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February 19, 1970

**Executive Committee Acts On  
Student Work, Budget, Hospitals**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved recommendations of a two year depth study of the denomination's student work program, adopted a proposed \$30.2 million 1971 budget, and set the stage for the SBC to get out of the hospital business.

All three of the major actions taken by the 58-member committee meeting in semi-annual session here hinge on final approval by the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, June 1-4.

The proposed operating budget of \$29.1 million would be an increase of almost \$2 million or 7.3 per cent over the 1970 Cooperative Program unified budget, if the convention approves the figure.

The convention previously set up \$1,050,000 for capital funds during 1971, and it is estimated that \$53,000 will be needed to complete 1970 capital needs. The \$30.2½ million total budget includes the \$1.1 million in capital needs and \$29.1 million operating funds.

Almost one third of the operating budget increase would go to the six Southern Baptist Theological seminaries, which would get \$5.98 million of the total, an increase of about \$783,000.

Earlier, the presidents of the six seminaries told the Executive Committee that Southern Baptists have failed to keep pace with the advancing costs of theological education, and that the amount requested was the lowest workable figure for use of a formula suggested by professional consultants. The Executive Committee approved all but \$500 of their request.

After Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, expressed disappointment with the 4.4 per cent increase given to home missions, a motion was made asking for equal amounts going to the seminaries and home missions. The motion died for lack of a second.

Ten different recommendations were approved as part of the two-year study of Southern Baptist student work. One recommended that the national program of student work continue to be the responsibility of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, but with changes in organizational structure and relationships.

The approved recommendation "respectfully requested" the Sunday School Board to create "a division, commission on campus ministries, or other entity, with a unique relationship...." Currently, the board's student department is a part of the Education Division.

In addition to the ten recommendations, the Executive Committee also "received as background material" a 65 page paper-back book summarizing findings of the two year study.

During the opening session of the meeting, the Executive Committee approved a report from a subcommittee appointed to study relationships with two Southern Baptist hospitals which called for appointment of a joint committee to come up with a plan for the SBC to divest itself of the Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

According to the charter and bylaw changes already approved by Southern Baptist Hospitals, the two institutions would be passed on to a private corporation or corporations with a self-perpetuating board of trustees composed of 30 to 50 members.

The two hospitals involved are the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Jacksonville, Fla., and Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans. They are the only hospitals owned by the Southern Baptist Convention. Thirteen state conventions affiliated with the SBC own more than 40 hospitals, and these institutions would not be affected by the proposal.

Themes for Southern Baptist Convention emphases for the years 1973-79 were recommended by the Executive Committee, subject to convention approval. General theme for the five-year period would be "Sharing Christ."

Specific themes for each year were suggested as: 1973-74, "Sharing Christ Through His Word;" 1974-75, "Sharing Christ Through His Reconciling Love;" 1975-76, "Sharing Christ by Proclaiming Liberty;" 1976-77, "Sharing Christ in a Secular Society;" and 1977-79 (two years), "Sharing Christ's Bold Mission."

A recommendation that the Southern Baptist Convention change its procedures to start its annual meeting on Tuesday morning rather than Tuesday evening, and end on Thursday rather than Friday, was adopted unanimously by the full Executive Committee with little discussion.

The bylaws subcommittee earlier had debated the matter for nearly three hours, first suggesting a Monday evening opening for the SBC, but compromising later on Tuesday morning.

The current presidents of the SBC Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union Convention, plus three former Pastors' Conference presidents supported the compromise proposal.

Final decision on the convention opening time must come from the full convention, however.

The Executive Committee also voted to recommend that the SBC hold its 1975 session in Miami Beach, June 9-13; and the 1976 convention, June 14-18, in Norfolk, Va. An invitation from Norfolk had been extended for 1975, but the committee recommended that the convention meet in the area near the birthplace of the nation in 1976 in connection with the nation's bicentennial.

Three other recommendations related to the annual convention, all subject to approval at the Denver meeting. Two dealt with bylaw changes to enable the convention's credentials committee to be expanded to include more members, rather than limited to seven members under current bylaws. Last year 3,000 convention messengers descended on the credentials committee without proper registration cards, and the seven members had to interview each.

