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May 19, 1970

Kansas Baptists, Bond Firm, Reach
Settlement; Amount Not Disclosed

WICHITA, Kan. (BP)--An "amicable settlement" has been reached between the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists and the A. B. Culbertson Co., a church bond firm in Fort Worth, Tex., according to a joint announcement by officials of both organizations.

Amount of the settlement was not disclosed, but Sen. Lester Arvin, Wichita attorney and chairman of the Board of Managers for the Kansas Convention, described it as "substantial."

Arvin, a state senator, jointly announced the settlement with William Sarsgard, president of the A. B. Culbertson & Co. The Culbertson Co., is the church bond firm that served as trustee in the sale of church bonds on behalf of the Kansas Convention's Church Loan Association.

Under terms of the settlement, the Culbertson Co., was released as trustee for the Church Loan Association and "will no longer have liability to the Church Loan Association and the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists."

Sarsgard said that his firm would continue as trustee for the Church Loan Association for not more than 90 days "so that the Church Loan Association can make other arrangements for a proper trustee."

The Kansas Convention, according to the agreement announced by Sen. Arvin, has agreed to pay all principal and interest on any issue of Church Loan Association bonds as they mature and become due, and to free the Culbertson Co. of any liability for the payment of such principal and interest.

The brief release issued to the press by Sen. Arvin did not mention specifically any financial remuneration to be paid by A. B. Culbertson & Co., to the Kansas Convention, but Arvin did say "This settlement will substantially help in solving the financial problems of the Church Loan Association of Southern Baptists."

When asked by a Baptist Press reporter if there was to be financial remuneration by the A. B. Culbertson Co., as part of the settlement, Sen. Arvin replied, "absolutely," but added that he could not disclose publicly the amount of the settlement.

In response to questions, Sen. Arvin explained that one of the terms of the settlement was that a press release announcing the settlement was to be prepared, but that such release "shall reflect and be limited to an acknowledgement" that a settlement had been reached.

When asked when the amount the convention is to receive will be publicly disclosed, Sen. Arvin replied that it would be a part of a total financial disclosure on the financial condition of the convention's Church Loan Association to be distributed to all bond holders, probably within the next month.

The settlement was reached while a six-month administrative proceeding was in progress by the Securities and Exchange Commission regional office in Fort Worth against A. B. Culbertson & Co., and Sarsgard, charging they violated SEC regulations selling bonds by "means of untrue statements of material facts and omissions to state material facts."

The administrative proceeding, filed by the SEC on Oct. 17, 1969, indicated a public hearing would be held to determine whether the allegations brought by the SEC were true, and if so, "whether any action of a remedial nature should be taken by the commission."

The hearing, however, has never been scheduled or held, and a ruling on the administrative proceeding has not yet been issued.

The settlement between the Church Loan Association's Board of Managers and the A. B. Culbertson Co., came as an outgrowth of the SEC administrative proceedings against the Culbertson Co., according to Arvin.

Though the settlement was described as "amicable," last November Sen. Arvin, in a major speech before the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists, strongly chided A. B. Culbertson & Co., for "being derelict in their duty" as trustee in failing to set up adequate reserves and sinking funds, and for selling convention bonds when they knew the "sinking fund" was insolvent.

Arvin pointed out at the convention that the Church Loan Association of Southern Baptists was "organized at the suggestion and as a selling arm of the A. B. Culbertson & Co." He added that A. B. Culbertson & Co., and their representatives were paid, since 1958, more than \$320,000 as commissions for selling the bonds and acting as trustees for the association.

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Bible Society Honors Blind
Layman for Camille Efforts

5/19/70

NEW YORK (BP)--A Baptist layman from Gulfport, Miss., blind for the past three years, was honored by the American Bible Society here for being instrumental in distributing more than 100,000 scriptures to survivors of Hurricane Camille last August.

