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**Doctrinal Polarization Picked  
Top '70 Southern Baptist Story**

**NASHVILLE (BP)**--Doctrinal polarization in the nation's largest Protestant denomination was selected by Baptist news editors as the most newsworthy story concerning Southern Baptists during 1970.

The ten most newsworthy stories concerning Baptists were picked by the editors of 30 Baptist statewide newspapers and the editors of the Baptist Press in balloting conducted by Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The top three stories on the list each polled more than 200 points in a ranking system which gave 10 points for each first place vote, and decreasing points to lesser ranks in order.

Running second and third behind the doctrinal polarization story were (2) a controversial seminar sponsored by the SBC Christian Life Commission featuring debates on the Playboy philosophy and situations ethics, and (3) Baptist efforts to grapple with the problems of racial prejudice.

Each of the top three stories were broad general terms for a whole series of events that occurred during the year within the Southern Baptist Convention. The ballot listed several sub-topics under the general trend stories, as follows:

--"Baptists face doctrinal polarization: Affirming the Bible Conference meets before SBC; convention requests withdrawal of Broadman Bible Commentary (Genesis volume); editorials rap "hostile" spirit at convention; Sunday School Board official urges reconciliation; board complies with SBC commentary request; board withholds two quarterlies 'not up to standards,' Leo Eddleman named doctrinal reader (at board)."

--"Letters, editorials protest Christian Life Commission Seminar on "Authentic Morality" (which features) debates on Playboy philosophy, situation ethics; SBC refuses to cut commission's budget.

--"Baptists grapple with racial prejudice: 15 black students confront Denver convention; Birmingham church splits over accepting two Negro members; numerous SBC churches quietly accept Negro members; Pastor's prayer calms racial mob in North Carolina town; Southern states face school integration orders, Baptists uphold public school system and some question establishment of private schools to avoid integration."

The doctrinal polarization story and all its related events received 319 total points in the balloting; the Christian Life Commission seminar got 254 points, and the racial prejudice story received 222 points.

All the other stories on the ballot received about 100 points or less. Listed in order, with the number of points each received, were the following:

4. Baptism controversy hits North, South Carolina Baptist associations; California convention refuses to delete prohibition against alien immersion; Alabama, Arkansas conventions study the issue. 112 points.

5. SBC, state conventions feel economic squeeze: SBC may be short of total budget by \$750,000; Kansas, D.C. conventions approve budget decreases; Tennessee, Virginia keep budgets at same level; Virginia narrowly defeats effort to cut SBC budget allocation; New Mexico convention delays budget adoption due to sweeping reorganization caused by financial crunch. 106 points.

6. Hurricane Celia devastates 75 Texas Baptist churches; Baptists send aid; four churches, university get federal loans for repairs; convention asks school to seek other financing; tornados hit Lubbock, Tex., churches and Oklahoma City home for aged. 81 points.

7. Twelfth Baptist World Congress, Tokyo, emphasizes peace, reconciliation; V. Carney Hargroves (American Baptist) elected president over Herschel Hobbs (Southern Baptist). 77 points.

8. Baptists continue opposition against aid to parochial schools: President Nixon pledges support to Catholic educators, asks Congress for parochial school aid, names panel to study issue; education voucher plan proposed by OEO; parochial defeated in several state referendum votes. 73 points.

9. Baptists oppose report of President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography; Baptist testifies during commission's hearing; some call for new commission; Congress disavows report, adopts new law on pornographic mail. 68 points.

10. Baptist missionaries serve in world's trouble spots: Viet Cong terror provides reason for Baptist ministry in Vietnam; Baptists send aid to Nigerian civil war victims and missionaries credited with saving 1,000 lives; missionaries, Baptist hospitals serve both sides of Arab-Israeli conflict; missionaries evacuated from troubled Jordan; missionary in Beirut, missionary's son in Uruguay, kidnapped but released unharmed. 63 points.

While the balloting in the first three stories was decisive, it was very close in the last seven spots, often with only a few votes separating the ranks of the stories.

Running close behind the number ten story was the decision by the U.S Supreme Court upholding tax exemptions for churches, and the adoption by the SBC and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of a statement on tax exemptions. It received 62 points, one less than number 10 on the ballot.

Emphasis on youth involvement in the SBC during 1970 ushered in by Mission 70, a national youth convention in Atlanta, ranked 12th with 55 votes.