Another recommendation proposed that the convention's committee on order of business appoint the convention music director, rather than the president of the convention. The proposal was made by current SBC President W. A. Criswell of Dallas.

One recommendation suggested that the convention's committee on boards seek to nominate larger numbers of women and young adults for membership as SBC boards and agency trustees, and encouraged agencies to co-opt young adults to participate in their meetings.

Five students attended the Executive Committee as special guests. Two students told the 58 members they had been "enlightened" and "encouraged" by the proceedings. They agreed the students were reluctant to speak out on issues without adequate background knowledge, and one suggested that students should attend more than one meeting of the committee if they wanted real dialogue with youth. The administrative subcommittee was asked to study a "permanent policy" for student participation.

A procedure for a subcommittee study on ways to better utilize and involve laymen in the life of the denomination was approved by the Executive Committee, and a review of a 1959 survey of convention structure by 10 Executive Committee members was authorized.

The committee of 10 will review the assignments made by the convention on recommendation of what was called the "Branch Committee" of 1959 which studied the total convention program. The committee will report any changes or modifications it feels should be made.

A proposal to study the role and place of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, a school primarily for black ministerial students, was referred to the program subcommittee. The SBC Commission on the American Seminary requested the study.

The Executive Committee commended a statement on taxation of church property, as adopted by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington. The members expressed hope the Public Affairs Committee would present the statement to the convention for "any action deemed appropriate."

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted honoring two Baptist editors, one SBC agency head, and one state convention executive who plan retirement, and one seminary president who recently resigned to take another position.

The resolutions paid tribute to W. Guy Stracener, retiring editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, Jacksonville, Fla.; Reuben E. Alley, retiring editor of the Religious Herald, Richmond, Va.; M. C. Stith, retiring executive secretary of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention; Rabun L. Brantley, retiring executive secretary of the SBC Education Commission, Nashville; and H. Leo Eddleman, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary who resigned recently to take an executive post with Religious Heritage of America.

A progress report was made on the successful efforts of Baptists in Kansas to raise \$1½ million to overcome the insolvent condition of their church loan association.

A committee to study representation of churches and messengers at the annual convention also brought a progress report.

There was a period of open discussion on the representation question, and a Baptist layman from Illinois suggested the possibility of using computerized punch cards to poll SBC churches on business issues through the mail, following distribution of information giving arguments for and against each question. The committee plans more open hearings and public opinion polls at the convention when it meets in Denver.

Although no action was taken, the Executive Committee staff was requested to study the costs and possibility of holding the September 1970, meeting of the committee in Augusta, Ga., where the convention was organized 125 years ago. (1845).

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\$30.2 Million Budget  
Recommended for 1971

2/19/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted here to recommend a \$30.2 million budget goal for 1971, with major increases going to six Southern Baptist Theological seminaries.

The recommended budget, which must be approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, June 1-4, would include \$29.1 million in Cooperative Program (unified budget) operating funds, and \$1.1 million in capital needs.

The operating budget would be an increase of \$1,988,764 (or 7.3 per cent) over the 1970 operating budget of \$27.1 million.

Biggest amount of the almost \$2 million increase would go to the six SBC seminaries. Their recommended 1971 allocation would be \$5,988,500, an increase of \$783,440.

Earlier, the presidents of the six seminaries with Olin T. Binkley of Southeastern Seminary as their spokesman, told the Executive Committee that Baptists have failed to keep pace with advancing costs of the theological education. He said \$5.9 million was the minimum workable amount for distribution to the six seminaries on a formula recommended by consultants.

The Executive Committee approved all but \$500 of the amount requested by the seminaries.

The vote was not unanimous, however. There was a vocal support given for providing more funds to home and foreign missions, which traditionally have received the biggest increases.

Arthur Rutledge, executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, told the 58-member committee that the proposed 1971 allocation to home missions would cause some entrenchments in their programs, and work a hardship on home missionaries who are "the poorest paid people in SBC life."

A motion by Kenneth Combs of Overland Park, Kan., asking for equal amounts to home missions and the six seminaries died for lack of a second.

As finally recommended, the SBC Foreign Mission Board would get \$14.3 million, an increase of \$750,000; and the SBC Home Mission Board would get \$5.3 million, an increase of \$221,387.

