



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
400 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2366
W. C. Fleck, 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

June 4, 1970

**SBC Defeats Motion To Strengthen
1963 Faith Statement on the Bible**

by Robert O'Brien

DENVER (BP)--After voting 5,394 to 2,170 to recall and rewrite the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Commentary on Genesis, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention defeated a motion to make the wording of the SBC's 1963 Statement of Faith and Message more specific regarding Bible authority.

Another motion which would have instructed the SBC Executive Committee to obtain annual written statements from convention employees reaffirming the Bible as the "authoritative, authentic, inspired, infallible word of God" was ruled out of order.

Also defeated was a motion aimed at stifling any repetition of the earlier unscheduled appearance of 15 black students on the convention program.

The students, from Metropolitan State College, Denver, challenged the messengers to live up to their Christian faith in their relationship to black people. Although the students were uninvited, the messengers voted to hear them.

The defeated motion stipulated that any such presentation be first cleared with the order of business committee and that "all dissident groups--irrespective of color or persuasion--be hereby informed that at no time will the platform of the Southern Baptist Convention be manipulated as a sounding board for their clenched fist venom of verbage."

The defeated proposal in the 1963 Statement of Faith and Message called for insertion of the following: "The entire Bible is the inspired, authentic and authoritative Word of God and is both doctrinally and historically reliable."

Herschell Hobbs of Oklahoma City, a past SBC president, told the messengers he believes "every word of the Bible" but spoke in opposition to the insertion. He was chairman of the committee which prepared the 1963 statement.

Hobbs said the 1963 statement is almost the same as Southern Baptists' original 1925 statement of faith. He said the 1963 statement was studied exhaustively by a wide section of Southern Baptists and adequately covers Baptists' historical support of scripture.

Earlier, the messengers had approved the recalling and rewriting of Volume I of the Broadman Bible Commentary because they felt its scriptural interpretation of Genesis was too liberal in various passages.

After discussion had begun on the motion to require annual signed statements, Clifton J. Allen, of Nashville, SBC recording secretary, was upheld by Parliamentarian Lee Porter in calling it out of order. The messengers supported the ruling.

Allen said the individual agencies, boards and commissions of the Southern Baptist Convention do not necessarily speak for the local churches as individual believers.

In recognition that persons may be traveling and residing for varying periods in space and under the sea, messengers approved a motion requesting the SBC Executive Committee to determine initial procedures for the convention to follow in ministering to aquanauts and astronauts. The Executive Committee was instructed to report back to the messengers in 1971 in St. Louis.

A motion calling for study of the need for pocket identification cards for Southern Baptist pastors was referred to the Baptist Sunday School Board as was a motion calling for revision of the church covenant published by the Sunday School Board.

The last motion called for a study to determine the feasibility of including in the covenant a statement of "abstinence of illegally dispensed drugs, pornography or other evil products which can be bought and used.

Georgia Pastor Named
Seminary Alumni Head

DENVER (BP)--W. Ches Smith of Tifton, Ga., was elected president of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Association Wednesday.

Hayne Rivers of Union, S.C., was chosen vice president; Corbin Cooper of Raleigh, N.C., secretary; and Robert Mobley of Richmond, Va., director

The association is composed of over 2,400 alumni of the seminary which is located in Wake Forest, N.C.

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Six Varied Resolutions
Adopted by Baptists

6/4/70

DENVER (BP)--In its concluding session here, the Southern Baptist Convention approved six resolutions covering public tax funding of private education, the environment, race, extremism, law and order and the commendation of Brazilian Baptists for their evangelistic efforts.

The 12,500 registered messengers to the convention voted nearly unanimous passage of these resolutions:

--that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs be instructed to communicate to appropriate officials the opposition of Baptists to tax money for private church-related schools;

--that churches be called upon by the convention to proclaim positive awareness that "the earth is the Lord's," that Christians everywhere practice stewardship of the environmental crisis.