The Bible Society paid tribute to John Calvin Broom, 42, a former U. S. mailman, and member of Handsboro Baptist Church of Gulfport.

Broom was coordinator for the Camille Scripture Distribution Project following the devastating destruction of Hurricane Camille.

Broom, who became blind three years ago, was presented with a set of the Bible Society's new cassette recording edition of Today's English Version of the New Testament. He also was elected an honorary life member of the organization.

The first set of the 15-tape cassette recording edition of "Good News for Modern Man," as the version is also known, was presented to Mrs. Clayton "Bud" Collyer, widow of the late television personality who had recorded the complete New Testament for the Bible Society before his death last year.

Collyer was described here as an "ardent worker" for the Bible Society. The non-profit society established in his honor the "Bud Collyer Memorial Fund for the Blind."

Broom was accompanied to New York for the presentation by Patrick McDermott, assistant pastor of St. James Roman Catholic Church in Mississippi City, Miss., one of the Gulf Coast communities hit hardest by the hurricane. St. James Catholic Church is one of hundreds of churches whose members received scriptures from the society, and aided in their distribution throughout the stricken area following the hurricane.

The presentation to Broom was made during the 154th annual meeting of the American Bible Society. More than 500 persons attended the meeting.

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Seminarians Train
For Social Ministry

5/19/70

ATLANTA (BP)--Nine recent seminary graduates will be involved this summer, in a first-of-its-kind training program for missionary appointees.

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of Christian social ministries, the program will extend over a three month period and feature extensive training in the essential aspects of Christian social ministries.

Warren Rawles, assistant secretary of the department, was primarily responsible for planning the program, which he hopes will fill an experience void often present in appointees fresh from seminary.

"We find that the student upon graduation from seminary, though academically prepared, is not experientially prepared. We want to show these appointees that there is more to Christian social ministries than just weekday or community activities," he said.

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The participants have been involved in intern programs at their seminaries which supplimented regular courses. This workshop culminates their training, Rawles said.

The three-phased emphasis will include clinical pastoral counseling, clinical social work, and community organization, weekday ministries and mission centers. Participants will hear lectures from persons involved in vocational rehabilitation, probation and mental health.

In addition, there will be on-the-job training in which participants will be assigned to churches in the Atlanta area and to Atlanta's Clark Howell and Tabernacle mission centers.

"This period will let them see the aspect of Christian social ministries they want to go into," Rawles explained.

Rawles said the workshop will be a proving ground for the new missionaries as well, giving them a chance to experiment with methods. He said he believes strongly that training programs which provide this kind of exposure will be a sustaining force for community ministry.

"If mission centers have a future it is in the diversity of programs. We can no longer have Kool Aid and cookies, but must get involved in the community." He insists that the trainees will not "hide out" in the board office during the period.

Rawles would like to see such conferences provided for career missionaries already on the field. "It would be a chance for them to get away and get new ideas," he said.

A major feature of the summer is a week of emphasis on literacy missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, which participants will attend.

The workshop will end officially with a commissioning service during Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly.

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1,100 Baptists
To Illinois Capitol For Hearing

5/19/70

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (BP)--More than 1,100 Baptists participated in a "Baptist Pilgrimage" to the state capitol, attending a Senate Education Committee hearing after which the committee voted 10-4 against recommending a bill for Senate action which would have allocated \$29 million to non-public schools in Illinois next year.

The Baptist turnout for the hearing was so large that the meeting was moved from a smaller room to the Senate chamber, which was packed with standing room only.

The five hour hearing included testimony from Baptist ministers, representatives of the Urban League, Parent-Teachers Association, National Congress of Jewish Women, Illinois Council of Churches, United Methodist Church, NAACP, American Jewish Congress, state Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Association of School Boards, and the United Front of Pe ria, Ill.

All cited reasons why the state should not subsidize private schools. Black spokesmen said funds were not adequate for existing public schools, let alone a dual system. A Jewish representative said private schools tend to encourage separatism, suspicion and isolationism.