Biggest percentage of increase in allocations went to the SBC Stewardship Commission, which would get an increase of \$40,340 (47.6 per cent) for a 1971 allocation totalling \$125,000. for a stepped-up emphasis on the Cooperative Program and stewardship. **Technically, the increase is not that much** since the Executive Committee voted last year to give \$50,000 from the SBC operating budget for Cooperative Program Promotion.

Of the 20 SBC agencies and organizations receiving Cooperative Program operating funds, 16 would receive budget increases. Three agencies would get the same amounts they received in 1970 and one would receive a reduced allocation.

Other agencies receiving budget increase include the SBC Radio-Television Commission, \$1.4 million (up \$125,000); SBC Christian Life Commission, \$200,000 (up \$26,000); SBC Brotherhood Commission, \$231,000 (up \$16,000); SBC Education Commission, \$135,000 (up \$7,500); SBC Historical Commission, \$115,000 (up \$10,960); Public Affairs Committee, \$120,000 (up \$6,372); and SBC operating budget, \$225,000 (up \$25,000).

The Southern Baptist Foundation, with \$81,600; the SBC Hospitals, with \$36,000; and the American Baptist Theological Seminary, with \$95,000 would receive the same allocation they get in 1970. The SBC Annuity Board's allocation for relief would be reduced from \$200,000 to \$176,165.

Of the \$5.9 million allocated to the six seminaries, the amount would be distributed on a formula based on \$2,100 per student unit (the average number of students taking 24 semester hours over a three year period). Binkley said that the average annual cost per student in other representative theological seminaries across the country is \$3,191. The seminaries would need \$9 million to match this representative average, he said.

The breakdown of allocations under the approved formula to each of the seminaries would be: Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., \$555,000; Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., \$504,000; New Orleans Seminary, \$1,086,400; Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., \$876,400; Southern Seminary, Louisville, \$1,327,200; and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, \$1,633,700.

The \$1.1 million in capital funds as part of the total budget includes \$1,050,000 previously approved by the convention, plus \$53,000 estimated needs to complete 1970 capital funds.

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Executive Committee Recommends  
Student Work Program Improvements

2/19/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Acting on recommendations coming from a two-year depth study of Southern Baptist work with students, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee here voted to recommend that the national student work program remain the responsibility of the SBC Sunday School Board, but with structural and relationship changes.

The 58-member committee adopted unanimously the report and 10 recommendations from a 39-member committee, after a subcommittee had softened the wording of the original committee recommendations.

The report and recommendations will go to the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, June 1-4, for final consideration, and then to the agencies involved in student work for implementation.

Major recommendation of the study was to "respectfully request" the SBC Sunday School Board to create a division, a commission on campus ministry, or some other organizational entity with a "unique relationship" to give more emphasis to student work.

Reason for creation of the "unique" organization pattern was to (1) encourage responsible creativity by personnel, (2) simplify administrative procedures, (3) provide a clearer national identity, and (4) to accelerate publishing schedules so materials can be more current.

Under the current structure, the student department at the Sunday School Board is part of the Education Division, which includes Sunday, School Training Union, music, and other related departments.

The recommendations also requested that all SBC agencies involved in student work to coordinate these projects through the national program of student work assigned to the Sunday School Board.

To further this correlation, the Sunday School Board was requested to organize a student work advisory committee which would include representatives of appropriate SBC agencies and state convention and campus student workers, and students.

The SBC Home Mission Board, which also is involved in student work, was requested to increase its support given to workers with students in the newer convention areas, but asked that these persons be supervised by state student directors.

Another recommendation requested the Sunday School Board to explore with state executive secretaries the formula for appropriations to state conventions, and to increase if possible support of student work in newer convention areas.

Another request asked the board to provide sufficient budget funds to employ sufficient well-trained and experienced staff, and asked that the appropriate persons review the material gathered by the study.

A 65-page printed paper-back book outlining findings of the two-year study was received as background information. The book summarizes results of more than 1,000 depth interviews with students, Baptist student workers, state and national student leaders, and state convention leaders.

It also includes findings from a national consultation on student work held in Fort Worth last May.

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In December, the 39-member committee which conducted the study, headed by Lamar Jackson of Birmingham, Ala., voted 16 to 14 in favor of the final recommendation to keep the national program of student work in the structure of the Sunday School Board. The minority favored a separate commission.

