



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

April 17, 1970

Welfare Reform Passed
By House, Goes to Senate

by W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives passed (243-155) President Nixon's proposed family assistance plan to set a federal income floor for working and non-working poor people.

The plan which would replace the nation's present welfare program provides for a minimum payment of \$1,600 for a family of four with no income. It also provides work and training programs, extensive child care services and special help to the aged, blind and disabled.

The bill now goes to the Senate where there is strong sentiment for larger benefits and higher minimum payments.

Many religious groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, endorsed in principle the President's family assistance proposal.

The Baptist Joint Committee in a resolution last March affirmed "Christianity's legitimate concern for the poor and their needs" and endorsed the plan as an expression of that concern.

The committee expressed caution, however, in their endorsement. They recognized the plan only as "a minimal attempt at meeting mammoth social needs" and expressed concern for the inadequacy of the floor of \$1,600 for a family of four.

In addition, the Baptist Joint Committee called "for careful consideration of guidelines for implementation of the proposal."

Congressman Wilbur O. Mills. (D., Ark.), chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, was the chief legislative architect for the Family Assistance Act and was its floor manager in the House of Representatives.

During the debate, Mills appealed especially to the South for support. He said that "over 50 per cent of the working poor families covered under the bill live in the South; only 12 per cent live in the Northeast."

Mills continued: "A high proportion of such families live in rural areas and on small farms. Seventy per cent of them are white; 30 per cent are nonwhite."

One of the provisions of the Family Assistance Act is a massive program for day care of children of working mothers.

Mills said, "We are going to arrange for this care with the schools...with private organizations, with nonprofit organizations. We are going to get the very best of day care possible for these children."

In the report of the Ways and Means Committee to the House of Representatives, the program was described as essentially the one proposed by President Nixon.

The committee report said: "The bill is intended to convert the existing program (public welfare) from one which results in people remaining in dependency to one which will encourage people to become independent and self-supporting through incentives to take training and enter employment."

The bill as passed by the House is expected to cost an extra \$4.4 billion a year. It will more than double the 10 million persons now receiving public assistance.

Supporters of the bill deny that it is a plan for a guaranteed annual income. They rather project it as a way to encourage people to work and to train for employment with incentives to lift themselves out of the public assistance category.

Florida Frog Joins
Thailand Missionary

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)--Can a Florida frog find happiness with a Baptist missionary family in Thailand after a seven-month trip in a barrel?

Charles G. Campbell, a Southern Baptist missionary associate who worked at Cape Kennedy before going to Bangkok, inadvertently sent the little leaper on his long journey half-way around the world.

Campbell recalls packing their household effects on a rainy day last year and speculates that the frog with an affinity for deep-water Baptists sought a snug refuge in a box of bedding and, willy nilly, was off on a slow boat to Indo-China.

His first response in hopping out into the Thailand sun?

He croaked.

-30-

Testimonial Luncheon Honors
Retiring Virginia Editor

4/17/70

RICHMOND (BP)--A testimonial luncheon sponsored by the board of trustees for the Religious Herald Publishing Association paid tribute to Reuben E. Alley who is retiring as editor of the Religious Herald after 34 years in the chair.

At the close of the dinner, the trustees for the official publication of the Baptist General Association of Virginia presented the editor, who retires May 31, with the chair from his office, and three months' additional full salary.

Ernest Hontz, pastor of Talbot Park Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., and president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, made the presentation.

Earlier, in the major address at the testimonial dinner, the chairman of the religion department at Furman University, Theoron D. Price, reviewed the editorial stance of the Religious Herald under Alley's editorship.

Price described Alley as a "constructive critic of the denomination," and an editor with courage to speak out on the issues.

Included among the issues, Price praised Alley for a "courageous" stand on such issues as racial justice and understanding, freedom for biblical scholarship, religious liberty, and the ecumenical movement, and Christian education.

In response to the tributes, Alley expressed gratitude for the friendship of the more than 100 persons present, and for the support of his wife during the past 50 years.

Of his love for education, Alley said that there is no education apart from freedom, and added that he had sought as an editor to pursue "truth for its own sake...wherever it might lead." He called himself a "non-conformist," citing the biblical admonition against being "conformed to the world."

Alley is being succeeded as editor of the Religious Herald by Julian Pentecost, former pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Richmond.

-30-



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

RECEIVED
APR 20 1970
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

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