--that Southern Baptists seek more diligently to cultivate good relationships and more communication between racially different individuals and groups and to work redemptively with them in the spirit of Christ for all good causes which "strengthen justice, reduce suffering and enhance freedom;"

--that the national administration be urged to contain radical extremists and the encroachment of communism at home and abroad, and that Southern Baptists encourage free interchange of ideas and registering of dissent when done in an orderly manner;

--that the convention express alarm over the lack of respect for law and law officers and request all cooperating Southern Baptist churches to promote and observe the last Sunday in April annually as Law Day through preaching and other means;

--that the SBC send a letter of appreciation to the Brazilian Baptist Convention for its evangelistic efforts that led to and culminated in the Crusade of the Americas in the latter part of the 1960s.

In response to a messenger's attempt to bring a vote a resolution introduced earlier that calls for opinion surveys to be made only by ballot at the direction of the SBC Executive Committee, the chairman of the resolutions committee said the resolution had been referred to the Executive Committee for study.

Earlier two messengers had voiced opposition to the resolution against tax money for church-related schools on the grounds that only such schools, particularly Christian day schools, can teach Christian principles to children.

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SBC Reviews 125 Years,
World Mission Advance

6/4/70

by Catherine Allen

DENVER (BP)--After a sense-tingling report on 125 years of world missions advance, Southern Baptist Convention messengers linked hands to commit themselves to unity in a more powerful missions thrust.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, told the crowd in an impassioned call to commitment that missions is the key to convention unity.

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"Do we want this convention never to fragment?" he asked. "Let us join ourselves around the mandate of Christ and the world cannot divide us. No matter how much we debate all one body we," Cauthen said.

The evening session was a combined effort of the SBC Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, state missions, and associational missions, in celebration of the mission board's 125th anniversary.

The multi-media presentation wove together speeches by Cauthen and Arthur B. Rutledge, Home Mission Board executive secretary; music; recorded missionary testimonies; and recognition of newly-appointed missionaries.

Music by members of the Denver Symphony and the Centurymen, 100 ministers of music organized by the SBC Radio and Television Commission, swept messengers through a fast-paced projected panorama of world missions.

The pageant narration, read by William J. Reynolds, supervisor of the music publications section of the church music department, Baptist Sunday School Board, reminded messengers that the convention was formed for the purpose of carrying on missions. "From 1845 until now, we've been at it," the narration said.

A swelling drum roll accompanied slides which flashed the march of progress of the mission boards.

"What do we do in the days that stretch ahead," the narrator asked. Reminders of world problems blinked across the exhibition hall walls.

Rutledge, speaking amid a visual catalog of human misery in the United States, urged messengers to be sure church programs reflect the spirit of Christ toward people and buildings.

Rutledge said that churches involved in helping the disadvantaged and neglected are experiencing growth in baptisms and participation.

"We must care enough to minister to our suffering fellowman in the name of Christ and point them to him," Rutledge said.

Cauthen described specific needs in other countries, flanked by a pictorial review of world needs.

He pleaded for medical personnel to man three Southern Baptist hospitals in Nigeria now closed for lack of missionaries.

The Centurymen sang "His Gentle Look" as visuals gave impressionistic reminders of Jesus' reactions to human need.

"Use me as your eyes to see the need, your hands the poor to feed, your voice the truth to sing," the singers prayed to music.

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Watters, missionaries to Japan; Dr. Dan Gruver, missionary to Cuna Indiana in Panama; and Hugh Chambliss, associational missionary in Huntsville, Ala. told via tape and pictures of their work to eradicate misery in Jesus' name.

Missionaries recently commissioned by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards marched to the stage as the Centurymen sang "Send Me, O Lord, Send Me."

Rutledge told the crowd their 5000-plus missionaries depend on prayer as well as financial support. He explained that a handmade bookmark given to each person was to serve as a reminder to support with prayer the missionary named on each card.

"You and one other person here tonight will pray together for a certain missionary," he said.

Cauthen stated that all Southern Baptist institutions have sprung out of Jesus' command for world missions.

"The wider task of every New Testament church is world missions," he said. Cauthen told messengers to get a grip on their seats, and then delivered a stirring dare.

"You could go as a missionary," he said. "A letter to the Home Mission Board or Foreign Mission Board can start the chain that will place you on a mission field in a few months," he said.

Cauthen said that days of Southern Baptist missions thrust are numbered without a fresh surge of mission volunteers.

