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Seminary Trustees Delay \$125,000 President's Home

FORT WORTH (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here, after a four hour discussion, voted to delay construction of a proposed \$125,000 home for its president until "plans, appropriate to long-range campus development, are completed."

The trustees instructed their building committee to delay the proposed home, which some Baptists have criticized as "extravagant," and asked the committee to "do everything possible to plan a sound adequate structure at as reasonable a price as possible on the current market."

A spokesman at the seminary, Assistant to the President John Earl Seelig, said he had no idea when the committee would be ready to come back to the board with a report or recommendations.

Presumably, the committee will have to bring a report back to the trustees with additional recommendations before construction of the home could proceed.

The trustees also agreed to review all aspects of the proposed residence, and discussed in detail during the four-hour session the controversy that has surrounded it.

More than 130 letters to the editor protesting the home have been received by the Baptist Standard, state weekly newspaper in Texas.

The furor developed after a news report on trustee actions in December approving the expenditure of up to \$125,000 for the home was carried in the Baptist Standard.

Seminary officials and trustee members came to the defense of the decision saying that Cooperative Program funds were not to be used in the construction, but rather income from investments and designated gifts for the purpose, that the home would be used for entertaining seminary guests, and that construction costs have escalated so much that the cost was the equivalent of a \$75,000 home built a few years ago.

An editorial in the Maryland Baptist said the arguments in favor of the decision were weak. "Even if Cooperative Program money per se is not used for the home, the trustees and administration have a stewardship responsibility for all income. Money not used for the home of the president could certainly be used effectively elsewhere...."

In addition to the decision to delay construction on the president's home, the trustees adopted the largest budget in the seminary's history, reviewed current and long-range building projects totalling more than \$6 million, and added new courses and faculty members.

The \$2.7 million operating budget adopted by the board includes a five per cent salary increase for faculty and staff members. The budget also gives added emphasis to continuing theological education and reflects an enlargement of the faculty and curriculum.

Gene Tunnel was elected adjunct professor for social work. Tunnel, a native of St. Louis, will receive master of religious education and master of social work degrees this spring from Southwestern Seminary and from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Five new courses were added to the curriculum in vocational evangelism, pastoral ministries and youth problems. Three new pastoral ministries courses will deal with social change, pastoral counseling and care for the aged.

Status of two current building projects scheduled to begin in 1970 was reported to the board. The seminary is constructing a new children's building, and is renovating Price Hall, which houses the School of Religious Education.

Future projects in the campus development plan include \$2 million for married student housing, a \$600,000 physical fitness center, faculty housing, a maintenance building, renovation of existing facilities, and campus parking.

Four faculty members were granted tenure: William Tolar, professor in biblical backgrounds; F. B. Huey, associate professor of Old Testament; Mrs. Dwight Phillips, assistant professor of church music education; and Phil Sims, music librarian.

Two were given faculty status: Mrs. Virginia Seelig, assistant professor of voice; and Douglas Ezell, assistant professor of New Testament.

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Baptists Commend President,
Oppose Parochial School Aid

3/5/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here commended President Nixon for his concern for quality education for every American child as expressed in his reform message to Congress.

However, the Baptist agency balked on the President's proposals for federal aid to the nation's parochial schools.

The President's message to Congress coincided with the semi-annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, giving the Baptists an "on-the-scene" opportunity to respond to his proposals.

The Baptist leaders registered "concern over the inherent church-state and public policy issues" raised by the President's message on education.

Less than two weeks prior to his education reform proposals, Nixon met with representatives of the National Catholic Education Association and pledged to find ways to support private schools.

Among the President's actions announced in his reform proposals were the creation of a Commission on School Finance, a request for a new National Institute of Education, and efforts to increase and extend provisions in current education laws for aids to parochial schools.

After careful analysis of the President's education reform message, the Baptist Joint Committee raised a number of questions that may be discussed in possible legislation. Among them are these:

1. Is this a step toward a dual public education system?
2. Should government policy shift from neutrality to positive support for religious institutions?
3. Does this open the door to private schools as a means of circumventing desegregation?

It was the opinion of the Baptist Joint Committee that if parochial schools were to close or turn public, as suggested by the president that they might, "the expense to the public would not necessarily be overwhelming."

Further, it was the view of the Baptists that "government sponsorship of two educational systems would seem to guarantee inequality in educational opportunity."

The Baptist Joint Committee, in harmony with its long-time support of the public schools, rejected the concept of the public schools as constituting a monopoly in education.

Instructing its staff on policies to follow in dealing with possible legislative proposals in Congress, the Baptist Joint Committee reaffirmed its belief that "public tax funds should be regarded as a public trust to be administered by public agencies for the public good."

The membership of the Baptist Joint Committee is composed of Baptist leaders elected by eight sponsoring denominations in North America. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

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Southwestern Seminary Offers
Continuing Education Studies

3/5/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here will begin an experimental pilot project this summer which will enable denominational and church workers to earn two semester hours of credit for two weeks of concentrated study.

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Under the plan, students meet in a-pair of two hour sessions each day and accomplish what normally has involved 16 weeks of classroom work. Courses will be taught by regular seminary faculty members and cover the same materials offered in a regular session.

Initial courses will be the Psychology of Human Relations, May 25-June 5, taught by A. Donald Bell; and Church Business Administration, June 8-19, taught by Charles Tidwell.

If the pilot project is succesful, seminary officials hope to offer the special program on a regular basis.

Persons may enroll in both courses and gain four semester hours of credit for one month in residence. Those taking that option may also enroll in another two hour course which meets for the entire month. Enrollment for the courses is set for May 25.

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Baptist Joint Committee
Projects Help For States

3-5-70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took steps in its semi-annual meeting here to make its resources and staff available to Baptist leadership in the states who might desire such service.

The action was taken in response to increasing requests from state Baptist leadership for help with a rising number of public affairs issues that are developing in the states.

Although the number of such issues is large, four acute areas of public affairs problems rising in the states were identified by the staff of the Joint Committee.

They are the issue of state aid to non-public education, the welfare program of the nation and the entire range of state aid to children, court cases on freedom of religion and separation of church and state, and the problem of taxation and the churches.

At the request of the Baptist Joint Committee last October, James M. Sapp, director of correlation services, and W. Barry Garrett, director of information services, developed a set of guidelines for the stewardship of Baptist influence in the states.

These guidelines were approved by the Baptist Joint Committee as a tentative and beginning procedure for use by the staff in advisory consultations with the constituent bodies.

In addition, the Baptist Joint Committee authorized its staff in consultation with Baptist state leaders to select three or more states or regional areas for pilot projects in handling public affairs issues in the states.

Both the guidelines and the projects are to be reviewed annually for development of future policy on working relationships.

The current policy of the committee is to work with whatever group or committee that is designated by the states to handle public affairs issues.

During the discussion it was pointed out that in many states it might be effective to develop "Baptist Joint Committees" composed of representatives of each Baptist group in the state to help develop Baptist approaches to public issues.

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Baptist Committee Endorses
'Family Assistance' Concept

3/5/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Nixon's family assistance proposal now being considered in Congress received an endorsement "in principle" from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in its semi-annual meeting here.

John W. Baker, associate executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, evaluated Baptist principles that led to the committee action. "no man can be truly free unless he has a minimum degree of economic security," he declared.

"A person whose family lacks the bare essentials of life is not free though the bonds of slavery are legally abolished. The Baptist principle of freedom should mesh with welfare reform," Baker continued.

The Baptist executive also declared that the "worth and dignity of man" and "the principle of brotherhood" argue for support of "the idea of income maintenance."

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The Baptist Joint Committee action was taken after several months of study by the staff and committee members and as a result of intensive group discussions at the meeting.

"While man does not live by bread alone, he must have bread," the committee members asserted. "We affirm Christianity's legitimate concern for the poor and their needs," they continued.

However, the President's welfare proposal was described by the Baptist group as "a minimal attempt at meeting mammoth social needs."

The proposal to provide a minimum of \$1600 a year for a family of four was one of the "inadequacies" in the current welfare reforms, the committee statement said.

In taking the action, committee members agreed that they found "no apparent infringement of constitutional church-state relationships" in the President's proposal. A minimum standard of living is essential for a person to have complete dignity, the study group reports said.

In addition to guaranteeing a minimum income level and increasing benefits to the aged, blind and otherwise disabled, the proposed welfare reforms would provide job training and work incentives to increase income beyond the public payments.

The Baptists' action called for "careful development of guidelines for implementation of these proposals in order to protect the individual."

In one of the group reports, concern was expressed particularly that the new reforms contain "no guarantee that the quality of administration will be better than at present." Even so, the proposed program "recognizes people as persons and lessens degrading aspects of the present welfare system," the group said.

