



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

07-01-1970

White House Notes Baptist Views on School Aid Plans

by W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--A White House spokesman has promised to convey Southern Baptist Convention views on public aid to private and parochial schools to the President's Commission on School Finance.

The word from the White House came from Edward L. Morgan, deputy assistant to the President, in response to a communication from John W. Baker, associate executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Southern Baptist Convention in Denver instructed the Baptist Joint Committee "to make every possible effort to communication the opposition of Baptists to tax money for private church-related schools under any guise whatsoever to every appropriate public official."

The message to the White House by Baker conveyed Southern Baptist Convention concerns as follows:

"1. The fact that the membership of the commission which is being created to study the financing of private schools so far has only representatives favoring aid to private and parochial schools and, thereby, lacks both balance and objectivity.

"2. The proposed voucher system which, they felt, would undermine the public school system and would provide public funds for what are now classified as private and parochial schools.

"3. The increase in private and parochial schools which have as one of their goals the evasion of the integration decisions of the Supreme Court and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare."

Baker's communication to President Nixon further said, "Our belief that tax monies should not be used to aid any religious institutions, including those of Baptists, requires that we voice opposition to the policies enumerated above."

Morgan, responding "on behalf of the President," said that he would see that the Southern Baptist Convention views would be brought to the attention of Neil McElroy, chairman of the President's Commission on School Finance.

Morgan further said that the voucher system "is an experiment only." He explained that "the office of Economic Opportunity has determined that this is one of many new ideas in education worth trying, but they are very much aware of the risks involved and the complexities inherent in this idea, and I'm confident that they will keep a careful eye on it."

The voucher plan was developed as a result of an OEO contract with the Center for the Study of Public Policy in Cambridge, Mass. The demonstration plan will cost from \$6 to \$8 million and will begin with projects in one urban and one rural community with the fall school term of 1971.

The plan basically calls for tuition vouchers for parents to spend for their children's education in any school, whether public, private or parochial.

The voucher plan also calls for a redefinition of the terms "public" and "private" schools. A public school would be one open to all without discrimination, that charged no tuition and that provided full information about itself.

A private school, under the new definition, would be one that discriminates in its admission policy, that charges tuition, and that withheld information about itself.

The week following the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, President Nixon announced the full 16-member Commission on School Finance. He had earlier announced Neil H. McElroy, former secretary of Defense as the chairman.

Also earlier the President had appointed a four-member panel on aid to private and parochial schools that would be a part of the larger commission. All four are known advocates of public aid to private schools. They are: Clarence Walton of Washington, D.C., William E. McManus of Chicago, William G. Saltonstall of Marion, Mass., and Ivan E. Zylstra of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The other members of the Commission on School Finance, which is to report to the President no later than March 3, 1972, are:

Hilda A. Davis, professor, University of Delaware; John Bradford Davis Jr., superintendent of schools, Minneapolis, Minn.; Buford Ellington, Governor of Tennessee; John Henry Fischer, president of Teachers' College, Columbia University, N.Y.

Dorothy M. Ford, of the Los Angeles school systems in California; Norman Francis, president of Xavier University, New Orleans; William G. Colman, executive director of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in Maryland;

Eugene Gonzales, associate superintendent of the state Department of Education in California; David H. Hertzman, state superintendent of public schools in Pennsylvania; Wendell H. Pierce, executive director of the education committee of Colorado; and W. B. Thompson, superintendent of public schools in Greenville, Miss.

-30-

Baptist Witness to Hindus
In Indian Palace Gathering

7/1/70

BANGALORE, India (BP)--The Maharani of Mysore recently opened one of her Palaces to a party of Southern Baptists and Indian leaders for an afternoon of sacred music and socializing.

Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Hellinger, Southern Baptist missionary associate here, has previously gained an audience with the Maharani and convinced her that it would be nice to have a concert in one of the palaces.

The Maharani, who was trained at the Julliard School of Music in New York, responded favorably, and invitations went out to over 50 leaders of government and business and members of the royal family as well as the European and American communities.

