



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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October 13, 1970

Georgia Baptist Group Asks Nixon:  
"Appoint New Obscenity Commission"

ATLANTA (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention public affairs committee, upset by the official report of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography, has asked President Richard M. Nixon to appoint a new commission to draft another report.

The Baptist group asked that the new commission, if Nixon should appoint it, "prepare a report more in keeping with our country's historic commitment to morality and decency in public and private conduct."

The committee also asked President Nixon to reject the current commission's recommendations.

A resolution adopted by the committee warned that "it is our conviction that the foundations upon which the nation was established would be seriously threatened should the recommendations of the President's Commission on Pornography and Obscenity be adopted."

Among the recommendations of the commission was a suggestion to repeal federal and state laws restricting the availability to adults of materials now classified as obscene, although it recommended that laws forbidding sale of such materials to the young be kept on the books.

Another conclusion of the commission's study was that exposure to pornographic materials does not alter conduct or attitudes relative to sexual morality or crime.

The Georgia Baptist committee said it agreed with "The opinions of the three dissenting members of the commission, and hopes that their views might be given careful consideration" as the commission's findings are evaluated.

The three dissenters, a Catholic priest, a Methodist minister, and a Cincinnati lawyer who was the only commission member appointed by President Nixon, accused the other commission members of being "slanted and biased" in favor of protecting the pornography industry and urged that the majority report be "filed in the congressional wastebaskets."

Charles H. Keating, the attorney, filed a 179-page dissenting report immediately after the public release of the majority report.

The resolution adopted by the Georgia Baptist public affairs committee did not specify what portions of the commission's majority report it disagreed with, or what portions of the minority report it approved.

About six weeks before the Georgia Baptist committee recommended that a new commission be appointed by President Nixon, a similar proposal was made by Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Nashville, in a letter to the President.

Valentine also suggested that the President appoint a staff member of the SBC Christian Life Commission, Harry N. Hollis Jr., who testified before the current commission's public hearings last May, to the new commission, if one is created.

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Theme Picked For 1971 SBC:  
"In The Spirit of Christ"

10/13/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Theme for the 1971 session of the Southern Baptist Convention has been selected by the denomination's committee on order of business.

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Theme for the convention program will be, "The Spirit of Christ," according to Robert L. Mills, president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., and chairman of the committee.

The convention will meet at Kiel Auditorium in downtown St. Louis, Mo., June 1-4, 1971.

The theme for the 1971 convention will be in keeping with the overall denominational program planning themes for the period, 1969-73, when each year the SBC emphasizes in its total promotion a different aspect of the theme, "Living the Spirit of Christ...."

Denominational planning themes for 1970-71 and 1971-72 are "Living the Spirit of Christ in Openness and Freedom," and "Living the Spirit of Christ in Expectancy and Creativity."

Following a meeting here, the SBC committee on order of business, which plans the program outline for the annual convention, also announced that William E. Jarvis, minister of music for the First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., would serve as music director for the convention in St. Louis.

Carl E. Bates, president of the SBC, and pastor of the First Baptist Church of Charlotte, said that any correspondence regarding participation in musical activities at the convention should be addressed to Mr. Jarvis.

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Southwestern Seminary Names  
Institutional Resources Head

10/13/70

FORT WORTH (BP)--Chaplain (Col.) Clayton E. Day, post chaplain at Fort Jackson, S.C., has been named director of institutional resources at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

Day will assume the position Jan. 1, upon retirement from the U.S. Army.

As director of institutional resources, he will represent the school before public gatherings, corporations, foundations, and individuals to encourage support for the seminary program, according to Seminary President Robert Naylor.

A native of Grapeland, Texas, Day attended Baylor University, East Texas Baptist College, and Southwestern Seminary. He was a pastor in Tyler and McLean before entering the Army in 1949.

His Army assignments include key positions in Vietnam, chaplain in charge of Arlington National Cemetery, executive officer in the Chief of Chaplains office in Washington, D.C., and tours in Korea and Germany.

Day is married to the former Juanita Virginia Dowdy of Tyler.

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L.S. Sedberry, 79, Dies

10/13/70

NASHVILLE (BP)--Leland S. Sedberry, 79-year-old retired Baptist minister who for 12 years was executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary here, died Oct. 12 after a heart attack.

A native of Tennessee, he had been pastor of churches in Chapel Hill, Cornersville, Duncanville, Mars Hill, Gallatin, Brownsville, Murfreesboro, Nashville and Lascasses, all in his home state. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Nashville, where he was a member.

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Sweden's Largest Baptist  
Church Calls Woman Assistant

10/13/70

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--The largest Baptist church in Sweden, Normals Baptist Church in Stockholm, has called a woman as assistant pastor.

Miss Berit Aqvist was installed by the 1,026-member church in downtown Stockholm, primarily to work with young people and handle general pastoral duties. Joes Sorensen is pastor of the church.

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First Baptist Evangelism Meeting  
In Eastern Europe Held in Prague

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (BP)--The first Baptist evangelism conference ever to meet in Eastern Europe has taken place during six days here, with about 30 participants from other Eastern European countries joining 85 Czechoslovakians at the meeting.

Addresses and discussions revolved mainly around the study of the New Testament and examples of evangelism activities under present conditions in Eastern European lands.

It was agreed that the churches must accept the social situations found in their countries and seek God's answers for their people under existing conditions, according to conference director and chairman Gunter Wieske as quoted by European Baptist Press Service. Wieske is head of evangelism for the Baptist Union of Norway, and the European Baptist Federation.

Several evangelism services open to the public were held in a Baptist church while the conference was underway. Several decisions for Christ were reported in each service.

Louis A. Drummond, formerly of Louisville, Ky. (USA), now instructor in evangelism at Spurgeon's College (Baptist) in London, England, preached at the public services each evening and on the Sunday following the conference.

The services, attended by 400 to 500 people, were translated into the Czech language. Most daytime sessions were heard in three languages--Czech, German and English.

The largest representation from outside Czechoslovakia came from the DDR (East Germany), which sent 11 pastors. Smaller delegations came from Yugoslavia, Russia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania.

For the first time in more than 30 years, two pastors from Bulgaria attended an international Baptist meeting held in Europe. Earlier this year, a Bulgarian delegate attended sessions in July of the Baptist World Alliance's international congress in Tokyo, Japan for the first time in BWA history.

One of the main needs expressed during the conference, Wieske said, was for training pastors to have a long-range view into the future.

In one address, a professor in the Baptist seminary in Buckow, East Germany, gave up-to-date examples of service in the name of Christ in his homeland.

Adolf Pohl told of the involvement of youth from one East German Baptist church in washing windows at a community hospital which has a personnel shortage, and of youth who help paint parking lines on city streets. He said another East German Baptist youth group cleaned off a rubble-filled lot for use as a children's playground, and that several churches sent relief parcels to flood victims in Romania and Hungary.

All this, according to Pohl, constitutes "signs and wonders" to create increased awareness for the witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In another report to the congress, Russian Baptist participants said Christians in their country welcome the recent treaty between Russia and West Germany, renouncing the use of force.

No resolutions were passed by the conference, and no business actions were taken other than making tentative plans for another such Eastern European conference on evangelism in 1972, following a similar conference in Western Europe next year.

Conferees left with a strong desire to have more future contacts with one another and to share greater interest in one another's efforts to fulfill Christ's commands, according to the report in European Baptist Press Service.



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