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NEWS ANALYSIS

**Proposed 'Revolution' Affects
Future Church-State Relations**

by W. Barry Garrett
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WASHINGTON (BP)--The projected "revolution" in American government by President Nixon is shot through and through with complicated church-state implications that should be of concern to America's churches.

The President's State of the Union Message was widely hailed by some government leaders as the boldest and most revolutionary proposal to come from any President in the history of the nation.

Without passing judgment on the merits or demerits of the President's program, it is the purpose of this analysis to ask a question: assuming that the President is successful in achieving his proposed "revolution," what affect will it have on future church-state relations in the United States?

President Nixon presented to the Congress, and thereby to the American people, "six great goals." About them he said: "I shall ask not simply for more new programs in the old framework, but to change the framework itself--to reform the entire structure of American government so we can make it again fully responsive to the needs and the wishes of the American people."

If the nation accepts the President's proposals, the churches need to know that future church-state relations are going to be different. The churches will be confronted with the problem that earlier answers to former questions will not be adequate for a new and different set of circumstances. As societies and governments change so do the questions and answers in church-state relations.

The old stereotype questions and answers cannot be adequate for a dynamic and evolving society and government. "The church" and "the state" must maintain separate functions if freedom for both is to be achieved. Each of these institutions must continually learn how to live together and to serve the people in their own distinct ways.

Specifically, take a look at the President's six proposals.

First, President Nixon insists that the present welfare system in the nation must be abolished and that a new one must be adopted.

Deeply imbedded in the new welfare proposals is a guaranteed income for every family. This may be called by a variety of names for political purposes by the reality is the same.

The churches are concerned with relieving the conditions of poverty, with serving the needs of underprivileged people, with incentives that develop the best in people, with ways and means of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and developing conditions that provide dignity for every human being.

The churches and the governments involved will need to learn how to correlate their mutual concerns and overlapping programs in meeting the needs of people. The lines of "separation" will be hard to draw, and the new situation will demand statesmanship of the highest order in maintaining proper church-state relations.

Second, the President proposes "full prosperity in peacetime." Involved here are problems of inflation, unemployment, deficit spending, adjustments in the monetary system, labor and management relations, working time and leisure time. The churches and their agencies will be vitally affected by what happens in these areas.

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Third, Nixon asks for his revolution to continue so as "to restore and enhance our natural environment."

Aside from developing a "theology of ecology," the churches cannot be oblivious to the problems of pollution in all of its aspects. If the nation's parks, recreation areas and open spaces are to be developed and made easily accessible to the people, the churches will need to learn how to minister to people where they are and under vastly different circumstances from the traditional routines. Not only will church-state problems arise but difficult questions of interfaith relations and cooperation must be answered.

Fourth, the President is offering "a far-reaching set of proposals for improving America's health care" and making it available more fairly to more people.

It is obvious that this will affect church programs of care of the aging, provisions for the young, their hospitals and health ministries. How will church programs for providing health services gear into or be affected by a total health program for the nation?

Fifth, Nixon would "strengthen and renew our state and local governments" by reversing the flow of power and money from Washington by a plan of revenue sharing.

If and when this happens, the church-state battles that have been fought on the federal level will be continued and developed even more intensely in the states, cities and counties.

The churches will have to become expert and active in church-state relations not just in the nation's capital but wherever government on any level dispenses services to people. This will become even harder and more complicated than on the federal level.

Sixth, the President is asking for "a complete reform in the federal government itself." He wants to reduce the number of cabinet departments from twelve to eight. He would retain the Departments of State, Treasury, Defense and Justice. New departments would be: Human Resources, Community Development, Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Under this new arrangement, government would attempt to meet its responsibilities and serve the needs of the people in many new programs and relationships. Traditional church-state issues will look simple compared to the problems that will arise.

The churches have a vital interest in and will be profoundly affected by any revolution in America, whether it be a peaceful political revolution as hoped for by the President or by a violent overthrow of the existing order by radicals who are unwilling to wait for slower changes.

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SBC Missionaries In Uganda
Continue Work Amidst Upheaval

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RICHMOND (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda are continuing their work in spite of political upheaval there, according to a cable received here from a missionary in Nairobi, Kenya.

H. Cornell Goerner, secretary for Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who received the cable, also talked by telephone with a U.S. State Department official on the day Uganda President Milton Obote's government was reported ousted.

Goerner said at the time he felt the situation in Uganda would in no way inhibit Southern Baptists' work in that East African country.

According to Associated Press dispatches, Brig. Gen. Idi Amin, commander of Uganda's armed forces, and William Oryema, inspector general of police, claimed to have taken over the government Jan. 24 after 12 hours of fighting between factions of the armed forces.

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The message, broadcast over Radio Uganda, included a warning to foreign countries to "keep noses out of Uganda's internal affairs." Obote, out of the country at the time of the military coup, had arrived in Nairobi, Kenya.

Uganda gained independence in 1962, the same year Southern Baptists entered the country. From a mobile medical clinic operated out of Jinja by one couple, Baptist work has grown to include a Bible school, evangelistic centers, a publication ministry and 28 self-supporting churches with nearly 2,000 members.

Eight missionary couples and a journeyman are in Uganda at this time.

They are Dr. and Mrs. Hal B. Boone, whose native states are Texas and Kentucky; Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Brubeck, Missouri; Mr. and Mrs. Billy F. Cruce, Florida and Alabama; Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Eaton, Colorado.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Lanny M. Elmore, North Carolina; Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Garvin, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie D. Hooten, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry G. Simon, Louisiana and Mississippi; and Journeyman David Long, North Carolina.

Three other couples assigned to Uganda are presently in the states.

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Sunday School Board Elects
Key Leadership Personnel

1/27/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Five new division directors, an assistant to the director and three group directors were named by the elected Southern Baptist Sunday School Board as part of a major reorganization plan, approved by the board last August.

The new division directors and their position are: Allen B. Comish, currently pastor of Waldrop Memorial Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga., named Church Services and Materials Division director; Bob Boyd, now secretary of the church recreation department, appointed Assemblies Division Director; James W. Clark, presently manager of the church literature department, named Broadman Division Director; Wayne H. Chastain, now director of the office of management services, appointed Management Services Division Director; and W. O. Thomason, currently assistant to the director of the Education Division, named Book Store Division director.

Four of the five new division heads are currently on the staff of the Sunday School Board, Comish is the only new division head not currently employed by the board.

In addition to the five division directors, the board also elected an assistant to Comish, and three group directors to coordinate the work of departments within the Church Services and Materials Division.

Morton F. Rose, presently programs design consultant for the board's Education Division, was named assistant to the director of the Church Services and Materials Division.

Named to head the three groups of the Church Services and Materials Division were: James H. Daniel, study and research consultant, church program services group director; Charles R. Livingstone, manager of the Sunday School department, church program organizations group director; and David P. Turner, manager of the budget and accounting staff, central support services group director.

The Church Services and Materials Division will be comprised of the four groups: church program services, church program organizations, central support services, and National Student Ministries.

Activities in the church program services group include church administration, church architecture, church library, and church recreation; the church program organizations group includes Bible study, church training and church music; and the central support services group will include program, product and marketing research, art, and marketing services.

National Student Ministries, now known as the student department, will continue to be headed by Charles Roselle.

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The Church Program and Services Division will have major responsibilities for preparation, production and distribution of Convention Press materials and church literature, and for field services and program promotion work.

The Broadman Division will be responsible for the general preparation and distribution of books, films and filmstrips, music, church supplies, furniture and equipment.

Baptist Book Store operations will continue to be the responsibility of the Book Store Division.

The Assemblies Division will be comprised of Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorieta Baptist Assembly, Glorieta, N.M.

Business and other services which can best be rendered on a boardwide basis will be grouped in the management services division, according to the reorganization plan.

Three staff offices--editorial secretary, personnel and public relations--continue in their direct reporting relationship to the executive office.

Comish will join the board staff March 1, and along with all of the newly named personnel, will begin work on the remainder of the reorganization plan. The directors will assume their official management roles and the new organization will become effective Oct. 1.

Comish is a native of Louisiana and has been pastor of the Columbus, Ga., church since 1959.

Prior to serving the church, he was superintendent of intermediate work and superintendent of training for the Sunday School department of the board. He also formerly served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ga., and associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Brunswick, Ga.

Comish is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana College at Hammond, La.; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, where he earned the doctor of religious education degree.

Boyd is a native of Kentucky, and a graduate of Murray State College at Murray, Ky., and Indiana University at Bloomington, Ind. He received the master of religious education degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Prior to joining the board in 1958, Boyd was recreation director for South Main Baptist Church, Houston. He also formerly was associate pastor of Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville.

Clark is a native of Texas and has been with the board since 1955. He attended Texas Technological University at Lubbock, Tex., and graduated from Wayland Baptist College at Plainview, Tex. He has done additional studies at North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., at the University of Tennessee Extension Center at Nashville, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary at Fort Worth.

Since joining the board, he has served as a Broadman salesman, trade sales supervisor, manager of wholesale sales and in his current position.

He also was pastor of the Avinger Baptist Mission in Lubbock, Tex., for a year before coming to the board.

Chastain is a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and is a graduate of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla. He also attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Prior to coming to Nashville, Chastain was director of Camp Ridgecrest for Boys at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly, Ridgecrest, N.C. He also formerly was an officer in the U.S. Navy and an instructor at Fort Union Military Academy in Virginia.

He joined the board in 1964 as work simplification coordinator; became a management consultant in 1965; and was named assistant to the director of the office of management services in 1966. He was named to his present position in 1967.

Thomason is a native of Birmingham, Ala., and attended Howard College (now Samford University, Birmingham, and Texas A & I College, Kingsville, Tex. He is a graduate of

Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a doctor of religious education degree.

Prior to joining the board, Thomason served as minister of education for First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn.; and First Baptist Church of Muskogee, Okla.

Rose is a native of Bakersfield, Calif., and graduated from Southwest Missouri State College, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Prior to coming to the board, Rose was pastor of First Baptist Church, Ava, Mo., 1956-58; Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, 1958-64; and codirector of the Missions Division, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, 1964-67.

Daniel is a native Tennessean, and a graduate of Baylor University, George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and North Texas State University at Denton, where he earned the doctor of education degree.

Daniel joined the board's education division staff in July 1962 as field services consultant following eight years service as professor of childhood education and educational administration at Southwestern Seminary. Earlier, he was professor of elementary education at Belmont College in Nashville.

Livingstone, is a native of Kansas and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla. He attended Southwestern Seminary; the University of Oklahoma at Norman; and George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville.

He was employed by the board in 1965 as an editor in the Sunday School department. Later, he was supervisor of the department's youth section.

Prior to joining the board, Livingstone served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Barnsdall, Okla., and First Baptist Church, Braman, Okla., and as associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Blackwell, Okla.

Turner is a native Tennessean and a graduate of Bowling Green Business University (now a part of Western Kentucky University) with a bachelor of science degree in higher accounting. Prior to joining the board, he worked for J. R. Meany and Associates, C.P.A., Bowling Green, Ky., and Price Waterhouse and Co., Nashville.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press will mail tomorrow a report on actions by the Sunday School Board on revision of Broadman Commentary Volume I, a story on guidelines for writers and editors and a wrapup on the board meeting.

--Baptist Press

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