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HISTORICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Hargroves Elected BWA
President Over Hobbs

TOKYO (BP)--V. Carney Hargroves, an American Baptist minister, won the presidency of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) in the first contested presidential election in the 65-year Alliance history.

Hargroves, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Germantown (Philadelphia), Pa., was the recommendation of the nominating committee

In an unprecedented move, a member of the committee nominated from the Congress floor Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

After extended discussion, delegates elected Hargroves in a written ballot.

Hargroves won both in the proportionate vote total and in a simple count of votes.

The actual vote count was not announced, but a member of the teller's committee told reporters that the total was 841 votes for Hargroves and 636 votes for Hobbs. Attendance at the session was far below the opening crowd of an estimated 10,000 which included many who were not official voting delegates.

Of the 55 different conventions voting in the election, all but 14 voted decisively for Hargroves.

L. Venchael Booth, United States, chairman of the nominating committee, said the committee recommendation was reached unanimously "in a spirit of unity and prayer."

Duke K. McCall, United States, then nominated Hobbs, he said, "to enable the general meeting of the Baptist World Congress to participate meaningfully in the election of the president."

McCall spoke of "rumblings of dissatisfaction" with the nominating committee process. He said that at least one member of the committee voted knowing nothing of the candidates but their names. "Thirty-nine Baptists ought not to determine without choice the decision of 8,000 Congress members in electing the president to represent 31 million Baptists," he said.

McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said that he wanted to provide delegates a choice of candidates.

Hargroves, the nominating committee candidate, is an American Baptist, a native of Virginia and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been pastor of the Philadelphia church since 1932.

He is a former chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship and a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance.

John Williams, Kansas City, Mo., urged before the vote that BWA members maintain a spirit of unity regardless of the outcome of the election. Williams, whose church is affiliated with the National

Baptist Convention of America, said, "I know both men. They do not want us to be divided."

David Russell, London, England, opposed the Hobbs nomination. He said the constitutional provision for nominations from the floor should be used only in situations of doubt or emergency.

"This action calls into question the competency and integrity of the nominating committee," he said. "The committee worked with many names, and Hargroves gained wide acceptance in this representative committee." Russell contended that the committee was representative, while the floor was not.

"The general secretary of the Alliance is a Southern Baptist," he said. "In his first year of office it is appropriate that the president be from another convention."

Wayne Dehoney, a Southern Baptist from the United States, responded that the floor nomination was not without precedent. He said that British Baptists had challenged the committee nomination for general secretary last year.

The occasion Dehoney referred to was an executive committee meeting, not a general congress.

He also questioned whether the committee report was unanimous, saying that some members did not vote.

Two Asians expressed disappointment that the presidential nominee was not an Oriental. Shuichi Matsumura, chairman of the local arrangements committee for the Tokyo meeting, said he would have preferred an Asian to an American for nomination, but supported the committee's choice.

A procedure for balloting and vote counting was suggested by Harold Stassen, Philadelphia, Pa., and was adopted by the Congress. Delegates wrote their presidential preference and their convention on slips of paper. A committee of ten tellers, five of whom were suggested by McCall and five of whom were suggested by Booth, counted the votes.

They first counted the votes by convention, then divided the total membership of each convention according to the proportion of votes cast by that convention's members voting at the Congress.

Election of vice presidents was postponed until Friday morning pending announcement of the election.

Robert Denny was reelected general secretary.

-30-

Pope and Eugene Carson Blake
Challenged to Seek Irish Peace

7/17/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist editor has challenged the Pope and the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) "to leave the seclusion of Rome and Geneva" and find a Christian solution to the bloody Catholic-Protestant conflict in Northern Ireland.

An editorial in the Capital Baptist, weekly publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, called on Pope Paul VI and Eugene Carson Blake of the Geneva-based WCC to "go together to the troubled area of Northern Ireland and, if necessary, stand together in the middle of the street where Protestant and Catholic areas come together and seek to bring about some kind of reconciliation."

Citing atrocities of the Catholic-Protestant war, Editor James O. Duncan said, "There are many wars or conflicts in the world, but this one has to speak to the conscience of the Christian as much as any other."

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"It is one thing to take up arms against a neighboring country over property rights or religious freedom, but somehow to take up arms against a brother in the faith over battles that were fought nearly 300 years ago just doesn't make sense," Duncan continued.

"Since when do segments of the church have to kill and wound and exploit each other?" Duncan asked. "What does Christianity mean to those who keep warring with one another."

Duncan, who sent copies of the editorial and personal letters to Pope Paul and Blake, said the battlings in Northern Ireland are "a reflection on the whole Christian church.

"If Christian people of differing views cannot live together in peace," he said, "how can we expect others who have differing views to live alongside one another without open conflict."

Duncan said in an interview with the Washington Post that he has been "appalled" at the lack of comment from either Pope Paul or Blake.

The Baptist editor said in the interview, "I think an appearance by them in the streets of Belfast, Londonderry and Ulster would say to the world that we cannot ignore the conflict that exists between our brothers."

In the editorial, Duncan pointed to increased understanding and tolerance between Catholics and Protestants around the world during the past several years. "We believe that the time has come for the moral persuasive power of Catholics and Protestants around the world to be used to speak to the crisis in Northern Ireland," he said.

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Senate Passes Extensive Family Planning Program

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate passed a bill providing for extensive development of family planning programs and services, especially for all American women who cannot afford them.

This action is in harmony with a Southern Baptist Convention resolution approved in 1967. The Convention commended "the judicious use of medically approved methods of planned parenthood and the dissemination of planned parenthood information."

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives where its advocates hope that hearings will begin soon and that action will be taken before the year is out.

Although the bill was sponsored by Sen. Joseph Tydings (D., Md.), it was co-sponsored by a bi-partisan group of 30 other senators. During the discussion on the Senate floor it was pointed out that the bill "will give substance to President Nixon's words" of last year. The President said:

"No American woman should be denied access to family planning assistance because of her economic condition."

Authorizing \$992,500,000 over a five-year period, the bill provides for "expanding, improving and better coordinating the family planning services and population research activities of the Federal Government."

The Senate recognized the religious problem some groups may have with such programs. It provided in each section that participation in the programs and services would be on a voluntary basis. Specifically, the Senate said:

"It is the policy of the Congress to foster the integrity of the family and the opportunity for each child; to guarantee the right of the

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family to freely determine the number and spacing of its children with dictates of its individual conscience; to extend family planning services, on a voluntary basis, to all who desire such services."

The Senate bill would create an Office on Population Affairs within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. This office would direct the programs which provide for family planning services, public health services related to the programs, research grants and construction of population research centers.

Grants under the new proposed programs would be available to both public and private agencies, according to regulations to be drawn up by the Office of Population Affairs.

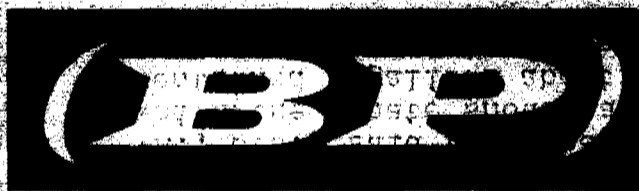
The sponsors of the family planning program assert that the bill as passed by the Senate is a significant step for the nation, even though they say that it is only a beginning of what should be done.

The bill points out that "significant benefits for the family and the community may be derived from family planning. Some of them are: "The alleviation of poverty, the reduction of maternal and infant mortality rates, the reduction of the number of premature births and of crippling and mental diseases in infants and the easing of the pressure of population growth on the environment."

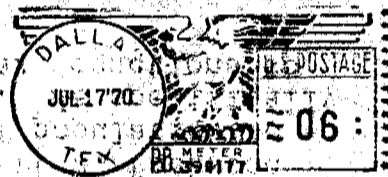
Following the approval of the family planning bill by the Senate, several senators continued the discussion. Sen. Robert W. Packwood (R., Ore.) said that there were additional aspects of population to which the Senate should address itself in the future. He specifically mentioned legalized abortion and the limitation of tax deductions to not more than two children per family.

To support his contentions on the legalization of abortions Packwood inserted resolutions from 14 national religious, humanitarian and civil liberties organizations. Among these were the American Baptist Convention, the Board of Christian Social Concerns of the United Methodist Church and the American Protestant Hospital Association.

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