

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director**REGIONAL OFFICES**ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 1350 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

December 8, 1969

BUREAUBAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631**President Urged To Declare
National Hunger Emergency**

WASHINGTON (BP)--The first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health ended here with a call to President Nixon to declare immediately a national hunger emergency and to take steps to feed all hungry Americans--estimated to be about 25 million--this winter.

Another major recommendation adopted by the cross-section of citizens endorsed \$5,500 a year as the minimum guaranteed income for a family of four. The President has asked Congress for a guaranteed minimum of \$1,600 annually.

In addition the conference urged that the following be given priority:

*Expansion and reform of the existing food programs to make sure that all people in need have an adequate diet until an adequate income becomes a reality.

*Establishment of a program to provide all school children with a free and nutritious breakfast and lunch, regardless of their need.

*The transfer of food programs from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and local administration of programs by the poor.

President Nixon responded to the recommendations by announcing that he has asked the Department of Agriculture to put food stamp programs within the next six months into the 307 counties that have no federal food programs. There are some 475,000 persons in need of food in these counties, according to the Agriculture Department.

In addition the President announced that the new rules granting \$106 a month in food stamps to any needy family of four would be speeded up to go into effect as soon as possible.

The eight task force leaders working on recommendations throughout the conference called the President's proposals "feeble and inadequate." They were quoted as saying that Nixon "has not reached the level of understanding we have reached."

In the final session of the three-day conference Sen. Walter F. Mondale, (D., Minn.) said the Nixon administration was trying to feed the poor with "rhetoric" instead of food. He accused various top administration officials with actually lobbying against the liberalized food stamp and child nutrition programs awaiting final action in Congress.

Mondale called attention to Nixon's stated target of feeding every needy school child by next June. "That's what he said, but that is not what he is doing," he charged. Mondale said the current budget of the administration will leave almost five million needy school children unfed.

"An adequate diet should come first, before textbooks," Mondale pleaded. "Textbooks are useless to hungry children," he cried.

Mondale, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition, said he strongly supported the conference's recommendation of \$5,500 as the annual minimum income for all families. "...Let's not delude ourselves," he continued: "\$1,600 a year, with or without food stamps, does not constitute adequate income maintenance for a family of four."

The Minnesota senator was especially critical of the public's response to the facts of hunger, which he said were "beyond dispute."

"The problem is not that we lack facts about hunger and malnutrition--the problem is that we have lacked the will to do anything about it," Mondale told the conferees.

Commenting on the innumerable nutrition studies and surveys, the Minnesota senator said he believed it would be far more valuable, and might even end hunger, "if the education process were turned around and directed at ourselves, our society." We need to find out, he continued, "why in the name of heaven we have lost our capacity to respond to hunger in our land."

The real cause of hunger and deprivation is the powerlessness of the poor," Mondale said. "A powerlessness resulting from our desire to hold the poor in a guardian-ward relationship."

He suggested that perhaps the conference should have tackled powerlessness as the real cause of hunger. "Until the poor have power--political, legal and most of all purchasing power, they will stay poor and they will stay hungry," Mondale declared.

-30-

Bill Pitt Suffers Fatal
Heart Attack In Travel

12/8/69

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)--William H. Pitt, Sr., of Nashville, long-time Southern and Tennessee Baptist Convention stewardship executive, died of a sudden heart attack in his car as he was driving about 30 miles north of here.

Pitt, director of endowment and capital giving service for the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in Nashville, had been in Baton Rouge leading a major fund campaign for the First Baptist Church here.

The Louisiana Highway Patrol found his car and body stopped on the highway right-of-way where Pitt managed to bring the car to a stop after apparently suffering heart failure.

Pitt was 52. He had been stewardship secretary for the Tennessee Baptist Convention in Nashville for nine years prior to joining the SBC Stewardship Commission.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church, Milan, Tenn., on Monday, Dec. 8, with special memorial services on Sunday, Dec. 7 at the Tennessee Baptist Convention Chapel in Brentwood, Tenn.