In endorsing in principle the President's family assistance proposal the Baptist Joint Committee was speaking only for itself and not for its member conventions. Eight Baptist denominations in North America are members of the Baptist Joint Committee. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director.

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Baptist Committee Alarmed
By War Escalation in Laos

3/5/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semi-annual session here adopted a statement expressing "deep alarm" over recent news and congressional reports of U. S. Military escalation in Laos.

After affirming "continuing Christian concern that peace will become a universal condition among nations" and commending President Nixon's "publicly stated commitment to the principle of peace," the committee said:

"We urge the President and the Congress to be honest and open with the American people in regard to this nation's military involvements and commitments in Laos and elsewhere, especially when war could result from these involvements and commitments."

The resolution cited particularly testimony given on the floor of the U.S. Senate on Feb. 26 and 27, of escalated U.S. military involvement in Laos.

"We...are afraid that we may discover at some future date that this nation has become involved in Laos as it is now in Vietnam," the Baptist committee said.

"We earnestly request," the statement continued, "that constitutional courses of action be scrupulously followed in regard to Laos and other areas in which we might become involved militarily."

There was some discussion among the members whether the Baptist Joint Committee should adopt such a resolution. Editor Terry Young of the California Southern Baptist, however, pointed out that "our silence in this area has been profound and history will sit in judgment on us for it."

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Public Affairs Committee
Director To Retire '71

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in semi-annual meeting here took steps to select a successor to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director since 1954, who has announced his retirement in April, 1971.

Carlson made his announcement on the basis of the personnel policy of the committee, which requires retirement the first of the month following an employee's 65th birthday.

At present the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee is on a leave of absence for research and writing. During his absence the administrative duties of the committee are being carried out by John Baker, associate executive director.

The committee to nominate Carlson's successor was appointed by Homer J. Tucker, chairman of the joint committee. It is composed of five of the chief executives of the denominations that maintain the public affairs work. They are: Porter W. Routh (Southern Baptist Convention), Edwin H. Tuller, (American Baptist Convention), Warren R. Magnuson (Baptist General Conference), G. K. Zimmerman (North American Baptist General Conference) and Alton K. Wheeler (Seventh-Day Baptist General Conference).

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Hospital "Partnerships"
Planned By Foreign Board

3/5/70

RICHMOND (BP)--An unprecedented move is in the works to establish fraternal partnerships between some Baptist hospitals in the United States and others overseas.

Dr. Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said in a medical bulletin that "this would not be an administrative or economic partnership but rather a fraternal one where each (hospital) would be of help to the other."

This new relationship is already well under way between the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, Korea, and Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, Fla. Also being considered for a fraternal partnership is the Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.

The New Orleans and Jacksonville hospitals comprise Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., which may be passed to private ownership if the convention in Denver next June approves a recommendation from its Executive Committee to divest itself of the hospitals.

The partnerships will "hopefully" be extended to other hospitals, Dr. Fowler said. More than 40 hospitals are operated by 13 Southern Baptist-affiliated state conventions. The Foreign Mission Board operates 21 hospitals and 92 clinics and dispensaries abroad.

Fowler explained how such an arrangement would be beneficial: "The U.S. hospitals could help in many ways, such as sending usable replaced equipment to their 'partners,' providing postgraduate training opportunities to furloughing medical missionaries, encouraging staff members to make volunteer trips to the foreign field, and giving consultative help."

He added that through this program the U.S. Baptist hospitals would become more closely involved in a worldwide ministry.

The idea of the program was presented by Fowler to the board of directors of Southern Baptist Hospitals, Inc., last August.

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O. L. Pedigo Named Manager
Of Georgia Children's Home

3/5/70

ATLANTA (BP)--O. L. Pedigo Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Ga., has been named general manager of the Georgia Baptist Children's Home here, effective April 1. Pedigo has been president of the home's board of trustees.

Pedigo succeeds John C. Warr who died last June 9. He had served as general manager for nearly 20 years.

In other action at the special meeting, the board voted to appoint a business manager to handle Children's Home finances. The special committee that selected Pedigo will choose the appointee to the new business manager post.

E. Willard Baxter, chairman of the nominating committee, said that creation of the new post will relieve the general manager of business responsibilities.

Pedigo is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He is a native of Knoxville, Tenn.

Founded in 1872, the Georgia Baptist Children's Home houses more than 500 youngsters at campuses in Baxley, Meansville and Palmetto, Ga.

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