



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Right To Dissent, Nixon  
Support Voiced In D.C.

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**BUREAU**

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The District of Columbia Baptist Convention meeting here adopted resolutions on churches and taxation, the right of peaceful dissent, support of the President's "intention" in Vietnam, drug abuse, juvenile rehabilitation and sex education in the schools.

A motion from the floor challenging the convention to change its name to the Baptist Convention of Greater Washington and to invite other Baptist churches in the metropolitan area to join was referred to a long-range study committee.

The convention, which is dually aligned with both the Southern and The American Baptists Conventions, was held in the Upper Room Baptist Church, marking the first time the convention has met in a predominately Negro church. Upper Room Baptist, third largest in the convention, is one of two predominantly black churches affiliated with the D.C. Convention.

Carl W. Tiller, a layman, was elected as the new convention president. Tiller, former president of the American Baptist Convention, is chief of budget methods of the U.S. Bureau of the Budget.

The resolution on churches and tax, which was adopted without discussion and with no dissenting votes, urged the churches to consider compensation for public services such as fire and police protection, where this is ascertainable.

The delegates also went on record saying that the tax exemption of properties used for religious purposes "is not only highly desirable, but both legally and ethically justified."

The action affirming "the right of peaceful dissent in all matters relating to conscience" was adopted by a majority vote after efforts were defeated to amend the resolution by inserting "lawful" in the phrase "peaceful dissent."

The motion approved said that "the strength of a democratic form of government rests heavily on the existence and expressions of diverse views on all matters relating to national life." It also urged Baptists "to be attentive to the voices of all concerned citizens."

Earlier the convention had debated and finally adopted a resolution supporting the President's "intention" to withdraw all American combat forces from Vietnam "as soon as this can be done without tragic consequences to the people of South Vietnam."

The same resolution urged both the executive and legislative branches of government "to reconsider continuously our national priorities in order to insure the most appropriate commitment of our resources, especially following disengagement in Vietnam."

Resources to help the churches in ministering to youthful offenders in drug experimentation and addiction were requested by the convention voters. Action was taken to appoint a Baptist representative to serve as the convention liaison to "Drug Central" an agency affiliated with the local city government.

The resolution receiving the most enthusiastic support recommended that the convention seek immediate help to establish a "juvenile aid ministry" in the metropolitan area.

This proposal, offered from the floor by Bert Benz, pastor of the Brookmont Baptist Church, was referred to the committee on research and projection.

The matter of sex education in the schools was not debated, but the delegates approved in a weak voice vote a resolution urging parents to stay abreast of what is being taught in the schools. The action pointed out that sex education in the schools should be taught by "an emotionally mature, properly trained, morally qualified teacher using an appropriately developed curriculum."

The D. C. Convention, representing 59 churches and about 39,000 members, adopted a record budget of \$667,714. This represented an increase of \$93,836 over the budget for 1969. This year's report showed a decrease in church membership from 38,937 to 38,159.

The 1970 convention will be held Nov. 16-17 at the Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Woman's Missionary Union  
Names Two Field Workers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Two field services personnel, one from Louisiana and the other from Illinois, have been named to the staff of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (W.M.U.).

Miss Aline Fuselier, director of Young Woman's Auxiliary and Sunbeam Band for the Louisiana Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, will become Young Woman's Auxiliary (YWA) director for the national organization.

Miss Evelyn Tully, currently Girls' Auxiliary director for the W.M.U. in Illinois, will become Girls' Auxiliary director for the national W.M.U.

Under the new organization plan which takes effect in October, 1970, Miss Fuselier will specialize in work with Baptist Young Women, ages 18-29, and Miss Tully will direct work with Acteens, organization for girls ages 12-17.

Both assume their new duties here Dec. 1.

Miss Fuselier is a native of Louisiana. She graduated from Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, La., and from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She taught home economics at Northwestern State College and did Baptist Student Union work at Louisiana Tech, Ruston, La.

Miss Tully, a native of Texas, graduated from Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex., and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. She taught public school in Texas and did religious education work at Buckner Baptist Children's Home in Dallas before moving to Illinois.



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