



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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October 19, 1970

**Opponents of Voucher  
Plan Ask For Hearing**

WASHINGTON (BP)--An informal coalition of more than a score of national organizations has called for congressional hearings on a proposed educational voucher experiment by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"We believe that an educational voucher plan of the type presently under consideration by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) could have broad social, educational and political implications and could adversely affect the American public education system," a coalition statement said.

"We therefore call for congressional hearings to evaluate the voucher proposal before any such experiment is implemented," the coalition concluded.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, one of the coalition observers, in its October semi-annual meeting opposed the proposed education voucher experiment.

The committee expressed the hope that, if such an experiment is conducted, it would be done within the framework of the public schools as traditionally known in the U.S.A.

An educational voucher has been described as a slip of paper which a parent could use to enter his child in the school of his choice--public, private or parochial. The school in turn would cash the voucher. Payments would be made to the school, not to the parent or the pupil.

Both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Executive Committee of the SBC have passed resolutions supporting the public schools and opposing aids to parochial schools from public funds.

The OEO has under consideration a plan to experiment with educational vouchers to see what effect they would have on the educational system of the nation. So far the experiment has not been fully formalized and funds have not yet been appropriated for this purpose by Congress.

The strategy of the coalition opposed to the voucher experiment is to have a full airing of opinions on the proposal at the public hearings and then to block the experiment as currently conceived by cutting off funds which would enable the experiment to take place.

If a voucher experiment could be devised within the framework of the traditional public school system, it is possible that the coalition would alter its position of opposition, observers here said.

The coalition is spearheaded by the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Each of these organizations provides a co-chairman of the coalition, which is made up of a wide variety of educational, civil rights and religious groups.

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Georgia Baptist Foundation  
Elects Duncan Top Executive

10/19/70

ATLANTA (BP)--The assistant executive secretary of the Georgia Baptist Foundation has been elected executive secretary of the Foundation.

Charles C. Duncan will succeed Harry V. Smith, effective Jan. 1, 1971, as the Foundation's top executive. Smith announced retirement plans earlier this year.

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The Foundation holds \$10 million in trusts for educational, benevolent, and mission causes of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Duncan came to the Foundation in 1967 from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of McCaysville, Ga. A native of Dewey Rose, Ga., Duncan has also been pastor of Demorest Baptist Church; Bethlehem Baptist Church, Clarkesville; Lithonia Baptist Church; and First Baptist Church, Camilla, all in Georgia.

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University of Richmond  
Gets \$756,422 From Robins

10/19/70

RICHMOND (BP)--E. Clariborne Robins, who announced a gift of \$40 million in stock in June of 1969 to the University of Richmond, has given the Baptist school here \$756,422 matching an equal amount received during the past fiscal year.

The three-quarters of a million is part of the \$40 million "challenge grant" Robins made last year, and the funds are the result of increased giving by alumni, and other sources, according to President George M. Modlin.

Modlin told the university's board of trustees of the latest Robins gift, and added that the pharmaceutical businessman has also pledged to match any allocation from the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Enrollment at the Baptist school this fall is 6,366, largest in the university's history, Modlin said.

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#### C O R R E C T I O N

On story dated 10/15/70 "Board Adopts Record Budget, Appoints 15 Missionaries," please change figure in graph 5 to read \$34,326,909 not \$34,436,909 as sent.

--Thank you Baptist Press



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HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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