One Executive Committee member, Kenneth B. Combs of Overland Park, Kan., expressed disappointment in the study, saying he did not feel the current Baptist Student Union program was getting the job done. Combs added he was not sure the Sunday School Board "is geared to reach today's students."

James Monroe, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., chairman of the Executive Committee, responded that the committee had really grappled with this, and the whole study dealt with the problem.

James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, pointed out that it was the Sunday School Board which requested that the study be conducted, and said the original request asked that the study also answer what the objectives of student work should be, and the philosophy of student work, especially in relationships with the local church.

Sullivan said implementation of the recommendations would take a lot of study and work on the part of the board. One of the problems, he said, is in setting up a "unique" relationship for student work, because those involved in each of the other 25 areas of work at the board also feel that their programs should be considered, "unique."

Final recommendation of the study was that the Executive Committee conduct "a formal review of the provisions of the report in 1972, to determine if they have been faithfully met."

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Executive Committee Votes  
Tuesday Convention Opening

2/19/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--If recommended changes are approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver next June, the denomination will start its annual conventions on Tuesday morning and end them on Thursday, rather than the usual Tuesday evening opening and Friday night closing.

The SBC Executive Committee voted here to recommend the change in convention procedure so that the annual session could start earlier, and end earlier.

Last year in New Orleans, messengers to the Convention asked the Executive Committee to study the matter of opening and closing dates for the sessions after Convention President W. A. Criswell of Dallas had recommended shorter conventions and less emphasis on the pre-convention sessions.

The procedure calling for opening the meeting on Tuesday evening and closing on Friday was set aside for the 1970 convention to allow special emphasis on the convention's 125th anniversary to begin on Monday evening, June 1, with closing time set at noon Thursday, June 4.

The Executive Committee's bylaws subcommittee first decided to recommend a Monday night opening date, but strong opposition was expressed in a subcommittee meeting by several former presidents of the SBC Pastors' Conference, which meets just before the convention each year.

The Tuesday morning recommendation was a compromise suggested by Harper Shannon of Dothan, Ala., former president of the Pastors' Conference and a vice president of the SBC; and Herschel H. Hobbs of Oklahoma City, former president of both the SBC and the Pastors' Conference.

The recommendation was adopted by the Executive Committee with the endorsement of the current president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, Don Berry of Houston; the president of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union Convention, Mrs. Marie Mathis, of Waco, Tex; two vice presidents of the SBC, and two former presidents of the convention.

Criswell was on a preaching tour in Africa and could not participate in the discussions. Two current vice presidents of the SBC supporting the new opening and closing dates were Lee Porter of Houston and Shannon.

Hobbs and Ramsey Pollard of Memphis were the two former SBC presidents and former Pastors' Conference presidents supporting the change. Gerald Martin, another former Pastors' Conference president, opposed the proposal in the bylaws subcommittee meeting.

Mrs. Mathis, speaking to the Executive Committee, said she felt sure that the Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union would approve the change. "Our feeling all along has been that first we must consider the needs of the convention, and then WU as an auxiliary to the SBC will find its place."

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The recommendation was adopted unanimously.

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Miami Beach, Norfolk Proposed  
As 1975-76 SBC Meeting Sites

2/19/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Miami Beach was proposed as the meeting site for the 1975 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Norfolk, Va., as the place for the 1976 convention so that Baptists can be in the area of the birthplace of the nation in the bi-centennial year.

The SBC Executive Committee voted to recommend that the convention meet in Miami Beach, June 9-13, 1975; and in Norfolk, Va., June 14-18, 1976.

Final approval must come from messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, June 1-4, 1970.

Norfolk is building a new convention center with a seating capacity of 12,000, with completion date set for September, 1971. City officials have pledged a total of 3,000 hotel rooms in Norfolk, and 2,500 rooms in Virginia Beach, 18 miles away (20 minutes by expressway).

The SBC last met in Miami Beach in 1967. It has not met in Virginia since 1938 when the sessions were held in Richmond.

Only once, in 1898, has the convention met in Norfolk. It has met in Virginia a total of seven times in 125 years; six times in Richmond.

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