative Program funds.

J. T. Dane, pastor of Portland Avenue Church, Oklahoma City, was elected president for 1970.

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Utah-Idaho Convention  
Elects First Negro to Board

11/13/69

TWIN FALLS, Idaho (BP)--The Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, in a meeting described by some as more like a large revival service than a convention, elected for the first time a Negro to serve on the convention's Executive Board.

He is Ira Martin, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Emmanuel McCall, guest speaker, who is associate secretary of work with National Baptists at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, commented that he believed Martin is the first Negro to be elected to the executive board of any Southern Baptist state convention.

The Kansas convention's financial dilemma was presented for the consideration of the 220 messengers in attendance, and subsequently a motion was made to take an offering at the last session. A total of \$189.37 was collected.

The motion further asked pastors to present the Kansas problem to individual church for consideration.

A \$251,470 budget for 1970 was approved, including a Cooperative Program budget of \$56,549. Southern Baptist Convention world missions causes are to receive 20 per cent. The 1969 budget of 20 per cent was exceeded by 4.08 per cent.

Lavoid Robertson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Clearfield, Utah, was elected president for 1970. Next year's convention will be at the First Southern Baptist Church Salt Lake City, Utah, Nov. 9-10.

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NOV 14 1969  
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