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**Church Spokesmen Protest  
Compulsory Chapel Ruling**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Spokesmen for three major denominations, including the American Baptist Convention, have declared that they find "unacceptable" a recent ruling of the U.S. District Court here which upheld the practice of compulsory chapel attendance at the nation's three military academies.

The American Baptist Convention joined with the United Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ to request that the matter be considered at the upcoming October meeting of the General Commission on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel.

The commission, representing 34 denominations, is the principal Protestant coordinating agency for the military chaplaincy.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs also will take up the issue at its semi-annual meeting early in October. The committee, made up of representatives from eight Baptist bodies, will consider the church-state and religious liberty aspects of compulsory chapel attendance at military academies.

In 1964, the General Commission on Chaplains passed a resolution requesting the Department of Defense to move to voluntary chapel attendance in all service academies. Earlier this year the Pentagon defended the compulsory chapel rule as an integral part of the overall package of leadership training for future officers.

Judge Howard F. Corcoran of the U.S. District Court here accepted the general argument and language of the Pentagon and ruled early in August that the purpose of the requirement to attend church or chapel "is purely secular" and "its primary effect is purely secular."

The chairman of the General Commission on Chaplains, C. Edward Brubaker, said the judgment was in "complete contradiction" to the purpose for which churches provide chaplains to the armed forces.

Brubaker, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wichita, Kan., continued that it was in contradiction to the purposes for which chaplains conduct worship services.

A. Ray Appelquist, executive secretary of the Chaplains Commission, testified against compulsory chapel attendance before Judge Corcoran. Appelquist said of the ruling that "such a definition and understanding of chapel activities seems strained and contrived to avoid the obvious intrusion on religious liberty.

"The military's argument is offensive to many religious people and church leaders who strongly support the obligation of the government to provide appropriate religious care for service personnel," Appelquist continued, "but only on a voluntary basis in keeping with the nation's heritage of full religious liberty."

The American Baptist spokesman, James A. Christison, charged that the imposition of the compulsory chapel requirement is regarded by his denomination "as an affront to God and to human dignity." Christison, from Valley Forge, Pa., is the executive director for home missions in the American Baptist Convention.

The chaplaincy executive for the United Presbyterian Church, Robert B. Harriman of Washington, D.C., informed the general commission that he read Judge Corcoran's ruling with "sadness and regret."

He said that by reopening the matter with Pentagon officials perhaps the commission might "find a more satisfactory solution" to the problem.

In requesting the chaplains group to "intervene and reopen" the issue with the Department of Defense, Leon A. Dickinson, an executive with the United Church of Christ, stated that the problem "poses a serious question for us in the continuing endorsement for ministry of our clergy to federal and state agencies."

## Senators Ask New Rule For Pornographic Mail

WASHINGTON (BP)--The Senate Post Office Committee has held hearings on a stringent proposal to require possibly obscene materials sent through the mails to be designated as such.

Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D., Mont.), the measure calls for labeling the envelope of matter that "may be" considered obscene with these words: "The Enclosed Material May Be Obscene Or Offensive To The Addressee."

The proposed legislation would permit the recipient of obscene mail to return the matter to the sender, without charge. The determination of what is obscene would be left up to the addressee himself to decide what violates his standard of decency, Mansfield testified.

Mansfield's proposal would require the sender to pay the return postage, plus a service charge of no less than 50 cents for each piece. Any sender who fails to mark the envelope as required, or who refuses to pay the postage or service charge on returned mail would be subject to a penalty of \$5,000 for each piece returned.

"My bill puts the burden where it belongs," Mansfield declared, "on the peddler and pusher." At the very least, he said, under this proposal, "the sender would be more cautious in his mailing methods."

In hearings before the committee, Sen. Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), joined Sen. Mansfield in urging approval of the bill. Two lawyers, one representing the Post Office Department and the other a spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), opposed the measure.

Goldwater praised the proposal as "a valuable new weapon to the government's arsenal against pornography." He especially commended the section of the bill which would require the smut peddler to pay the cost of returning his product if it is rejected by the addressee.

"If there is one thing that will stop the smut scoundrels from pouring out their material indiscriminately, this is it," he declared.

Although the proposal (S. 3220) describes what is meant by "obscene mail matter" in precise, purely sexual terms, it also says that "any mail matter received by an addressee, and determined by him in his sole discretion to be obscene," may be returned without prepayment of postage.

The measure would permit the addressee to return the mail to the sender by placing the words "obscene mail matter" in the upper right hand corner of the address area of the envelope or other cover.

The two lawyers maintained that such a bill contained great possibilities for extreme abuse.

David A. Nelson, general counsel for the Post Office Department, noted that "there is nothing to suggest any limitations whatever" on the addressee's exercise of discretion.

"It is possible," Nelson said, that even congressional newsletters could be returned in this fashion."

Lawrence Speiser, director of the Washington Office of the ACLU described further abuses that would be legally possible under such a statute.

He said that individuals "could return income tax forms to the Internal Revenue Service and make the government pay the postage" and could return "bills from companies with whom they have done business."

Speiser said addressees also could "bombard any magazine or publication such as Life or Reader's Digest with return mail" if they carried articles considered by some persons to be offensive. Under the terms of such a measure, Speiser continued, opponents could carry on "a concerted campaign to drive out of business publications of political thought" simply by using the technique called for in the proposal.

One of the main objections raised by Speiser is that the proposal "ignores first of all the concept that a judgment must be made of a publication as a whole," a rule in the obscenity field that has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Nothing in the act, he said, indicates any awareness of such a limitation.

Therefore, Speiser said, it "would clearly apply to Sears Roebuck Catalogues or any magazine, publication, work of art, or any book or magazine which depicts even as a small part of it 'nudity, interest in nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sado-masochistic abuse.'"

Thus, the ACLU lawyer continued, "the publishers of the Bible with its sensuous Song of Solomon" would have to label this with the required warning. The works of Shakespeare would be fair game also, as well as most classics, he said.

In the proposal, Speiser continued, obscene mail matter is defined in such a way which simply does not match the judicial definitions of obscenity. "Not all nudity is obscene, nor is sex and obscenity synonymous, the Supreme Court has so rightly said," Speiser declared. "The portrayal of sex in art, literature and scientific works is entitled to First Amendment protection," he continued.

Another objection raised by Speiser was that the bill would not restrict the required label to unsolicited advertisements or materials. Therefore, he observed, even if an individual orders some material, book, publication or magazine, the publisher or sender must label the publication with the words, "The Enclosed Material May Be Obscene Or Offensive To The Addressee."

Joining Sen. Mansfield in sponsoring the new bill were Senators Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.), Mike Gravel (D., Alaska), and Harold E. Hughes (D., Iowa). The chairman of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee is Sen. Gale W. McGee (D., Wyo.).

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#### 178 Decisions Made At Foreign Missions Week

RICHMOND (BP)--Of the 178 persons who made public commitment during the Southern Baptist Foreign Missions Conference at Glorieta, N.M., 46 said yes to the statement "I feel definitely that God is leading me toward a church vocation."

In addition, 64 persons said, "I want to explore opportunities in church vocati ns and record my intentions to follow God's leading," and 62 said "I reaffirm my commitment to make Christ saviour and Lord of my whole life." Six said "yes" to, "I accept Christ as my saviour and Lord."

Twenty-four of these individuals expressed "interest in foreign missions," 12 in home missions, 34 in home or foreign missions, and seven in the missionary journeyman program.

In four "decision services," there were 49 decisions registered on Sunday morning, 13 on Sunday evening, 103 on Monday evening, and 13 on Tuesday evening.

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