Baptist reaction to the president's appointment of a special personal representative to the Vatican received 44 votes, 13th in order of ranking by the editors.

The observance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 in Augusta ranked 14th, with 42 votes.

There were a dozen other news developments concerning Baptists on the ballot, prepared by the national editors of Baptist Press in consultation with five bureau chiefs, but all of the other items received less than 30 points.

W. C. Fields, director of the SBC's news service, said that the ballot included several guidelines as suggestions for the editors to use in selecting the top stories. The guidelines included such criteria as the amount of coverage by Baptist and secular newspapers; the extent of readership interest generated by the stories; and the opinions of the editors on which were the most newsworthy.

Fields pointed out that the balloting did not determine which news developments in 1970 were the most significant from a historical or strategic perspective, but rather which ones generated the most news.

He added that many of the specific stories within the board categories--such as the decision by the SBC to withhold the Broadman Bible Commentary, or the split in the Birmingham church over acceptance of Negro members, could well have been separate items on their own, but the editors of Baptist Press felt that combining many facets of the same running story gave better news perspective to the entire year's news flow.

All-Muslim Class Affects  
Nursing School's Program

GAZA (BP)--All 19 students in the current class of nurses at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza are Muslims from Gaza, a unique situation which has caused the hospital to revise some of its Christian worship service approaches.

In addition to being Muslims, many of the students are also from refugee camps. The class, 10 boys and nine girls, is the school's largest in recent years. The students, who are about halfway into their first year of study, are expected to complete a three-year course plus a year of on-the-job experience.

The current class is the second to be made up solely of Gazans, according to Mrs. Patty Moore, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Gaza. The previous class, which was graduated in mid-1970, was the first all-Gazan group to complete the school's course of study.

Finding young men to fill openings in the school is never a problem, Mrs. Moore reported, partly because boys get better training in English than girls. Also, "there is a certain prejudice against nursing for girls among a segment of the community," she added.

Since opportunities for education beyond secondary school in Gaza are limited, Mrs. Moore said, male applicants for the nursing school always outnumber the available openings.

Before the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967, some of the students had Christian backgrounds--Catholic, Maronite, Greek Orthodox and Evangelical. Some were Baptists when they entered the school, and others were baptized while they were students.

It was possible to have prayer meetings, Bible studies and other religious meetings in which Christian students led the programs and witnessed to non-Christians. Many of the students participated in chapel services on the hospital compound.

However, with none of the student having Christian backgrounds, student-led Sunday meetings for nurses had to be discontinued. "The students has no idea of the real meaning of Christianity," Mrs. Moore said. "Now witnessing is more simple and more individual."

The school of nursing in Gaza has contributed to the nursing staff of the Baptist Hospital in Yemen, with two Gaza graduates currently serving there. It also trains nurses to work in other hospitals in Gaza and helps to raise the health standards of the area, Mrs. Moore said.

Many of the graduates have gone to other countries to further their education, "and hopefully to carry with them the new understanding of the message of Christ which they received," she added.

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"Dramatic Comeback" in Nigeria  
Noted By Baptist Missionaries

12/22/70

ENUGU, Nigeria (BP)--People in the war-affected area of Eastern Nigeria "have made a dramatic comeback in every way," according to a Southern Baptist missionary couple who visited among Baptists in the Owerri area.

Baptist churches and associations in the area have experienced renewed vitality with a minimum of assistance from outside, and associational meetings held recently in Owerri were well organized and much bigger than previous ones, reported Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Williams, who were appointed to Nigeria in 1964.

They attended three associational meetings and visited about 10 churches and preaching stations. "We are thrilled with what the people are doing for the Lord," said Williams, "Everywhere they are putting up their own buildings, and people are really flocking to the churches," The national Baptists are also operating a pastors' school without missionary assistance, except for some books contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Williams. All of the teachers are Nigerians.

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Each of the 53 young men enrolled in the pastors' school is in charge of at least one preaching station on weekends. They are paid from the pooled resources of other pastors.

In addition, Baptists in Owerri opened an orphanage and are operating it themselves. "We visit and encourage and help financially where it is absolutely needed," said Williams, "but we believe they will take the whole thing on their own shoulders very soon with encouragement."

Farm production in the area has been good, Williams noted. Though much of the area was the worst hit by the war and the last to receive relief, he said he saw only one child who showed signs of malnutrition in a crowd of about 100 children.

Even though many of the children were skinny, they were active and brighteyed, Williams observed. He predicted that the area's inhabitants will be "fully recovered" within the next six to eight months, or by the time another crop comes in.

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IRS Exempts Churches From  
Close Scrutiny of Accounts

12/22/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--Examination of church books by the Internal Revenue Service for taxable unrelated income will be severely limited, according to proposed regulations published in the Federal Register here.

The new proposed regulations are in harmony with the tax reform bill earlier enacted into law and signed by President Richard Nixon.

Under the new law, churches and religious orders are still among the charitable organizations not required to file annual information returns on institutional assets and details of management.

However, a church engaged in an unrelated business is required to file an unrelated business tax return, since such income of churches is no longer tax exempt. Currently owned businesses will be taxed after five years. This means that on January 1, 1975, churches will have to begin paying taxes on income from unrelated business income.

The newly proposed regulations relating to churches, conventions or associations of churches provide for no examination of the books of such organizations to determine whether or not they are engaged in unrelated trade or business.

An exemption for such an examination, however, is provided for in the event that the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate "believes that such organization may be so engaged and so notifies the organization in advance of the examination." Such examining officer shall be no lower than a principal internal revenue officer for an internal revenue region.

Even so, according to the proposed regulation, "No examination of the religious activities of such an organization shall be made except to the extent necessary to determine whether such organization is a church or a convention or association of churches."

Further, the regulation says, "No examination of the books of account of such an organization shall be made other than to the extent necessary to determine the amount of tax imposed" on the unrelated business income.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Ralph W. Thrower, explained the purposes of the restricted examination of the books of churches, conventions or associations of churches.

The restrictions are: (1) "to protect such organizations from undue interference in their internal financial affairs" and (2) to limit the scope of such examinations to matters relating to the taxing of unrelated business income," Thrower said.

The Federal register is an official government daily publication containing a wide variety of official documents, regulations and guidelines for the implementing of legislation and the operation of the federal government.

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Unless interested groups or persons ask to comment or to make suggestions on or before January 15, 1971 on the proposed regulations on the "Restrictions of Examination of Churches" published in the Federal Register, the proposals will become official regulations.

In the event, the opportunity to make comments or suggestions are requested by churches, conventions, associations of churches or by other persons, the Internal Revenue Service will arrange for public hearings.

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Church That Splits Over Negro  
Rejection Chartered, Calls Pastor

12/22/70

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--A new church organized from about 300 people who walked out of the First Baptist Church here when the church refused to accept Negro members was chartered and dedicated here, just after it called J. Herbert Gilmore as pastor.

The new pastor of the Baptist Church of the Covenant, organized with 316 charter members including the two Negroes who were rejected by downtown church, was formerly pastor of the First Baptist Church.

During the service held to charter and dedicate the church, the dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, William E. Hull, told members of the new church they would be despised and ridiculed by many in the institutional church.

Hull told members of the Baptist Church of the Covenant not to despair, however, for "it pleases God to use the despised."

Hull traced the development and decline of the nation Israel, observing that the congregation of God is "forged in the furnace of crisis."

"Indeed, it is characteristic of the church to be born on a cross, for the church is the response of God to the plight of man. Not because circumstances are opportune, but precisely because they are desperate, does this pilgrim company appear on the scene," he continued.

Hull, a native of Birmingham, reassured the congregation that "if you have your back against the wall, you are in good company."

He warned the members of the church, however, against rejecting "the larger congregation" because "the few" are always formed out of "the many" and exist for their renewal. "Cut off from the whole church, the remnant lives without mission and therefore without hope," Hull cautioned.

Prior to the dedication service, the group held a business session voting unanimously to call Gilmore as pastor, and accepting 41 additional members to the charter list, bringing the total to 316 charter members. Twenty applicants are also awaiting membership.

The members also approved payment of checks to the local Baptist association, to the state convention, and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Former Fifth Circuit Court Judge H. H. Grooms, now retired, and chairman of the deacons for the Baptist Church of the Covenant, presented checks to George Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist State Convention in the amount of \$1,000 for the Alabama and Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, plus \$1,292 for the SBC Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The church also presented a check to the Birmingham Baptist Association, and indicated a desire to participate in the local association.

While participation in the Alabama and Southern Baptist Convention hinge primarily on financial contributions, participation in the local association depends on a vote of the annual association meeting next November.

The church is temporarily meeting in the chapel of the Baptist building, where offices of the association are housed, but the chapel is not large enough to accomodate the crowds.

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A committee has been appointed to work out arrangements for a meeting place, with services scheduled for the last two Sundays in December at Temple Emanu-El, a Jewish synagogue.

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Conference On Children Asks  
For New National Priorities

12/22/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--The White House Conference on Children ended its meeting with several hundred delegates agreeing that the nation must reorder its priorities to give more attention to "diverse and flexible" educational programs for American children.

The call for new priorities was described by conference leaders as being addressed "to all levels of society: government, business, industry, mass media, communities, schools, churches, neighborhoods and individual citizens."

Creative education of children, in one form or another, from preschool on, was the central idea in a host of recommendations coming out of the 24 divisions that made up this children's conference, the first since 1960.

Almost 4,000 delegates, among them parents and children and authorities in many professions, attended the week-long parley studying the variety of needs among children today.

On the final day, the delegates voted on priority lists of recommendations and "overriding concerns" which will be presented to the President, hopefully as the basis for future action.

Day care programs, an adequate guaranteed basic family income and programs to eliminate "the racism which cripples all children" were chosen by the delegates as the three most pressing "overriding concerns."

Mrs. Ada Rutledge, a Southern Baptist children's educator who served as one of the leaders in the conference, praised the meeting for its potential impact on the nation and the churches.

A consultant in preschool work for the Sunday School Board in Nashville, Mrs. Rutledge told Baptist Press that she can envision churches "reconsidering the needs of individuals and assigning new priorities to children.

"I am hoping that churches will renew their efforts to provide more and better training for teachers," Mrs. Rutledge continued, and that they will "discover new ways of helping parents gain a greater understanding of children, including their own."

Mrs. Rutledge, a former professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said she was especially encouraged by the emphasis at the conference on the earliest years of children which are the "most critical ones for a child trying to establish his identity." Mrs. Rutledge was one of the 16 forum members preparing study papers on "The Emergence of Identity."

The recommendation receiving the most votes for highest priority asks the nation to "provide opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and live creatively by reordering national priorities."

"The creative child whom we wish to nurture is curious, wonders and questions; seeks new experiences; is open to the world; independent and free from social and group pressures to conform at the cost of individuality; willing to risk error; play with ideas and experiment; willing to change and live with change;" read the preamble to the recommendation chosen by the delegates to be first.

"Such a child is in the heart of every child," the recommendation continued, "but presently our schools and communities are not providing the atmosphere and resources for the development of such creative persons."

Included in the number one recommendation was the call for the nation to foster in each community the development of "total educational programs available to every child through a more diverse and flexible educational system."

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The top recommendation, worded by the forum on "Creativity and The Learning Process," urged more creative approaches to learning, a stress on early childhood education, the expansion of cultural and creative learning centers, and the integration of aesthetic education in every school, institution and agency which serves children.

Running a close second in the balloting was another recommendation on education. This one called for a redesigning of education "to achieve individualized, humanized, child-centered learning."

"An overriding goal of redesign should be development of an educational system responding to the needs of individual learners through personalized evaluation, individualized learning, and the thorough preparation of all persons involved in their education," the second ranked recommendation read.

Other recommendations receiving the most votes asked for the establishment of citizen community action groups to implement the recommendations of the conference, the reform of judicial agencies relating to children in trouble, the establishment of a child advocacy agency, a comprehensive national child health care program for all children and more funds for voluntary family planning services along with the availability of safe abortion for all who want it.

In listing the need for child care as the first "overriding concern," the conferees asks that federal funding be available immediately for the first year for 500,000 children, increasing 250,000 spaces per year until it reaches all families who seek it and all children who want it.

Such day care services should be much more than custodial, the conferees urged. The recommendation called for new day care programs that are "family centered, locally controlled and universally available." They should include health and social services and early childhood education, it emphasized.

The statement concerning racism, voted number two by the delegates, charged that racism "is dangerously vitiating the strength of our nation and dividing it against itself."

"Conquering racism is America's most challenging issue," the statement read. "It requires immediate attention by all levels of government. It requires serious self-examination by every American. If we continue to ignore this problem, the nation itself is in jeopardy," concluded the statement chosen by the delegates as the second overriding concern for the nation.

These concerns and recommendations, along with detailed reports of special problems relating to children, will be presented to the President by the first of the year.

The 1970 White House Conference on Children dealt only with problems of children under 14. Another part of the conference, relating to youth 14 and over, is scheduled for the spring of 1971, and will be held in Estes Park, Colo.



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