While another resolution reaffirmed the 1963 Statement of Faith, it further added, "We recognize it accords each Baptist appropriate latitude to develop his own understanding of it in light of God's Word (the Bible) and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and that we urge our institutions and agencies to carry out their assigned ministries in a manner fully consistent with our historic beliefs."

It further urged churches, "to be diligent in teaching our Baptist people the biblical basis of our statement of faith."

The resolution also acknowledged that "we are aware of certain tensions and misunderstandings among us, due in part to honest differences of opinion of certain points of belief enunciated in the 'Baptist Faith and Message,' and due in part to sincere differences of opinion concerning certain aspects of the programs of some of our convention's agencies and institutions."

The drug and alcohol resolution pointed to use and abuse which causes human misery and destruction of life.

The statement called for opposition to any legislation that causes increased use of alcohol, commitment to work in programs of rehabilitation and for "appropriate new legislation that will result in enforceable and scientifically correct laws on narcotics, alcohol and dangerous drugs."

The SBC Executive Committee was requested to recommend to appropriate convention agencies the responsibility to develop programs for church use to educate adults and young people to the dangers of the abuse of drugs and alcohol.

Another resolution called on President Nixon to set aside July 18-19, 1970, as special days of prayer for a spiritual awakening in the United States.

The resolution also asked the Baptist World Alliance, which will meet in Tokyo, July 12-19, to set aside July 18 as a time of prayer for world revival and that Southern Baptist churches observe a 24-hour period from midnight, July 18 to midnight, July 19 to pray for revival in this country.

Other resolutions expressed support for the American Bible Society and appreciation for the people of Denver, the press coverage of the convention, local Baptists and convention officers and agency personnel for their efforts during the 125th anniversary of the SBC.

A second set of resolutions were scheduled to be presented for convention consideration by the resolutions committee on the final day of the convention.

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Graham Urges Change In Education System

DENVER (BP)--Evangelist Billy Graham Wednesday called for a change in the educational system of the United States to give meaning and purpose to the lives of young people.

In a news conference preceding a scheduled address at the Southern Baptist Convention, Thursday, Graham made it clear violence was not the right way to bring about change in the system.

Graham said the current educational system has been impersonal and has failed to give students meaning and purpose in life.

Most of the young people today are asking questions that are basically religious in nature such as who am I? who is God? what is the meaning of life? he continued.

"The university is not answering these questions."

The home and church, like the university, are often failing to relate to young people and communicate in terms youth can understand, Graham said.

Many of the things young people are protesting are legitimate concerns, but violence isn't the way to bring about change, he emphasized.

Graham said he believed every one from Stokeley Carmichael to Spiro Agnew should have the freedom to speak their views from a public platform without being interrupted.

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Turner said he has eaten nothing since beginning his fast on Sunday. He said he had recently completed a 14-day fast, during which he consumed only water, to prepare himself spiritually for introducing the motion on the commentary to the 13,500 convention messengers.

He had tried to find someone else to make the motion, he said, but apparently God singled him out for this responsibility. He prayed as well as fasted, and he feels "better than ever."

Fasting had a tranquilizing effect on him, Turner said, enabling him to cope with the demands of his pastorate without getting "uptight." He said drinking only water cleanses the human body and can cure heart trouble as well as other diseases.

Charles Massegee, president of the evangelists' conference, said, "The Lord is doing something unprecedented in our generation, and the spring of 1970 will be looked back on as a turning point in the evangelization of this country.

"Suddenly, in the past few months, we have experienced revival like we've never known since the Great Revival swept this country. It could be that God is trying to prepare us for a great time of crisis."

Bob Harrington of New Orleans, often called "the Chaplain of Bourbon Street," said he is delighted with the convention proceedings. "Conservative voices are being heard and are shaping the direction this convention will go," he explained. "This convention will move our people to boldly preach the gospel to more and more people."

Harrington said he did not think it wise for him to witness in the Playboy Club in the hotel where the evangelists were meeting because the inevitable newspaper publicity would detract from the convention coverage. "I don't want to steal the headlines," he said.

Also at the conference were Mr. and Mrs. (Guy and Evelyn) Linton of San Antonio, Tex., former strip club operators whom Harrington led to professions of faith in Christ on April 4.

They owned and operated the Green Gate club in San Antonio for 17 years, and Evelyn Linton helped train more than 500 girls as striptease dancers. They closed the club for good on the night they were converted.

Since then, the Lintons have accepted many speaking engagements in several states, and they witness to the frequent guests in their \$150,000 house in San Antonio.

In addition, they have a \$65,000 country place. But they were never happy until accepting Christ two months ago, they said. Their friends were the "elite sinners" of the town, Linton said.

He added that closing the Green Gate means \$800 to \$1,000 a week less income, but that money from rental property is sufficient to sustain their standard of living.

Sam Cathey of Ypsilanti, Mich., suggested to his fellow evangelists that they seek positions as staff evangelists with churches during periods of time when they are not on tour. Others at the meeting indicated they stay on tour months at a time.

Entertainment was provided by Garland McKee of Baton Rouge, La., with his imitations of outgoing SBC President W. A. Criswell and Mississippi Baptist educator Chester Swor.

The conference reelected its slate of officers, except for secretary-treasurer, to be appointed by Massegee, and a new vice-president Richard Hogue of Oklahoma City, Okla.

Music director is Jimmy Hodges of Lakeland, Fla.; assistant music director is Darcie Hodges of Del City, Okla., and pastor-adviser is Jack Taylor of San Antonio.

Massegee said that 10 of 140 "bona fide" evangelists associated with the organization have been averaging over 100 professions of faith per meeting, and three or four have averaged over 200. Billy Graham recently donated \$100 to help pay for printing a directory of the organization.

Motions Requiring SBC Employees To Sign Statements Ruled Out

DENVER (BP)--A sweeping motion which would have required signed statements from a wide range of denominational employees and contributors affirming "the entire Bible as being the only infallible, inerrant, inspired word of God" was ruled out of order at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

It followed an identical ruling earlier on a similar motion requiring annual signed statements.

Parliamentarian Lee Porter sustained points of order on both motions on the basis of Article VII of the SBC By-Laws which states that all personnel of convention agencies, institutions and commissions are subject to the directors of those organizations in matters pertaining to work and obligations.

Porter ruled that both motions had to do with employment and dismissal. He was nearly unanimously sustained by messengers on both rulings.

The second resolution would have required seminary teachers to annually sign such a statement or be considered as having resigned. It further stipulated that all guest lecturers and visiting teachers must hold that identical view of the Bible.

The same motion called for the Sunday School Board and/or contributors to their publications to affirm the Bible as the "only infallible, inerrant, inspired word of God and that no publication be issued which would question this position."

If the motion had passed, "all writers and/or contributors who will not subscribe and adhere to this position will not be eligible to have their writings published by the Baptist Sunday School Board."

The earlier motion would have instructed the SBC Executive Committee to obtain annually a written statement from SBC employees of any Southern Baptist agency receiving Cooperative Program funds as a condition of employment.

During the session, Ralph Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Fla., chastised the convention officers for handling of the sessions, while C. R. Daley, editor of Kentucky's state Baptist paper, The Western Recorder, commended the officers.

Taylor said that outgoing SBC president, W. A. Criswell and other presiding officers "wer rude and unkind to some of those who spoke," caused winners of one decision to laugh at losers on one occasion and allowing certain favored speakers more time than others to air views.

"It appears now," Taylor said, "that some of these men do not want to be the humble servants they claim to be, but, rather to be lord and master of our convention."

Taylor said, "If we do not stop making excuses for and allowing writers to deny God's Word, we are going to have even greater problems in the future."

"If we fail to do this, I have no other choice but to seek to lead my church to withhold all undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program until we are assured that our leaders will believe and practice the Word of God in their leadership of our convention."

"If these things are not settled here," he said, "we will face them in St. Louis and between now and then I pledge to my Lord to diligently use my strength and every dollar I can raise to organize those who are of a like mind to see if these issues are not settled for the glory of God."

Daley countered, "Southern Baptists will always owe a great debt of gratitude to President Criswell.

"His powerful personality and spiritual magnitude have been the most calming force in the Convention. Without that man's sincere confidence in the Lord's presence in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention, his respect for fellow Baptists who disagree with him and his tension relieving, non-conventional but fair presiding, this convention would have been complete pandemonium," Daley said. "In my humble opinion President Criswell has been God's man for Southern Baptist leadership in these crucial days."

Daley also praised the efforts of Lee Porter, SBC first vice-president, and Harper Shannon, second vice-president.

Graham Paints Dark
Picture of World Needs

DENVER (BP)--Painting a dark picture of the current condition of the world, Evangelist Billy Graham called on Southern Baptists to speak and act on such great problems as poverty, pornography, racism, pollution, drugs, and war.

Graham told an overflow crowd estimated by Currigan Hall Center officials at 16,000 to 17,000 that they must make the spiritual dimension their priority in life.

Graham was introduced by his personal pastor, outgoing Convention President W. A. Criswell, who called him "God's flaming evangelist."

Graham said that he had been in Denver observing the convention, though not as a messenger.

"Of all conventions I've attended, I've never seen one I thought was conducted with more fairness than this one," he said, to accompaniment of "Amens" and applause.

He praised Criswell as "one of the great prophets of God in this generation." Graham commented that he grew up in Charlotts, N. C., the city of the incoming convention president, Carl Bates.

"I want to express my confidence in the leadership of this convention," Graham said. "For too long we have been silent on the great spiritual and moral issues of our day," Graham said as he challenged Southern Baptists as the vanguard of evangelical Christianity to show that Jesus Christ can make a difference.

Before disclosing his solutions, Graham told the messengers the world seems to have lost its way internationally, racially, personally, ecologically, morally, and religiously.

Bearing down hard on the religious facet, he charged some churches today have lost their message and others their audience, with some ministers preaching humanism and others practicing an orthodoxy not relevant to life.

"Today there is a drift in many of our denominations that is alarming; especially should we be concerned about our educational institutions.

"One of our denominations came very close this spring to endorsing promiscuous sexual relations. The next step will be church-supervised brothels very similar to the temple prostitutes of ancient Corinth.

"Some of the violent radical groups in the country are being led by so-called clergymen," he told the messengers, mostly preachers. "Where many of these men get the 'Reverend' in front of their names, I do not know. Certainly, they don't get it from God."

"The tragic situation is that while the world cries out...the church stutters and stammers and seems to have lost its way."

The racial problem is increasing, not decreasing, Graham observed.

"Only a decade ago it seemed that integration was just around the corner in the United States, but in the past five years polarization between racial extremists has been such that some feel the issue now is how to avert racial war," he said.

Reminding that almost one out of every two black Americans are Baptists, Graham told the messengers the black American clergymen are crying out for fellowship with Southern Baptists and other white evangelical groups across the country.

"The time may soon come when we should have large joint meetings that would include not only the larger Baptist conventions of the country, but other evangelical groups that believe and preach the gospel," he added.

Turning to the moral problem, Graham said moral standards have always brought rebellion.

"But when has there ever been an age when people have said there are no moral standards?"

"The real moral crisis of our day is not pot or pornography; it is the widespread assumption that no moral standard is really binding.

"I am convinced that God's judgement will fall on America unless we turn from our personal immorality and our social injustice."

Recent obscenity trends in movies, literature and art have even shocked Dr. Benjamin Spock, civil libertarian, Graham contended.

Turning to the war problem, Graham described the world as united by technology and divided by ideology.

"We should have never gotten involved in a no-win land war in Asia," Graham said. But he expressed confidence in President Nixon's promise to end it.

Graham said he felt the hope lies in the youth of today.

"Personally, I am encouraged by the young generation. There is an idealism in them and an honesty and a real concern to change the world. If it were connected with the power of Jesus Christ, it would be successful.

"There is the terrifying possibility that unless the 'now' generation has a deep moral and spiritual emphasis, they will end up at Armageddon.

Graham said a "terrifying" vacuum is developing among America's youth similar to that in Germany in the 1920's and 1930's.

"Unless we Christians fill this vacuum with a dynamic, revived, authoritative, spirit-filled Christianity, a new Hitler could arise and capture the minds and hearts of millions."

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**Musical Presentations Highlight
1970 SBC Church Music Conference**

Release Saturday, June 6, 1970

DENVER (BP)--The Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, held following the Southern Baptist Convention at Denver's First American Baptist Church, featured conferences, dialogue, and speeches along with a variety of musical presentations.

Bob Burroughs, minister of music of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex., president of the conference, challenged his fellow musicians to "get out of our buildings and take the church out into the world where the people are instead of waiting for the people to come to us."

In another major address, Austin C. Lovelace, of Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver, turned from parody to challenge as he encouraged the music leaders to allow worship to "spill over into everything we do and all that we are."

Burroughs said he was encouraged with the growth in the church music group. "We have more than 950 on our membership rolls now, whereas a year ago we were close to 400." About 300 attended the Denver meeting.

For the first time, a special conference was planned for the wives of the musicians while husbands were discussing local church, educational, and denominational matters.

The world premiere of an anthem commissioned for the occasion took place on Saturday morning. Claude L. Bass of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, wrote "Come Down O Love Divine." It was performed by the Southwest Baptist College Choir, directed by Don Sears.

Other musical highlights of the program included an evening with Jester Hairston, 80-year-old Negro composer and actor of Los Angeles; a concert by the Wesleyan Bell Choir of First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, La.; and a long list of choral, instrumental, and voice presentations.

Burroughs, whose term as president continues for another year, said broader participation in the affairs of the organization will be possible through a procedural change which will call for the president and vice-presidents to be elected by the conference at large by mail beginning in 1971.

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Final SBC Wrapup

Commentary Too Liberal,
SBC Messengers Decide

By Roy Jennings

DENVER (BP)--About 13,500 Baptists found a Broadman Bible Commentary volume too liberal and demands for denominational workers to reaffirm the Bible in writing too harsh at the 125th anniversary meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Currigan Hall here.

Between rounds of the three-day doctrinal dispute they elected Carl Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N. C., as the new president, approve a record \$29.1 million budget, and received annual reports from their 20 agencies, and severed ties with two SBC hospitals.

Inspiration came from Evangelist Billy Graham and multi-media presentations on missions and the 125th anniversary of the denomination, celebrated with flourish in the opening session.

Operating for the first time on a new convention format which provided double the amount of time for miscellaneous business, the vocal messengers still ran out of time before they completed their suggestions for running the denomination during the next 12 months.

Messengers offered 23 resolutions and 19 motions, at least five aimed at the Christian Life Commission, the denominational social action agency which conducted the controversial morality seminar two months ago in Atlanta.

Seminar program personalities who drew the ire of the messengers were Anson Mount of Playboy magazine, Joseph Fletcher of situation ethics fame, and outspoken Negro legislator Julian Bond of Atlanta.

Two of the stronger requests for action called for abolishing the social action agency and for firing its staff.

Milder ones wanted the Christian Life Commission to tell their motives for the seminar and to know the agency had offended a large number of Baptists by sponsoring the event.

Messengers agreed to table the four motions at the request of former presidents headed by Ramsey Pollard of Memphis who assured them their convictions had been heard and registered.

However, Volume 1 of the Broadman Bible Commentary was not so fortunate. By almost a 3 to 1 vote, the messengers, led by Gwin Turner, a Los Angeles pastor, asked the Baptist Sunday School Board to withdraw the volume and rewrite it with a more conservative viewpoint.

Turner, who claimed he went on a fast to prepare himself for the foray, called the commentary a direct contradiction of the Bible. He referred specifically to the interpretation of a Genesis passage that God did not command Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

James L. Sullivan, executive secretary of the Sunday School Board, which is publishing the 12-volume commentary during the next two years, explained the book was within convention-approved publishing policies and didn't represent an official convention position. That didn't satisfy, however, a majority of the messengers.

Later, Sullivan explained that members of the Sunday School Board will take up the request at their next meeting Aug. 12-13. Turner offered to provide writers of the revision a position paper.

Unhappy about contents of denominational literature, messengers proposed that denominational employees sign statements annually as a condition of employment that they believe in the Bible as the authoritative, authentic, inspired, infallible Word of God.

One motion singled out seminary teachers and Sunday School Board writers and contributors to their publications for signature.

Both were ruled out of order by outgoing president W. A. Criswell of Dallas after the parliamentarian stated they conflicted with convention bylaws concerning the responsibility of agency trustees.

In other business, the messengers approved 12 resolutions on such subjects as environment, race, law and order, extremism, public and private education, peace, evangelism and prayer, drugs and alcohol, and reaffirmation of the conventions' 125th anniversary.

Surprisingly, the resolution opposing the use of tax money for private education got the most attention.

An effort by Joe Odle of Jackson, Miss., to delete a reference to private, church-related schools being formed simply to avoid racial integration lost by a narrow margin.

The convention in Denver's 600-foot-long Currigan Exhibition Hall attracted 13,522 registered messengers, well below the record 16,678 who registered at New Orleans last year and sixth in all-time attendance.

In 1971 the convention will meet in St. Louis on June 1-4 with John Claypool, pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., preaching the annual convention sermon.

Selecting sites, six years ahead, the messengers agreed to go to Miami Beach, Fla., in 1975, but asked the Executive Committee to take another look at the facilities in Norfolk, Va., suggested for 1976.

Elected to lead the denomination as first vice president was Fred Rhodes, a Washington lawyer and deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration.

Russell H. Dilday, Jr., pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., and chairman of the resolutions committee, was elected second vice president.

Bates won the presidency on the first ballot against four other nominees who included Harold Abbott, a Shreveport, La., businessman, Charles Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville; Lee Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bellaire, Tex., and Gerald Martin, pastor of Poplar Avenue Baptist Church, Memphis.

In his first press conference as president, the 56-year-old Bates took cautious positions on social action, race, and liberalism.

On helping the poor, Bates said there had been many poverty programs in the world but as far as he could tell they would up helping the rich instead of the poor.

Bates declined to identify himself as a moderate or liberal. He said the terms had different meanings and as far as he was concerned, it was what was in the bottle that counted, not the label.

The president said he had no plans to put pressure on any liberal college or seminary faculty member because of his beliefs.

At least a dozen fraternal messengers attended the convention but the group which provoked the most attention came uninvited. They were 15 black youths representing the Afro-American Student Union at Metropolitan State College here. The convention voted to give them 10 minutes to speak.

The group's spokesman, Jess Thomas, a 31-year-old senior, called on the messengers to live up to the precepts of Jesus Christ. His claim that Southern Baptist churches had within its ranks members who have murdered and raped black people brought shouts of "No" and "Lie" from the audience.

During the group's opening prayer, most of the blacks held up clenched fists, a black power symbol.

Graham drew the largest attendance of the four days with his plea for Southern Baptist action on such great problems as poverty, pornography, racism, pollution, drugs, and war.

About 17,000 persons heard Graham close out the convention with a challenge for Southern Baptists to serve as the vanguard of evangelical Christianity in showing that Jesus Christ can make a difference.

Looking far into the future, the messengers approved denominational themes for 1973-79 under the umbrella theme of "Sharing Christ." By years they are "Sharing Christ Through His World, 1973-74; Through His Reconciling Love, 1974-75; By Proclaiming Liberty, 1975-76; In a Secular Society, 1976-77; and Sharing Christ's Bold Mission, 1977-79."

DENVER CONVENTION CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO JUNE 1-4, 1970
THEME: "LIVING THE CHRIST LIFE"
125th ANNIVERSARY SESSION

NEWS FROM THE Southern Baptist Convention

W. C. FIELDS, Press Representative
JIM NEWTON, Press Room Manager

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE
June 5-6, 1970

First American Baptist Church
Denver, Colorado

FRIDAY MORNING, June 5

- 8:25 Call to Order
8:30 Meditation Period
Philip Simpson, Organist; graduate student, University of Colorado, Boulder
String Quartet: Mrs. T. W. Dean, Mrs. Joseph Powell, Miss Susan Powell, Miss Jan Mahler
8:45 Welcome to Denver
John Matthews, state music secretary, Colorado Baptist General Convention, Denver
Harold Malmberg, pastor, First American Baptist Church, Denver
8:55 Worship through Singing
Richard Lin, conductor; professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
Philip Simpson, organist
Hugh T. McElrath, narrator; professor, Southern Seminary, Louisville
9:10 Composer's Symposium--T. W. Dean, moderator; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
Carlton Young, professor of music, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
Eugene Butler, minister of music, First Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas
John Peterson, composer, Grand Rapids, Michigan
10:25 Presentation of honorary memberships to:
Carlyle Bennett, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, California
V. F. (Pete) Forderhase, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas
W. G. Stroup, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville
10:30 Message: "The Congregational Song: 1970--Hymnal and Happenings,"--Carlton Young, Southern Methodist University, Dallas
11:00 Concert--The Chapel Choir and Orchestra, First Baptist Church, Beaumont, Texas
11:20 Address: "Every Staff Has Five Lines"--Don Berry, president, Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; pastor, Memorial Drive Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
11:45 Dismiss

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, June 5

- 1:00 Meditation
Hardin-Simmons University Brass Choir, Abilene, Texas
Ronald Hough, organist; professor, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
1:15 Worship through Singing
Fritz Smith, conductor; evangelistic singer, Tyler, Texas
Ronald Hough, organist
1:30 Message: "Where To From Here?--A Parady on Worship"--Austin C. Lovelace, minister of music, Montview Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado
2:00 Concert: Jamall Badry, evangelistic singer, Oklahoma City
2:30 Panel Discussion; "Music In Evangelism--Where Are We?"
T. W. Dean, moderator, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
Fritz Smith, evangelistic singer, Tyler, Texas
Jamall Badry, evangelistic singer, Oklahoma City
Marion Warren, evangelistic singer, Arlington, Texas
Larry Black, minister of music, Central Park Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama
3:00 Dialogue between music evangelists, composers, and conference
T. W. Dean, moderator, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas
3:45 Report: "Thou Shalt Not Steal" (copyright laws)--Prepared by William J. Reynolds, delivered by Elwyn Raymer; Music Department, SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville
4:00 Departmental Conferences
1. Local Church Division: Doyal Spence, Roanoke, Virginia, presiding
2. Education Division: James D. Woodward, Shawnee, Oklahoma, presiding
3. Denominational Division: Rod Latta, Carbondale, Illinois, presiding
4. Wives Conference: Mrs. Bob Burroughs, Abilene, Texas, presiding
4:45 Dismiss

FRIDAY EVENING, June 5

- 6:00 Fourth Annual Southern Baptist Church Music Conference Banquet
Cosmopolitan Hotel, Silver Glade Room
Entertainment: Oklahoma Baptist University Faculty Quartet, Shawnee, Oklahoma
- 8:30 (Session at First American Baptist Church)
- An evening with Jester Hairston, 80-year-old Negro composer and actor, Los Angeles, California

SATURDAY MORNING, June 6

- 8:30 Meditation: Organ and String Quartet
- 8:45 Worship through Singing
Bill Colle, conductor; minister of music, River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
Ralph Enz, organist; First American Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado
- 8:55 Solo: Vernon Moody, minister of music, First American Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado
- 9:00 Concert: Church Choir, Central Baptist Church, Aurora, Colorado, directed by Bob Freund, minister of music-education-youth
- 9:20 Business Meeting
- 9:45 Solo: Dennis Bucher, minister of music, Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi
- 9:50 President's Address--Bob Burroughs, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas
- 10:10 Worship through Singing
- 10:15 Concert: The Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church Choir, Denver, Colorado
- 10:40 Concert: The Wesleyan Bell Choir, First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 11:00 Report: "The Nashville Sound: A Panorama of New Broadman Music"--Loren Williams, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.
- 11:10 Concert: The Southwest Baptist College Choir and Woodwin Ensemble, directed by Don Sears, Bolivar, Missouri
- 11:30 World Premier of Anthem Commissioned for the 1970 SBC Church Music Conference: "Come Down O Love Divine," written by Claude L. Bass, professor, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee
Performed by the Southwest Baptist College Choir, directed by Don Sears
- 11:45 Closing Prayer
Dismiss