



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 9, 1970

Hurricane Camille Offerings
Top \$840,000 For Church Aid

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Southern Baptists have given nearly \$840,800 to assist churches and people suffering from the ravages of Hurricane Camille, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's executive committee was told here.

W. Douglas Hudgins, executive secretary of the convention, reported to the board's committee that so far, a special committee appointed to administer the Hurricane Camille funds had allocated \$739,317 in relief programs not included an estimated \$25,000 given directly to specific Mississippi Baptist churches by other congregations.

Of the \$840,800 received, Hudgins said that \$427,000 has come from Baptists and others outside the state. Mississippi churches gave more than \$360,000 to the fund. An additional \$55,000 came from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

While approximately \$100,000 has not yet been allocated, the committee expects other needs to arise after final insurance adjustments have been made necessitating the additional amount.

Hudgins said that reports from pastors in the Gulf Coast area indicate that insurance adjustments usually seemed to be fair and reasonable.

The funds have not been used to cover any of the convention's property losses at its two assemblies on the coast--Gulfshore and Kitti Wake Baptist Assemblies. Gulfshore lost ten buildings and the two remaining were so severely damaged complete reconstruction will be necessary. Kitti Wake Boys camp was completely destroyed.

Replacement value for the two assemblies was set at about \$1½ million. Insurance adjustments have not been completed on the losses, and a committee of the convention is studying the question of reconstructing or moving the assemblies.

Hudgins, in reporting to the committee, said that the thing that gave him the greatest joy is that every request for aid the committee received had been met. "I am sure that subsequent needs will arise, but all of the recoverable losses reported thus far have been met."

The largest amount of the \$750,000 allocated by the committee, a total of \$629,317, has gone to 26 Baptist churches in the disaster area. Most of this was for repair and re-furnishing of buildings and pastors' homes.

From the fund, \$35,000 was provided to the Gulf Coast committee for use in personal and family assistance to any persons the committee found having needs.

From the Home Mission Board funds, three trailer chapels were purchased for use by churches until permanent buildings could be rebuilt. The trailers will be used in mission work when they are no longer needed in the disaster area.

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated to several Negro Baptist churches in the area. These funds were administered by a special committee comprised of Negro and white Baptist leaders in the state.

Largest grants from the fund went to First Baptist Church, Gulfport, Miss., and First Baptist Church, Longbeach, the two Baptist churches suffering the largest monetary loss. Each received \$140,000.

A completely new building is being erected by Shore Line Mission at Bay St. Louis, Miss., with almost all the money coming from the disaster funds. Hudgins pointed out that every church in Pearl River County making a request to the committee was granted what they needed.

Pastors of Baptist churches in the stricken area, interviewed by Baptist Record Editor Joe T. Odle, repeatedly said that Baptist churches in on the coast would have had a difficult time surviving if it had not been for the help given by Southern Baptists.

Odle said there were "tears of joy in their eyes" as the people of First Baptist Church Gulfport, Miss., expressed "thanks to God for Southern Baptists" when Hudgins presented a check to the church for \$100,000."

Pastors in Mississippi are saying that because of Southern Baptists' reponse to the Camille crisis, their churches may be able to come back stronger than ever, Odle said.

-30-

Barnes Named Sunday School
Secretary For Maryland

2/9/70

LUTHERVILLE, Md. (BP)--Charles R. Barnes, pastor of Severna Park Baptist Church between Baltimore and Annapolis, Md., has been elected Sunday School secretary for the Maryland Baptist Convention, effective March 9.

Barnes will succeed John M. Tubbs, who resigned last October to take a similar position with the Baptist Convention of New York, which formerly was a part of the Maryland convention.

Barnes will also have responsibility for the church building program of the Maryland convention.

A native of Mississippi where he was pastor before coming to Maryland, Barnes is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

-30-

Congress Urged To Consider
More Liberal Laws For CO's

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Senate subcommittee has released a report urging Congress to consider expanding the law on conscientious objection to include registrants who object to a particular war on ethical or moral grounds.

It also strongly urges that the present law governing conscientious objectors be enforced uniformly by all draft boards.

The 93-page report, prepared by the Senate subcommittee on administrative practice and procedure, contains several other recommendations for reforming the draft. Chaired by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) the subcommittee made its report to the full senate judiciary committee for action.

The argument in favor of selective conscientious objectors, the report stated, "Is simply that young men who have ethical and moral beliefs against a particular war should not be treated differently than young men who have sincere religious beliefs against all wars."

A case now pending before the Supreme Court, United States V. Sission, raises the issue of whether such special treatment is constitutionally required. If the court finds that it is, the report pointed out, Congress will have to implement the decision with appropriate legislation.

But, the report continued, "Congress should consider the question" even if the Court finds that there is no constitutional necessity for a selective conscientious objector status.

The argument against permitting young men to select which wars they will oppose on grounds of conscience, the report pointed out, "is that it is administratively impracticable." Also, such a law "may also create new inequities in the draft system," it continued.

The administrative problem, according to the report, is "how to determine who is a sincere selective CO and who is merely trying to avoid military service."

The judiciary subcommittee suggested that Congress consider a proposal made by President Kingman Brewster of Yale University. His proposal is that anyone who requests a selective CO status should be granted it, but should then be required to undergo noncombatant service of comparable risk to that undergone by draftees.

Presumably this does not mean that every CO must go to the battlefield, the report continued. All that would be required is that the same percentage of selective CO's as draftees be subjected to battle risks and that in all other respects--pay, length of service, separation from families, and the like,--selective CO's and draftees be treated equally.

If, the report stated, "it proves impossible to subject selective CO's to equal risks then they could be required to serve for a longer time."

-more-

In listing the pros and cons of such a proposal, the subcommittee pointed out that the Brewster plan "would not please those who do not believe they should be subjected to any risks or should play any role in a war they deem immoral."

The report also pointed out that selective CO exemptions, "would inevitably favor the more educated and articulate registrants," who are more likely to present an informed basis for their objections to a particular war. The Brewster proposal, "by eliminating the need for a young man to demonstrate his sincerity, removes this potential inequity," the Senate report stated.

The subcommittee was especially critical of the lack of uniform applications of the law regarding conscientious objections, declaring that under the present system, it is "particularly arbitrary."

Their testimony reveals, the report stated, that "some state systems simply do not agree with the Congress position on conscientious objectors and refuse to confer such status on any registrant."

"This is lawlessness, plain and simple, and must be remedied by strong action from national headquarters," the subcommittee declared.

The Senate group studying draft reform recommended that "simple, uniform national standards" be established concerning deferments.

Regarding occupational deferments, the subcommittee recommended that they be abolished by executive action, and that student deferments in time of war be terminated by Congress.

Also, the subcommittee called for "complete" civilian control of the selective service system and for procedures within the system which meet the norms of due process.



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

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

RECEIVED
OCT 10 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION