

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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August 14, 1970

Proposed Rights Amendment May Affect Churches and Agencies

By Beth Hayworth

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives, in its approval of an amendment to the Constitution to grant equal rights to men and women, has unleashed a force for legal changes which eventually and inevitably will affect Baptist institutions and all church organizations.

In an historic action, the House voted overwhelmingly to amend the Constitution of the United States to read: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The vote was 350 to 15.

The measure is now in the Senate where it has been placed on the calendar for an early vote. After affirmative action in the Senate (which is expected) it will need to be ratified by three-fourths of the states before it becomes law.

Since the House has been the bottleneck for this addition to the Constitution for almost 50 years, the tide now seems to be moving in favor of this amendment.

The effects of the amendment would be liberating and right, say the proponents, and uncertain to say the least, according to those who oppose it.

The overall purpose of the amendment is to wipe out legal discriminations that have restricted women to certain jobs, paid them less than their male counterparts, and limited their rights relating to marriage, dependents, property, business ownership, etc.

The aim of the amendment is to restrict only governmental action, and would not apply to purely private action. Evenso, the effect on churches and church institutions is bound to be felt, and may even be considerable.

If the amendment is ratified, it raises questions whether women employees in various structures of the denomination will seek the strength of the law to receive equal access to jobs and assignments, equal pay for equal work and the same privileges as their male counterparts concerning ministerial retirement benefits and tax deductions.

How much effect will the law have on local church practices concerning ordination of ministers? If a woman asks for ordination and is refused because of her sex, will the law have a right to overrule the decision of the local church governing body?

Already churches and denominational institutions are subject to the law concerning Social Security, employment practices and conditions, deduction of income taxes, to mention only a few of the more obvious ones.

Since most churches are incorporated, will this tie with legal structures make them vulnerable to certain other requirements of the law?

One change foreseen by both proponents and enemies of the amendment will be that women would become equally subject to military service.

The prime mover on the bill in the House, Rep. Martha W. Griffiths (D., Mich.) explained that this should be no handicap since "women would not be required to serve-- in the armed forces--where they are not fitted any more than men are required to so serve."

The Republican leader in the House of Representatives, Rep. Gerald R. Ford, also from Michigan, said the amendment should really be unnecessary.

"But it clearly is mandatory," Ford said, "because women today do not have equal rights.

"This amendment will give them those most valued of rights--the rights to a job, to a promotion, to a pension, to equal Social Security benefits, to all the fringe benefits of any job. There is no denying that these rights are different for women than for men," the Republican leader declared.

Board Votes To Withdraw,  
Rewrite Broadman Commentary

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The elected Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted by a two-to-one margin here to withdraw Volume One of the Broadman Bible Commentary from distribution and sale, and named a special committee to make recommendations on rewriting it from a conservative point of view.

The action came during the board's semi-annual meeting at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here near Santa Fe, as the board complied with the request of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Denver, June 1-4.

The convention action, adopted by a vote of 5,394 to 2,170 said that the commentary volume on Genesis and Exodus is out of harmony with the beliefs of the majority of Southern Baptists. The convention asked the board to withdraw it from sale, and requested that it be rewritten with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint.

Board members discussed the proposal for more than two hours, with debate centering around possible options in rewriting the book. All of the motions considered called for withdrawal of the volume from sale and distribution.

Some board members felt the convention clearly required complete rewriting of the book.

Others felt that reasonable alterations such as footnotes or inserts in future additions would meet requirements of the convention action.

Claude U. Broach, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., offered a substitute motion which would "withhold" the commentary volume until the special committee could explain the difficulties of conforming to the convention's request, and offer reasonable alternatives such as corrective footnotes or inserts in a future edition.

The substitute motion, and an amendment to it, were defeated, however, by the board. The trustees voted down the substitute by a margin of 33-20, and accepted instead the recommendation of its executive committee by a vote of 36-15.

In the discussion, one board member stated, "What transpires on the convention floor is not necessarily the desire and wish of the majority of Southern Baptists."

Another said, "As a board member, I have not been elected to represent the convention. I have a duty to discharge, however. The convention has asked us to withdraw and rewrite this volume and we must comply with their request."

Some who spoke indicated a feeling that the convention may have made a mistake in the action it took.

In the debate, the consensus seemed to be that the board members were not in a position to pass judgment on the rightness of the convention's actions a spokesman said.

One board member pointed out a need for guidelines which would prevent the convention from becoming an editorial screening body.

"I do not know," he said, "of a single time the staff or elected board has gone contrary to the Southern Baptist Convention. The basic principle here is whether or not we shall be able to continue to operate a publishing house."

In discussion of the convention's request, a layman on the board criticized the implication that the action was not representative. "If the Denver vote (by the SBC) is not representative," he asked, "what is representative?"

Board President Landrum P. Leavell II of Wichita Falls, Tex., named Allen B. Comish of Columbus, Ga., as chairman of the special committee to make recommendations on rewriting Broadman Bible Commentary Volume I.

Comish is also chairman of the board's church program and services committee. The special committee on rewriting the commentary will consist of that committee and the plans and policies committee of the board.

Board Withholds Youth Quarterlies,  
Slates Doctrine Editing Guidelines

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--During its semi-annual meeting here, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board voted to withhold from distribution two youth Sunday School quarterlies, and further defined doctrinal instructions to board staff members concerning editing of church literature.

On the request of staff leaders of the board's Sunday School department, the elected members decided against distributing the October-December quarterlies for college age Sunday School students and their teachers.

The action stated that the October-December quarterly and accompanying teachers manual "are not up to the editorial standards of the board."

Context is the name of the new quarterly for college age Sunday School students in the board's "Forefront" series dealing with contemporary issues, available on an optional basis to churches that desire it. The Collegiate Teacher is the accompanying guide for teachers of the material.

Both will be made available in January-March, 1971, quarters; but not during the October-December, 1970, quarters, according to board action.

Another motion dealing with editing of church literature instructed the staff "edit carefully all literature hereafter published to be sure that interpretations of the Bible, theological positions and all other matters are consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message Statement adopted (by the SBC) in 1963, and with the generally-accepted views of Southern Baptists."

The action further calls for clearly indicating and distinguishing other views when presented in church literature.

The board trustees also instructed the staff to continue its preparation of a manual of doctrinal guidelines for editors and writers. The manual will be reviewed and endorsed by the elected board for the purpose of serving as a criterion for producing literature "in harmony with the 1963 Statement of the Baptist Faith and Message."

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Board Recommends Revision Study  
Of Church Covenant For Churches

8/14/70

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--In compliance with the request of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Denver last June, the denomination's Sunday School Board meeting here instructed its staff to consider possible revisions of the current Church Covenant published by the board for use by Southern Baptist churches.

The study, which will include consideration of the history, use, content and possible revision of the covenant, will be submitted to the elected board at its January, 1971, meeting with the view of reporting on the assignment at the SBC in June, 1971.

The board also asked that its staff take knowledge of the SBC's action reassigning the national student work program to the board, and give attention to implementing the convention's expressed wishes.

In response to another request from the convention, the board decided to recommend that any pocket-size identification card for Southern Baptist ministers originate with local churches, rather than with the board.

The convention in Denver adopted a motion asking the board to "study the feasibility of, and bring a recommendation to the convention, whereby some type of pocket-size identification card may be issued to Southern Baptist pastors."

The board said it reached the decision "in view of the long-established policies of ministers holding credentials by virtue of a call from God as recognized by licensing and ordination by the local church."

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Organization Changes Approved  
By Elected Sunday School Board

8/14/70

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Two major staff organization changes, one effective this year and the other in 1971, were approved by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here.

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The reorganizations were recommended, according to a board spokesman, "in an effort to bring about more effective and efficient services for Southern Baptists."

Effective Oct. 1, 1970, the board's Publishing Division will become accountable for earnings from all Broadman products, and all Broadman functions will be assigned to the division, according to board action.

The names of five of the departments within the Publishing Division were changed by the board to reflect the changes brought about by the reorganization.

Departments within the division will include the Broadman products department (now called Broadman Books department), the Broadman trade advertising department (now wholesale advertising and sales promotion department), Broadman trade sales department (now wholesale sales department), Broadman consumer sales department (now Broadman films department), and marketing service department (now wholesale merchandise control department).

In another action, the board approved plans for a major reorganization effective Oct. 1, 1971, which would provide for five major divisions and three staff offices within the board's structure, rather than four divisions and four staff offices.

The new organizational entities will include the Church Services and Materials Division, Broadman Division, Book Store Division, Assemblies Division, Management Services Division, the office of the editorial secretary, the office of personnel and the office of public relations.

The Church Services and Materials Division will include the following activities: Bible study, church training, church music, student church administration, church architecture, church library and church recreation.

In addition, the division will have major responsibilities for preparation, production and distribution of Convention Press materials and church literature.

In another action, the board acknowledged the request for a "unique relationship" for the student work program would be reflected in the reorganization changes implemented in October, 1971, but the name for the department and its structural relationship will not be announced publicly until the full organization plan is completed at a later date.

Other divisions under the proposed 1971 reorganization will include the Broadman Division, which will be responsible for the general preparation and distribution of books, films and filmstrips, music, church supplies, furniture and equipment.

The Book Store Division will continue to be responsible for the operation of all Baptist Book Stores.

Glorieta Baptist Assembly here and Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N.C., will comprise the Assemblies Division.

The business and other services which can best be rendered on a board-wide basis will be grouped in the Management Services Division, according to the action.

The three staff offices (editorial secretary, public relations and personnel) will retain their direct reporting relationship to the executive office.

Currently the board is structured with a Publishing Division, Book Store Division, Education Division, Service Division, and four staff offices--office of management services, editorial secretary, personnel and public relations.

The administration of the board was authorized to "work diligently to complete the organization structure, revise the program structure statements to comply with the new organization, detail the objectives and responsibilities of each organization component, and enlist and orient the managerial personnel needed by Sept. 30, 1971.

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#### FINAL WRAPUP

Board Voted To Withdraw, Rewrite  
Commentary, Cancel Two Quarterlies

8/14/70

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, complying with the request of the Southern Baptist Convention last June, called here for the withdrawal of Volume I of the Broadman Bible Commentary and named a committee to make recommendations on rewriting it.

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In other major actions during the board's semi-annual meeting at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here, the trustees voted to withhold the first quarter's issue of two periodicals, gave further definitions of instructions to staff members concerning editing of literature, authorized several organizational changes, and took several other actions in compliance with requests made by the Southern Baptist Convention in Denver, June 1-4.

The decision on the commentary gave the board's response to action by the Denver convention which adopted a motion on June 3 saying that the commentary "is out of harmony with the beliefs of the vast majority of Southern Baptist pastors and people."

The convention asked for the withdrawal of the commentary volume on Genesis and Exodus and called for rewriting the commentary "with due consideration of the conservative viewpoint."

Discussion during the two hour board meeting centered mainly around possible options in rewriting the commentary, rather than on whether or not to comply with the convention's request to withdraw and withhold the commentary volume.

Some board members said they felt the convention action clearly required complete rewriting of the volume.

Others said they felt reasonable alterations, such as footnotes or inserts in future editions, would meet the requirements of the convention, and argued for withholding the volume until the difficulties in implementing the convention's request could be explained.

The recommendation of the board's executive committee was adopted by the board members by a vote of 36-15, after defeat of a motion to close debate after already extended deliberations, and after defeat of a substitute motion and an amendment to the substitute.

Board President Landrum P. Leavell II of Wichita Falls, Tex., named Allen B. Comish of Columbus, Ga., as chairman of a special committee to make recommendations on rewriting it. The special committee will consist of the board's church program and services committee, which Comish heads, and its plans and policies committee.

On the request of leaders of the Sunday School department of the board, distribution of two new quarterlies scheduled for release in October was cancelled because the new publications' "were not up to editorial standards of the board."

The two new publications were entitled Context, and The Collegiate Teacher, and would have been made available to college-age Sunday School students and their teachers through the board's "Forefront Series" of curriculum dealing with contemporary issues.

In another action, the board responded to a request of the Southern Baptist Convention by asking administrative leaders of the board to consider possible revisions of the current "church Covenant" published by the board for use in local Baptist churches.

The study, which will include the history, use, content and possible revisions of the covenant, will be submitted to the elected board in January with the view of reporting on the assignment at the SBC in June, 1971, at St. Louis.

In another major action, the board instructed the staff of the board to "edit carefully all literature hereafter published to be sure that interpretations of the Bible, theological positions and all other matters are consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message adopted (by the SBC) in 1963, and with the generally-accepted views of Southern Baptists."

The action further called for clearly indicating and distinguishing other views when presented in Southern Baptist church literature.

A further instruction to the staff from the elected board requested continued preparation of a manual of doctrinal guidelines for editors and writers.

The manual, which will be reviewed and endorsed by the board, will serve as criterion for producing literature "in harmony with the 1963 Statement of Baptist Faith and Message."

The staff also was instructed to take note of the SBC's action in reassigning the national student work program to the board, and to give attention to implementing the conventions expressed wishes.

The board decided to recommend that the issuance of an identification card for Southern Baptist ministers be referred to local churches. In taking the action, the board noted "long established tradition of licensing and ordaining ministers by the local church."

Also approved were two changes in organization of the board's staff in an effort to "bring about more effective and efficient services for Southern Baptists.

Effective Oct. 1, 1970, the board's Publishing Division will become accountable for earnings of all Broadman products, and all Broadman functions will be assigned to the division. In reorganization, the names of five departments were changed to reflect these assignments.

The board also approved initial plans for a major reorganization effective Oct. 1, 1971, which would provide for five major divisions and three staff offices, rather than four divisions and four staff offices.

A net sales budget of \$43,368,000 was adopted for the fiscal year of Oct. 1, 1970 to Sept. 30, 1971--an increase of \$5.1 million over the 1969-70 budget.

The board declined the offer from the Southern Baptist General Convention of California which voted to make available to the board property in Jenness Park for a third national assembly for Southern Baptists.

The board also voted that if a third assembly site ever is needed, that it be set up by a special committee of the SBC.

Conrad R. Willard, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Miami, was elected president of the board. He succeeds Landrum P. Leavell of Wichita Falls, Tex., who served for two years.

Five young people were special guest of the board, and participated in committee meetings and the full board sessions.

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Lackey Elected New Head  
Of SBC Stewardship Agency

8/14/70

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--James V. Lackey of Nashville, director of Cooperative Program promotion and chief staff assistant for the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, was named that agency's executive-director, treasurer, by the commission members meeting here.

Lackey, 41, will assume the position effective Feb. 1, 1970, upon the retirement of Merrill D. Moore, 65, who has been executive director and treasurer of the commission since it was created as a denominational agency in 1960.

Moore is retiring Jan. 31, 1971, after more than 22 years as the Southern Baptist Convention's top stewardship leader. Before creation of the Stewardship Commission, Moore was for 13 years director of stewardship promotion for the SBC Executive Committee.

Lackey, the executive director-treasurer elect, has been on the staff of the commission since 1962, and has held three different positions within the commission staff.

He joined the commission as director of stewardship development, became director of church and institutional fund raising for the commission in 1967, and was named in 1968 as director of Cooperative Program promotion and chief staff assistant.

Before joining the Stewardship Commission staff, he was superintendent of young people's work for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, Nashville.

He has been educational director for churches in Fort Worth, Tulsa, and Midwest City Oklahoma.

A native of Oklahoma, Lackey is the son of T. B. Lackey, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he earned the doctor of religious education degree, and has done graduate studies at Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

His wife, the former Joyce Earlene Barton of El Reno, Okla., received her masters degree from Peabody College on the day her husband was elected to the top SBC Stewardship post.

Active in community affairs, Lackey has run in recent years for state legislature in Tennessee and Metropolitan Council in Nashville. He made an unsuccessful bid for the state legislature in the primary elections held just one week before his election to the stewardship position.

He is the author of two books, Understanding and Developing Young People, and Young People and the Sunday School Challenge.

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