Merrill D. Moore, executive secretary of the SBC Stewardship Commission, and W. Fred Kendall, executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, led the memorial service.

For the past year, Pitt had been in charge of institutional and capital fund raising for the denomination's Stewardship Commission. At the time of his death, he was leading a major campaign in Kansas to help raise \$500,000 to meet financial needs of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists and its Church Loan Association.

For nine years, he was head of state-wide stewardship promotion for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

He came to Nashville in 1960 from Louisiana, where he was pastor of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Previously, he was superintendent of missions for the Gibson Baptist Association in West Tennessee.

He had been pastor of three churches in Memphis, and was a businessman there before entering the ministry. He had worked as sales and factory supervisor for coffee and bread companies in Memphis and New Orleans.

A native of Memphis, Pitt was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He is survived by his wife, Olivia, and three sons: William H. Pitt Jr., a businessman from Milan, Tenn.; Phillip Pitt, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Pulaski, Tenn.; and David Pitt, a student at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn.; and two brothers, one sister, and one grandchild.

The family has requested that contributions be made to a trust fund set up by the Tennessee Baptist Convention Foundation, in lieu of flowers.

-30-

Florida Missionary Named
To Regional Director Post

12/8/69

MIAMI, Fla. (BP)--Lloyd Whyte of Miami has been promoted to missionary-director for the southeastern states of the nation in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's program of work with non-evangelicals, effective Jan. 1.

Whyte will supervise work in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Cuba, Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico. Only three other missionary-directors serve under the department.

He assumes the regional post after serving as director of work with non-evangelicals for the Miami Baptist Association here. He also is former pastor of Miami's Shenandoan Baptist Church.

"Whyte will relate to state, association and local church leadership to intensify their awareness of the existence of nonevangelicals in their communities," Joseph R. Estes, national department secretary said. "He will also assist churches in cultivating a positive relationship with nonevangelicals and in bearing witness to our faith in Christ." Estes added.

-more-

The Department of work related to nonevangelicals formulates and recommends programs for churches and other Baptist groups by which a ministry related to Jews, Catholics, sectarians and world religionists may be implemented. Whyte will devise programs appropriate to the specific area which he serves.

The New York native is a graduate of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., and Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. He also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and has been a lecturer in Bible literature and comparative religion at the University of Miami.

-30-

Allen Named To Staff
Of Radio-TV Commission

12/8/69

FORT WORTH (BP)--J. P. Allen has resigned as pastor of the 5,000-member Broadway Baptist Church here to become director of audience response for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, effective Dec. 28.

His appointment to the commission was announced in a joint statement by Allen and Paul M. Stevens, commission director.

Allen, 57, told church members he had planned to remain at the church for only two more years because he felt he should retire from the pastorate at age 60.

The opportunity to accept the newly-created position with the Radio and Television Commission prompted him to leave earlier than planned, Allen explained.

Also, he wanted to be relieved of the pressure involved in being a pastor.

He said the position with the commission was "an unlooked-for opportunity" for several more years of service.

He will continue living in Fort Worth where the Commission's headquarters are located, and indicated he will continue as a member of the church which he has served as pastor since February, 1963.

However, he pointed out that he "must no longer exercise any pastoral functions" after he resigns because it could interfere with the responsibility and authority of his successor.

In his new post, Allen will be responsible for directing and overseeing the religious content of the commission's radio and television programs and supervising the agency's mail follow-up program.

Allen holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and history from Louisiana College and a master's of theology and a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He entered the ministry in 1937 in Clay, Ky., and also held pastorates in Newport, Tenn.; Bristol, Va.-Tenn.; and Charlottesville, Va.

Allen, who for several years has been the chairman of the commission, will resign as an elected commission member and officer, to take the staff position.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

RECEIVED
DEC 9 1969
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

DAVIS C. WOOLLEY - HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203