The president of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Charles L. Chaney of Palatine, Ill., who called together the "Baptist Pilgrimage," testified that America is too polarized to allow any and every group to start its own school at public expense.

He argued that private schools, subsidized by the government, could be used by special interest groups such as a segregationists to start all-white schools, and cited a trend in this direction in some states in the South.

Both the chairman of the Senate committee and one other Senator mentioned the presence of "hundreds of Baptists" in the galleries, some of whom travelled hundreds of miles to be here." One capitol employee estimated the crowd at 2,000 and said it was the largest turnout he had seen for a committee hearing in eight years on the job.

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The majority of the crowd were Southern Baptists. A total of 335 ministers and more than 800 laymen were registered. They gathered first on the steps of the capitol, moved upstairs for a briefing, and finally crowded into the Senate Chamber.

Although at first the early testimony was punctuated by hearty "Amen's" and applause, the Baptist group withheld further expressions when requested to do so.

"We know why you are here without applauding," explained John G. Gilbert, chairman of the committee. "And we appreciate your presence. Just being here lets us know how you feel." Later Gilbert commended the courteous and quiet manner in which the spectators conducted themselves.

In addition to Chaney, testimony was given by Ralph Hopkins, representing 450,000 black Baptists in Chicago; Edwin Eloc for a Regular Baptist group; Vernon Lyons representing Independent Baptists, and R. B. Lyles of the Baptist Ministers' Union of East St. Louis.

In an editorial in the Illinois Baptist, Editor Robert J. Hastings expressed appreciation for the speedy response of Baptists in organizing in eight days to attend the hearing; appreciation for other groups who were present; and appreciation for a strong public school system.

"In my opinion, the key issue is the need for a single public school system that brings together in the same classroom boys and girls of every economic, social, cultural and religious strata," the editorial said.

"Only thus can we learn to live in a democratic nation where the wants and needs of all groups are respected," the editorial continued. "As a 23-year-old black youth from Peoria, Ill., said. 'Subsidized parochial education is a luxury we cannot afford.'"

While the editorial said the issue is not dead, but only one bill is dead, the chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Gilbert, predicted that the same fate awaits other state aid bills passed by the House in Illinois.

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Nevada Baptists Plan State Convention Status By 1980

5/19/70

TONOPAH, Nevada (BP)--The Nevada Baptist Fellowship meeting here voted to set a target date of 1980 as a goal for constituting into a state convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The fellowship also voted to invite the SBC to hold its 1980 session in Las Vegas, but the SBC has not yet considered the invitation.

Elected president of the fellowship was Don Leo Wright, pastor of North Las Vegas Baptist Church, Las Vegas.

The fellowship is made up of churches in the Nevada Baptist Association (the northern section of Nevada), and the Lake Mead Baptist Association (the Las Vegas area).

Currently, the Nevada Baptist Association is affiliated with the Southern Baptist General Convention of California, and the Lake Mead Baptist Association is a part of the Arizona Baptist Convention.

At the present, the fellowship includes 37 churches and approximately 8,000 members. Nevada Baptists hope they will have reached by 1980 the minimum requirements of 50 churches with 12,500 members or 70 churches with 10,000 members in order to qualify as a state convention in the SBC.

Principal speakers for the meeting were Ralph Longshore, of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California; Don Stringer, of the Arizona Convention and Quentin Lockwood of the Home Mission Board.

The fellowship's annual meeting had been postponed nearly two weeks because of a massive snow storm which struck much of the state at the time the meeting was originally planned.

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Assembly Counselors Named For 1970 Summer Season

5/19/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--James R. Bergman, dean of students at Georgetown (Ky.) College and A. Donald Bell, professor of psychology and human relations at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, have been named counselors for Southern Baptist assemblies this year.

Counselors at the assemblies are available to any individual or group seeking special guidance or general counseling. They also assist conference leaders in planning decision services, according to board officials.

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