



**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 22, 1970

Supreme Court Agrees To  
Rule On Church School Aid

by W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court has agreed to rule on the constitutionality of a state law that provides public funds for nonpublic schools which are largely church-related.

The Pennsylvania Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides substantial funds for the purchase of "secular" educational services from nonpublic schools.

Of the schools so aided approximately 97 per cent are church-related. Of the 1,140 church-related elementary schools in Pennsylvania, all but 56 are Roman Catholic, and of the 276 church-related secondary schools in Pennsylvania, all but 27 are Roman Catholic.

The public funds allocated to the nonpublic schools come from a special tax on horse racing. Of these proceeds up to \$10 million are available. Beyond that, one-half of all proceeds above the \$10 million are available at the direction of the superintendent of public instruction.

The "secular" services in the nonpublic schools are defined as courses in mathematics, modern foreign language, physical sciences, physical education. The reimbursement is limited to the actual cost to a nonpublic school of the teachers salaries, textbooks, and instructional material used in the teaching of the courses.

A three-judge district court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania dismissed the case in 1969 claiming that the complainants had no standing in the court and that the law did not violate either the state or federal constitutions. The case was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to individual taxpayers, the case was taken to the Supreme Court by the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, the Pennsylvania Jewish Community Relations Conference, Americans United, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania.

Defendants include the state superintendent of public instruction, Catholic, Jewish and Lutheran schools and the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools.

Among the eight questions presented to the Supreme Court in this case are:

--Does the Pennsylvania law violate the free exercise of religion by using the power of taxation to force persons to contribute to the propagation of religion by the supporting of sectarian schools ?

--Does the statute violate the equal protection of the law clause of the constitution because the public funds are disbursed to racially and religiously discriminating schools?

--Does the disbursement of public funds to nonpublic schools, because of the increasing costs of public schools and the threat of an "intolerable financial burden on the state" if the nonpublic schools were to close, provide a subsidy to religious institutions to achieve a secular purpose, thus creating a forbidden interdependence between church and state?

The action of the Supreme Court to review this case promises to become a landmark decision in the field of education. The federal government provides many similar services for nonpublic schools and many of the states either have similar laws or are considering such laws to support private schools.

The rise of private schools as an effort to avoid the implementation of the Supreme Court's decisions on racial integration will likely be affected by this new decision.

Although the Supreme Court in the past has ruled on certain aids to children in nonpublic schools, this is the first case dealing with direct subsidies to the schools themselves.

The schedule for the hearing of the Pennsylvania case has not yet been announced by the Supreme Court. The hearing and decision could come sometime in 1970 or it could be delayed until 1971 before the verdict is announced.

-30-

Court Rules Against  
Cross in Oregon Park

4/22/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court refused to reverse the Oregon State Supreme Court decision that a cross erected on public property is a violation of the state constitution.

The action of the U.S. Supreme Court means that it did not decide that the U.S. Constitution either permits or prohibits the display of a Christian cross in a public park.

The high federal court dismissed the appeal from Oregon saying that it appeared that the decision 'rests on adequate state grounds.'

The cross in question was erected on public park property in the city of Eugene, Oregon, in November, 1964, by Eugene Sand and Gravel, Inc. Its constitutionality was challenged by 10 residents and taxpayers of the city of Eugene in 1965.

No taxpayers' money has ever been involved in the erection, maintenance or lighting of this 51-foot tapered, modernistic concrete cross. All of the expenses have been borne by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce or by individual businessmen or service groups.

Further, it was reported to the Supreme Court, no religious institution or organization has been involved with or in the erection and maintenance of the cross. Nor was the site of the cross found to have served as a place for religious services.

The Oregon Supreme Court ruled on October 1, 1969, in a 5-2 decision that the cross was unconstitutional. It was this decision that the U.S. Supreme Court allowed to stand on the basis of the state constitution without entering a federal decision.

-30-

Efforts Underway in Senate  
To Broaden Welfare Reforms

4/22/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Richard Nixon's family assistance plan which sailed through the House of Representatives virtually unchanged has come up against efforts in the Senate to liberalize its provisions.

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D., Conn.), while praising the House--passed bill as "sound and responsible legislation," has introduced 15 amendments to remedy what he called "basic flaws."

An amendment sponsored by Sen. George McGovern (D., S.D.), would increase benefits to welfare recipients by simplifying the Food Stamp program.

Sen. McGovern's amendment would supplement the proposed minimum income of \$1,600 for a family of four with Food Stamp worth \$1100. Sen. McGovern, chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Nutrition and Health, was joined by Senators Ribicoff, Ernest Hollings (D., S.C.) and Edward Brooke (R., Mass.) in sponsoring the Food Stamp amendment.

The key proposals in Sen. Ribicoff's package of amendments would raise the minimum level of assistance for a family of four, enlarge the categories of persons covered to include unmarried persons and childless couples and exclude from work training requirements mothers of children under 14 years of age if there are no adequate child care facilities available.

In addition, Sen. Ribicoff proposed that federal funds be used to build child care centers where these are needed and that the federal government provide jobs and job training for welfare recipients in "public interest" projects such as pollution control and community health care.

The Senate Finance Committee has planned extensive hearings this spring on the House-passed Family Assistance Act. Sen. Russell B. Long (D., La.) is chairman of the committee.

-more-

The measure which passed the House would add approximately \$4.4 billion to the present federal welfare bill of \$4.5 billion a year. Sen. Ribicoff's amendments would cost an additional \$1 billion the first year, \$2 billion the second year and \$4.6 billion the third year. Sen. McGovern did not place a price tag on his amendment for the Food Stamp system.

Cited by Sen. Ribicoff as "basic flaws" in the House-passed legislation include such things as: (1) "Assistance levels remain entirely inadequate" and the bill takes no steps to increase the level of payments now being made by the states; (2) "Many poor people will continue to be completely ineligible for any kind of federally-assisted welfare payments;" (3) "Families with working adults, the 'working poor,' continue to be discriminated against and will receive far less under the bill than other families;" and (4) "The bill contains no means to develop meaningful job opportunities for welfare recipients."

Sen. Ribicoff proposed specifically that the minimum level of assistance for a family of four be increased from \$1,600 in 1971 to \$1,800 in 1972 and \$2,000 in 1973.

If Sen. McGovern's amendment is adopted in the Senate along with the increases proposed by Sen. Ribicoff, a family of four would receive total assistance of \$2,700 in 1971, \$2,900 in 1972, and \$3,100 in 1973.

Basic in Sen. Ribicoff's package of amendments is for the nation to adopt the goal to end poverty among all Americans by 1976, the 200th anniversary of the nation's birth.

Observing that the Declaration of Independence declared the "unalienable" right of all men to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," Sen. Ribicoff asked in his speech to the Senate:

"Yet what manner of life--what degree of liberty--what quality of happiness--are available to those Americans still shackled by poverty and deprivation?"

"One in every eight Americans remains poor," he pointed out. "More than a third of these are children," he added, and "many of the rest are ill, disabled or elderly."

The Senator from Connecticut said the nation had chosen to ignore the needs of the poor. "...We offer pity or contempt. We study, define and classify them. We promise and advise them. We do everything but help them."

Declaring that the nation had the resources and the skill to wipe out poverty, Sen. Ribicoff charged that what is lacking is "a national commitment." He urged the Senate to "Commit itself here and now to end poverty in our country by 1976"...and then to legislate the programs and the money to reach that goal.

-30-

Louisianians Push  
Wheelbarrow To D.C.

4/22/70

ATLANTA (BP)--Seven young Louisianians are rolling a wheelbarrow loaded with Bibles across the deep South to call attention to America's spiritual hunger. The seven hope to join Baptist Evangelist Arthur Blessitt in Washington, D.C., on July 18 for a mass rally and 24-hour period of prayer.

Blessitt, Hollywood evangelist, well-known for his Sunset Strip ministry to flower children, is pulling a cross across the United States, from Los Angeles to the nation's capital.

One of the seven, Sammy Tippit, was in Atlanta recently, doing advance work for an upcoming revival at a local church.

Tippit, a handsome 22-year-old, spoke exuberantly of his desire to see a spiritual reawakening in this country. "We're just challenging people the whole way to let Christ be a part of their lives," he said. He added he believes that the country is on the brink of a religious revival comparable to the great awakening of the nineteenth century.

Their wheelbarrow carries "psychedelic Bibles" and copies of Good News For Modern Man, a contemporary translation of the New Testament. "We feel that it's time for positive action rather than negative analysis," Tippit explained.

The four male members of the group worked together in a winter revival at a small Monroe, La., church. Their revival grew to such proportions that it had to be relocated in a local auditorium. "The revival had such a great impact on North Louisiana, that we felt strongly the need to do something," Tippit said. So the decision was made to simulate Blessitt's trip.

"After talking with Blessitt for several hours and to God a few more, we decided to push the wheelbarrow," he said.

-more-

Since their beginning March 16, they have traveled through Mississippi and Alabama where they "witnessed" to former Governor George Wallace and spoke to 2,000 students on the steps of the Student Center at the University of Alabama.

One of the group is a former drug addict facing the possibility of a 30-year prison term for selling drugs. "She's hooked on Jesus now," Tippit said.

The group financed the trip by selling personal possessions, even cars. They do not ask anything for their visit to churches. "We just want to give our total lives by sharing Christ with people.

"I'm looking forward to our nation just getting back to Jesus," he said.

-30-

Southern Baptist Day Set  
At Chicago's Wrigley Field

4/22/70

CHICAGO (BP)--Saturday, June 20, has been designated as Southern Baptist Day at Wrigley Field here when the Chicago Cubs face the St. Louis Cardinals.

The Metro Chicago Baptist Association youth choir, directed by Robert Bruce, will sing, "Christ, The Only Hope" and "The Star Spangled Banner" on the field just prior to the opening of the game.

Lawrence Zea, Chicago Baptist Associational Brotherhood president and coordinator for the special day, said that a block of 1,500 box seats has been reserved for Baptists. The seats, on the first base side, extend from home plate to the end of the field.

This is the third summer that a Southern Baptist Day has been observed at Wrigley Field, and the second year, for a Baptist choir to sing.

-30-

Pan American Laymen Meet,  
Plan Second Latin Congress

4/22/70

LESSBURG, Fla. (BP)--The Pan American Union of Baptist Men, an organization represented by 60 Baptist laymen from North, Central and South America, met at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly here and mapped plans for a second effort in the Crusade of the Americas, and for a second Pan American Laymen's Congress in 1972.

The 60 Baptist laymen representing more than 30 countries met in conjunction with the Central Coordinating Committee of the Crusade of the Americas, including several joint sessions with the crusade coordinating committee.

Owen Cooper, president of the organization and head of the Mississippi Chemical Corp., in Yazoo City, Miss., presented to the group plans for a special effort among Baptist men in the Western Hemisphere during 1970 in conjunction with conserving the results of the Crusade of the Americas.

Calling his program the "second harvest," Cooper explained that the plan is to utilize laymen and pastors in conducting evangelistic campaigns in 66 medium-size cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A total of about 36 training clinics and retreats would be conducted for laymen in preparation for the campaigns for laymen in the 66 cities. The campaigns would include both local church revivals, and a city-wide crusade in the fall.

Cooper said that funds were being provided from an anonymous source through the Baptist World Alliance to underwrite costs of the training clinics and the 66 city-wide crusades.

Already, a total of 1,300 churches in Latin America and the Caribbean have indicated plans to participate in the "second harvest" phase of the Crusade of the Americas, Cooper said.

"The Crusade of the Americas has brought the first harvest," Cooper said. "Now it is time to enter the second harvest." He pointed out that the name of the program, "second harvest," comes from the Book of Ruth which tells of the ancient custom of "harvesting and gleaning,"

Cooper said that during the next year, the Pan American Union of Baptist Men, working through the national conventions of Baptists in each country, hopes to provide resources and assist in training more than 500 Baptist laymen to equip them to organize and lead a Baptist mission.

-more-

In his presidential report to the Pan American Union of Baptist Men, Cooper said that Southern Baptist Missionary Roy Lyon will become a general secretary of the organization, devoting one-third of his time to promoting lay activities in Latin America. Lyon is a missionary in Venezuela, and is president of the newly formed Venezuela Baptist Seminary.

Plans were mapped for a second Pan American Laymen's Congress scheduled in 1972 at a place yet to be decided, probably in Cali, Colombia, Cooper said. The Pan American Union of Baptist Men was organized during the first such hemisphere-wide meeting of Baptist laymen in Rio de Janeiro in July of 1968.

In addition to the joint sessions with the Crusade of the Americas Coordinating Committee, the Pan American Union of Baptist men also sponsored a joint Saturday night rally for local and area residents.

-30-

Stetson's Vice President  
Johns, Named Top Executive

4/22/70

DeLAND, Fla. (BP)--The Stetson University board of trustees has elected John Edwin Johns, Stetson's business manager and vice president for finance and planning, as the Baptist school's president, effective immediately.

Johns has been serving as the chief executive officer on an interim basis since the death of Paul F. Geren in June of 1969. Geren has resigned as president following differences with the faculty shortly before he was killed in an automobile accident.

Johns, a 48-year-old educator, businessman, civic leader and churchman, was nominated by a special selection committee appointed in June.

The new president has been a part of the university staff and faculty since 1948 when he joined the department of history and political science.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Johns of Holmes Beach, Fla., superintendents of the Florida Baptist Children's Home for many years. He was born in Ozark, Ark.

A graduate of the Furman University, Greenville, S.C., Johns earned the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of North Carolina.

As a historian, he wrote the official Florida state publication on the 100th anniversary of the Civil War entitled Florida During the Civil War, and is the current vice president of the Florida Historical Society.

An active member of First Baptist Church in DeLand, Johns has served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, young adults's Sunday School department superintendent, and advisor to the Stetson Baptist Student Union.

In civic affairs, he is a past president of the DeLand Rotary Club, past district governor of Rotary International, and past president of the DeLand Chamber of Commerce.

In business activities, he is president of Johns Properties, Inc., a member of the board of governors for National Variable Annuity Co., of Florida; and a director of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of DeLand.

In announcing John's election by the board of trustees, Earl B. Edington of St. Petersburg, Fla., chairman of the board said, "The trustees are convinced that Dr. Johns will provide the necessary leadership which will enable Stetson University to maintain and strengthen its posture as a Christian university committed to the highest goals of academic excellence." Edington also expressed appreciation for John's work as interim president.

-30-

## Nixon Names Panel On Aid To Private Schools

WASHINGTON (BP)-- President Richard Nixon stepped up his drive to find ways to aid the private schools of the nation by the appointment of a special four-member panel on non-public education.

The newly-named panel will be a part of and will work within the framework of the President's Commission on School Finance announced earlier in the year.

The four members of the President's Panel on Non-Public Education are: Clarence Walton of Washington, D.C., president of Catholic University; William E. McManus of Chicago, director of education for the archdiocese of Chicago; William G. Saltonstall of Marion, Mass., curator of the Alfred North Whitehead Fellowship Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and Ivan E. Zylstra of Grand Rapids, Mich., administrator of government-school relations for the National Union of Christian Schools.

Neil H. McElroy, former secretary of defense, is the chairman of the Commission on School Finance. No other appointments to the 16-member body have been announced.

Like the School Finance Commission, the new panel has a two-year life span. It will submit interim reports to the President and must complete its final report by March 3, 1972.

In a statement issued at the White House, President Nixon defended the private schools as a "supplement" to the public schools, as providing a "diversity" in the educational system, as "a spur of competition to the public schools," and as a channel through which "innovations" come.

The President further championed the private schools as a protection against a monopoly in education by the public schools. He said that the private schools give parents a choice in schools for their children and provide them religious and spiritual opportunities. Such schools, he said, "often add a dimension of spiritual value to education affirming in children a moral code by which to live."

In addition, the President affirmed, "they offer a wider range of possibilities for educational experimentation and special opportunities, especially for Spanish-speaking Americans and black Americans."

"Up to now," Nixon said, "we have failed to consider the consequences of declining enrollments in private elementary and secondary schools, most of them church-supported, which educate 11 per cent of all pupils--close to six million school children.

"If most or all private schools were to close or turn public, the added burden on public funds by the end of the 1970's would exceed \$4 billion per year in operations and with an estimated \$5 billion more needed for facilities."

"No government can be indifferent to the potential collapse of such schools," the President asserted.

When Nixon announced the formation of the President's Commission on School Finance, he listed 13 functions for it, nine of which are directly related to non-public and parochial schools.

The announcement of his desire to aid parochial schools and of the School Finance Commission came about three weeks after a White House conference with representatives of the National Catholic Education Association.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which was in session at the time of the President's announcement of his Commission on School Finance, commended his concern for quality education for every child in the nation. The Baptist agency, however, refused to go along with the President's intent to aid parochial schools.

The Baptist committee at that time raised a number of church-state and public policy questions about the President's proposals and instructed its staff to work for the principle that "public tax funds should be regarded as a public trust to be administered by public agencies for the public good."



**BAPTIST PRESS**

*460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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

**RECEIVED**  
APR 23 1970

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC