



BAPTIST PRESS

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August 6, 1970

Senator Declares Dissent Essential To Democracy

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A United States senator here defended dissent as an essential element in American democracy, but he warned of its frivolous and irresponsible use to achieve the dissenters' goals.

Sen. Charles Mathias (R., Md.), in an address before the annual Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, espoused "civil disobedience", provided that the protest is nonviolent and that the dissenter is willing to pay the penalty for his actions.

The Maryland senator, declaring that "civil disobedience on a widespread scale is civil rebellion and borders on anarchy," condemned the actions of "the Catonsville nine" who destroyed records in a Selective Service office in Catonsville, Md.

"It was with some dismay," Mathias said, "that I read a recent account that Father Daniel Berrigan, one of the so-called 'Catonsville nine', has decided to go underground and thereby delay acceptance of the consequences of his violations of the law."

He agreed with Judge Simon E. Sobeloff, who presided over the "Catonsville nine" case, that "the exercise of a moral judgment based on individual standards does not carry with it legal justification or immunity from punishment for breach of the law."

"The fact that protestors sincerely believe that they are breaking the law for a good cause cannot be accepted as a legal defense for their actions," Mathias argued.

He applied this principle both to the "hawks" and the "doves" in the national debate over the Vietnam war.

"In the debate over the Vietnam conflict we have seen excesses committed by representatives of both the left and right, hawks and doves. Violators of the law must answer for their acts regardless of their political plumage," he asserted.

Basing his views on both moral and constitutional principles, the senator said that "the First Amendment to our Constitution reflects a judgment that society must and should tolerate the expression of views that may be distasteful, inane, or even erroneous."

The first amendment provisions for freedom of religion, free speech, freedom of assembly and dissent are "founded on the notion that society as a whole will ultimately benefit from the free exchange of ideas, that our society will in the long run be both more stable and more just for having preserved diversity of expression," he continued.

The theme of the 14th Religious Liberty Conference this year is "Dissent in Church and State." Although sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the views expressed during the Religious Liberty Conference are not necessarily those of the committee or of the Baptist denominations that support it, officials pointed out.

The findings of the conference will be advisory to the Baptist Joint Committee but are in no way binding on any individual, group, or denomination, said a spokesman.

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Annuity Board Shifts To New Organization

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DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board have given final approval for the agency to operate under a new streamlined organizational structure, effective Aug. 5.

R. Alton Reed, president and chief executive officer, said the new structure, semi-pyramidal in design, reflects two important changes from the former organization concept.

These changes include combining of areas which provide similar functions and services, and renaming of titles of executive personnel from the director level upward.

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Reed said the trustees' approval completed action taken by the full board of trustees last February when they endorsed a recommendation calling for a re-organization.

The recommendation at that time was made by a trustee designated long-range planning committee which spent 17 months studying the retirement and protection programs, the methods used to reach eligible participants for them, and the organization needed to carry out the work.

The new alignment now shows all activities pertaining to enlistment of members in the retirement, protection and insurance programs under the board's "Development Division."

All services and records pertaining to members and annuitants are merged under "Member Services."

All investment activities, such as mortgage loans and real estate, stocks and bonds, come together under the "Investment Division."

Service areas, such as personnel, printing, purchasing and mail, are combined under "Administrative Services."

Only minor changes are reflected in the remaining areas, board officials said.

Reed said that titles were changed to those normally used in the business community and in a majority of Southern Baptist seminaries, colleges and universities.

The new titles are: chairman of the board of trustees; president and chief executive officer; senior vice-president and vice-president. They replace the former ones--president of the board, executive secretary (Reed's former title), senior associate secretary, associate secretary and director, Reed added.

Reed said the long-range planning committee's primary reason for changing officer titles was to improve communication with the business community with which the board must deal in administration of funds from the protection programs.

"Often in the past, the business executive's interpretation of the titles 'executive secretary' or 'associate secretary' has created confusion and delay in official business transaction. The new titles will certainly help correct this interpretation," Reed added.

Under the new organization, 17 full-time executive personnel report to the president and chief executive officer.

The officers and their new titles include three who have been named assistants to the president to serve until they retire in February, 1971. They are Floyd B. Chaffin and Fred W. Noe, senior vice-presidents, and Mrs. Mable McCartney, secretary.

Other officers, their titles and the areas they administer are: L. Taylor Daniel, senior vice-president, who heads the Development Division which includes Vice-presidents Baynard F. Fox (churches), Gene P. Daniel (agencies) and Ransome W. Swords (insurance).

Frank L. Durham, senior vice-president, heads the Investment Division. Also in this area are vice-presidents Owen Henley (mortgage loans and real estate) and Davey L. Borders (stocks and bonds).

B. J. Chenault, vice-president who heads finance and accounting, is also treasurer of the board.

Vice-presidents of other areas include: John D. Bloskas, public relations; Harvey H. Kennedy, management systems; I. D. Maricle, member services; and Charles E. Sanford, administrative services.

Mrs. Bernelle Harrison heads up the specialized area of actuarial services and Vann O. Gregory is in charge of leasing and management of the 511 North Akard Building, which houses the Annuity Board.

J. D. Stonehan, who has served as director of relief and annuitants services, retires October 1.

Reed praised the work of the long-range planning committee which spent months in developing the new organizational structure.

Implementing the new organization came two months earlier than the projection and six months ahead of the recommendation approved by the trustees.

Reed credited this accomplishment to the willingness of each officer who had to carry on his normal duties during the transition development.

General officers of the board elected at the February meeting of trustees will also now serve under the new titles of "chairman" and "vice chairman" rather than "president" and "vice president." Darold Morgan, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Dallas, is the chairman of the board, and three men serve as vice chairmen.

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Alabama Board Adopts Budget,
Tables Committee School Report

8/6/70

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--The Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist State Convention voted to recommend a record budget goal of \$7.1 million, but tabled after brief discussion a committee report urging support of public schools in Alabama.

The board postponed until its December meeting any action on the report of its Christian Life and Public Affairs Commission, which presented the statement urging Baptist support of the Alabama public school system.

The discussion centered around one statement in the report which warned that "should Baptist churches assume leadership in the establishment of church schools at this time, their Christian witness may be adversely affected in America and around the world."

Charles Carter, a Baptist minister from Huntsville, Ala., told the board that he felt the matter should be tabled until the December meeting to give the board members more time to evaluate the report, which he said was distributed with no advance notice.

Only one reference was made in the report to Baptist operation of private schools, and no reference was made to public school integration.

The report stated, however, "We recommend that Alabama Baptists reaffirm their support of sound and equal public education for all our citizens," and cited historic and consistent support among Baptists in Alabama for public school education in the past.

The report also said: "We urge Alabama Baptists to continue to support public education because of its importance to our nation's welfare."

The proposed \$7.1 million budget goal for 1971 will be submitted by the board to the annual state convention in November. The total goal includes \$5.4 million for the Cooperative Program, unified budget of the Alabama and Southern Baptist Conventions. The remaining \$1.67 million would come from special offerings.

The \$5.4 million Cooperative Program goal would be an increase of \$200,000 over the 1970 budget. It would allocate 35 per cent to Southern Baptist Convention causes.

In other actions, the board voted to change the name of its stewardship department to the stewardship and church building department. N. F. Greer would continue as head of the department. Harold Anderson was named as consultant in the department, shifting him from the Sunday School department.

George E. Bagley, executive secretary of the convention, was recognized for 25 years of service to the board for Alabama Baptists, and two retired employees were presented engraved silver bowls--Claude T. Ammerman of Montgomery and Waymon C. Reese of Talladega, Ala.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press will file full coverage of the effect of Hurricane Celia and Baptist response to it on Friday, Aug. 7. Officials of the Baptist General Convention of Texas have requested that all persons contemplating disaster relief shipments to the area please contact Charles McLaughlin, chairman of the convention's disaster relief committee, before doing so. First priority needs in the area are food and protective coverings for roofless buildings. For further information, call McLaughlin at (area code 214) 741-1991.

--Baptist Press

Seminary Names
News Director

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Jim G. Willmoth of Carbondale, Ill., has been named news director for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Willmoth has been activities director of the Baptist Student Union for Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark. He also is a former minister of music and youth for Lee Memorial Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

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Fisher Studies In Cambridge
On Golden Gate Sabbatical

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Fred L. Fisher, professor of New Testament interpretation at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here, has departed for Great Britain where he will devote sabbatical studies at Cambridge University.

Fisher will study at Cambridge during the fall and spring. In addition he will also do research for portions of a one-volume Bible Commentary to be published by Broadman Press, and for a text book on New Testament theology.

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SBC Cooperative Program
Up Two Percent Over 1969

NASHVILLE (BP)--Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget for world missions were up 2.01 per cent for the first seven months of 1970 compared to the same period in 1969, a monthly financial report disclosed here.

Total Cooperative Program contributions for 1970 reached nearly \$16.7 million, compared to \$16.3 million for the same period in 1969, said the report prepared by the denomination's Executive Committee.

The \$16.7 million represents an increase of \$329,213, or 2.01 per cent for the year.

John H. Williams, financial planning secretary for the Executive Committee, said that contributions in July, 1970, represented the highest amount of world missions support for any July in the denomination's history.

Cooperative Program contributions for July totalled \$2.4 million, an increase of about .95 per cent over gifts during July of 1969. Williams said the increase was in effect far more significant since one major state sent its July and August checks all during the month of July in 1969, making those figures higher than they actually should have been.

Designated gifts to specific world missions causes during the first seven months of 1970 stayed at about the same level as the 1969 designations, with \$20.9 million given to specific designated mission causes so far. This is an increase of \$10,429 or .05 per cent over designations for the same period in 1969.

In overall world mission gifts (Cooperative Program and designated gifts combined), the total for 1970 reached \$37.6 million, an increase of .91 per cent or \$339,643 over the 1969 grand total gifts.

The monthly financial report reflects contributions to national and world missions efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention, and does not include amounts given to support local and state mission causes of Baptists.

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Utah Baptists End First
Major Crusade "Successfully"

8/6/70

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--Southern Baptists in Utah concluded their first major evangelistic crusade in the Salt Palace here, reporting total attendance of more than 6,000 for the week and more than 300 total decisions.

Officials of the convention called the crusade a "tremendous success" in an area where Baptists are virtually unknown to the general public.

C. E. Autrey, retired head of the evangelism division for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, was the evangelist for the week-long crusade.

Thirty-five Southern Baptist churches in the area participated in the crusade, the first major evangelistic effort by Baptists in the state. Among the 300 decisions were 45 professions of faith.

An 88-voice youth choir from McArthur Boulevard Baptist Church in Irving, Tex., provided special music during the crusade.

One staff member for the Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention called the crusade a "major breakthrough" for the convention's work. "To most people, this wouldn't seem like much, but to those of us in a state where Baptists are so much a minority, it was a thrilling experience," the spokesman said.

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