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November 17, 1969

**Southeastern Seminarians
Join In Anti-War Protest**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A handful of students and faculty members from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., joined the host of Americans marching here to protest the war in Vietnam.

They were a part of the largest political rally ever to be held in the nation's capitol. The crowd of mainly peaceful protestors was estimated by police to be from 250,000 to a half million persons.

The small group of Southern Baptists--two faculty members and four students--carried signs identifying themselves as "a minority of students..." and "some faculty members..." from Southeastern Seminary.

A spokesman for the group, Bob Vance of Pineola, N.C., said the qualifying words were added at the insistence of other students on the campus.

The seminarians' signs registered their commitment to nonviolence and their opposition to continuing the war in Vietnam. One sign said the President "could do more" to end the war.

In addition to the organized group from Southeastern Seminary, a large number of American Baptist executives, seminary and college students and local lay persons marched under a banner reading "American Baptists for Peace."

Leading the group from Valley Forge, Pa., headquarters for American Baptists, were Miss Betty Miller, head of the Division of Christian Social Concern, and Dick Beers from the Foreign Mission Society.

The president of the American Baptist Convention, Thomas Kilgore, a black clergyman from Los Angeles, was scheduled to speak at one of the pre-march activities here, but was unable to come because of illness.

In an interview after the anti-war protest, George H. Shriver, professor of church history at Southeastern Seminary, told Baptist Press that the giant rally showed the "ecumenicity of humanity" in the variety of persons, young and old, who gathered to plea for peace.

"It was like you were caught up in a Hollywood drama, 'Here is America,' Shriver said. "All kinds of citizens were here, long-haired hippies and well-mannered youths and mature older persons. They were not rable-rousers and radicals," he continued.

Shriver praised the group as possessing what he felt was a "real commitment" to peace. "There was not immaturity, insensitivity or unpatriotism in the group," he said.

The church history professor expressed concern, however, over the young persons as a political power and said they must now translate their concern by becoming a part of political structures.

In reference to the students on campus who had insisted that the group carry signs indicating that the seminary marchers represented only "a minority of" or "some" faculty and students, Shriver said: "I feel that the opposing forces are threatened by this kind of commitment."

The other Southeastern professor to march with the anti-war protestors was Robert Poerschke, professor of Christian education.

Neither of the professors claims to be a pacifist.

The students were Doug Sturgill, Damascus, Va., Jim Montsinger, Durham, N.C., Henry Duvall, Atlanta, and Bob Vance, Pineola, N.C.

Hawaii Baptists Defeat Effort
To Phase Out Academy Support

HONOLULU (BP)--The Hawaii Baptist Convention voted down a recommendation that it phase out its support of the Hawaii Baptist Academy by the end of 1973, and overwhelmingly defeated two resolutions dealing with abortion, war, peace and conscientious objectors.

The recommendation that the convention phase out financial support of the academy, except for the salary of its superintendent, came from a Missions-Academy Study Committee appointed last year to make an objective study of the present and future priority of the academy in relation to need for assistance funds for new churches.

The committee noted in its report that one-fifth of the undesignated income the convention anticipates receiving in 1970 is budgeted for the academy.

During debate on the issue, those opposing the motion argued that if the convention is going to claim the academy and operate it as an arm of the convention, Baptists should support it insofar as they are able.

While the convention approved resolutions condemning pornography and drug abuse, it overwhelmingly defeated a resolution opposing abortion laws, and reaffirming the right of conscientious objection.

The resolution on peace, war and conscientious objectors would have affirmed the convention's belief in the right of conscientious objection, and encouraged churches to help conscientious objectors understand established procedures for their registration with the Selective Service System.

The resolution on abortion defeated by the convention, supported "the position that abortion is primarily a moral and medical question rather than a legal question," and supported the repeal of the existing abortion law in Hawaii.

The resolution further would have supported a law approving abortion by licensed physicians and hospitals during the first three months of pregnancy for bonafide Hawaii citizens with the approval of the physician and next-of-kin.

In other action, the convention adopted a 1970 budget of \$601,104, an increase of \$62,898 over the 1969 budget. Of the total amount, \$24,250 or 25 per cent goes to Southern Baptist world mission causes.

Mori Hiratani, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pearl City, Hawaii, was re-elected president of the convention.

The 1970 annual meeting of the convention will be at Waiialae Baptist Church, Honolulu, Nov. 11-13.

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Indiana Baptist Board
Commends Agnew Speech

11/17/69

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana voted here to "go on record supporting the Nov. 13 speech of Vice President Spiro Agnew."

The Vice President in a nationally-televised speech from De Moines, Iowa, was critical of the handling of news by television commentators.

Letters of concurrence will be sent from the Indiana Baptist board to the Vice President and the presidents of the three major television networks.

In other actions, the board agreed to swap the convention's student center property to similar property owned by the Lutherans near the campus of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

The exchange will clear the way for the construction of a Christian Ministries Building, part of which will sit on the present Baptist property.

Tom Woods, layman from Evansville, Ind., was elected to his third term as board chairman. He is vice president of a church bond company.

Woods requested and received authority from the board for its executive committee to begin a study of the salary scale for state convention employees.

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