Claude Rhea, dean of the School of Music at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala; had been invited to India by the Baptist Mission to sing in concerts in connection with the 1970 Asia Baptist Evangelistic Campaigns.

Rhea and the Hellingers, who are from Orlando, Fla., and Mrs. Winston Crawley of Richmond, joined the other guests at the palace on the appointed afternoon. Mrs. Crawley, wife of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's overseas division director, was Rhea's accompanist on the grand piano.

Rhea said later that he doubted that there were any Christians there except the Baptists and U.S. aid personnel who are stationed in Bangalore. "What an opportunity to give a full hour's program in that splendid palace," he said. Present were not only the Maharani, who is a concert pianist, but her sister, the princess, the husband of the princess, and members of the highest caste in India.

"What a freedom there was to witness to those Hindu people, many of whom though they were in strategic government and leadership capacities, had never heard the old, old story of Jesus and his love. I shall never forget looking out across the sari-clad audience at the many jeweled women with the traditional red Hindu dot on their foreheads," Rhea said.

Beginning with "How Great Thou Art," Rhea sang from Haydn's "Creation" about God creating man in his image. Then he explained that "man has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Next, he sang about the promised saviour from Handel's "Messiah." This was followed by scripture reading and testimony and the singing of "Blessed Redeemer."

Rhea said that the turning point in the concert came when he sang "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The children of the princess all giggled when they heard "He's Got the tiny little baby in his hands," and at once the crowd "galvanized into oneness," Rhea said.

From then on it seemed that we could really communicate heart to heart," Rhea added.

On behalf of the mission, Dr. Hellinger gave Bibles to the Maharani and the princess, who accepted them "graciously." Then Rhea and Mrs. Crawley were guests of honor at a "high tea."

-more-

"We met the significant leaders of Bangalore in a social setting," Rhea continued. "We had an opportunity to share with them why Baptists are in Bangalore, why we have the Baptist hospital ministry there, how we love the people of India, and how Southern Baptists in the United States are supporting this vital ministry."

-30-

Three Baptist Schools Get \$4 Million Building Loans

7/1/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced fund reservations under the college housing and loan program supporting construction of nearly \$250 million in college housing and dining facilities.

Among the church-related institutions, three Southern Baptist colleges with \$4,005,000 in loan reservations are exceeded only by 10 Methodist schools that will get \$7,345,000. Five Roman Catholic colleges have been allotted \$3,051,000. Other Protestant schools have \$3,278,700 earmarked for them.

Under the direct loan program, HUD provides the entire loan to the institution, which repays the loan at 3 per cent interest for a period of up to 40 years.

The three Southern Baptist Colleges to receive direct loans are: Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., \$1,000,000 for an addition to the Student Union Building; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., \$1,105,000 for dormitories for 164 students; and Campbell College, Buies Creek, N.C., \$1,900,000 for apartments for 16 faculty families, dormitory space for 375 men and an addition to the dining hall.

-30-

Board Appoints Missionary Couple

7/1/70

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recently appointed William and Judy Park, both of Texas, to career missionary status.

The Parks will attend language school in Guadalajara, Mexico before being appointed to a field of service.

Park is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and holds a master of religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He held several pastorates in Texas prior to receiving his appointment.

Mrs. Park is a native of Kingsville, Tex., and has worked as a secretary and as a beautician.

Park is a native of Crystal City, Tex.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: Beginning Thursday, July 2, the Dallas Bureau of Baptist Press will handle all Baptist Press mailings and serve as the national office of BP until July 28. Both W. C. Fields, director of Baptist Press and Jim Newton, Assistant Director, will be in Tokyo, Japan, handling coverage of the 12th Baptist World Congress. Billy Keith, Dallas Bureau Chief, will also be in Tokyo. During the period of July 2-28, editors and reporters are asked to maintain contact with Robert O'Brien and Orville Scott of the Dallas Bureau. Their address and phone number (area 214, 741-1996) is printed on the BP letterhead. The Nashville office will begin mailings again on Tuesday, July 28.

--Baptist Press



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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