

JANUARY 1, 1951

127 Ninth Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee

NLRB DIRECTS BOARD TO CONDUCT ELECTION

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--An election to determine whether the shipping, maintenance and multigraph departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board will be unionized will be held in the chapel of the Board, January 8 at 3 p.m. One hundred twenty five employees are affected.

The election is being held at the direction of the National Labor Relations Board as a result of a three to two decision of the NLRB that the law did not exempt religious institutions and that the Board was engaged in interstate commerce. The minority report pointed out that other similar laws did exempt religious institutions by name and that this was the spirit of the law here.

The movement to force unions into the BSSB was started last July by the International Printing and Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America, an affiliate of the AFL.

Late in the fall the organizers were able to obtain enough signatures to bring the matter before the NLRB for review.

The efforts of the union to organize these departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board has been generally resisted in Nashville on the grounds that neither the NLRB or any other governmental agency has the constitutional right to direct affairs of a religious body. The feeling is that the order of the NLRB is a direct act against the separation of church and state, traditionally held to by the American people.

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BINKLEY RECONSIDERS DECLINES WAKE FOREST

CHARLOTTE, N. C.--(BP)--Dr. Olin T. Binkley yesterday turned down his appointment as president of the New Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest.

In a telegram to Dr. Casper C. Warren of Charlotte, chairman of the seminary board of trustees, Dr. Binkley said:

"I have reconsidered and declined the presidency of the Southeastern Baptist Seminary. Crucial factors in the final decision were a lack of physical fitness for the administrative task and a clarified conviction that I should continue my work as a teacher at Louisville."

Dr. Binkley, who is a faculty member at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., accepted the presidency December 7. He had been recommended for the post by a Southern Baptist Convention Committee.

Dr. Warren said he had referred Dr. Binkley's telegram to the Convention committee.

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CORNETT AND COX MOVE TO NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--(BP)--Two Southern Baptist commissions will be re-located in Nashville around February first.

The Historical Society will move from Louisville, Ky. Dr. Norman W. Cox will be the executive secretary. He has resigned as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Meridian, Miss., effective February 15.

The Education Commission will move from Waco, Tex. Dr. Orin Cornett will serve as executive secretary. Dr. Cornett comes from Shawnee, Okla., where he has been serving as executive vice-president of Oklahoma Baptist University. He will move around February first.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Duke K. McCall (Nashville, Tenn.) and Dr. W. A. Criswell (Dallas, Texas) have recently returned from a special mission to various existing and prospective Southern Baptist mission fields of the world. Following is one of Dr. McCall's reports from Manila, Philippine Islands.

AMBASSADOR FOR GOD AND THE U.S.A.

By

Duke K. McCall
Executive Secretary
Southern Baptist Convention
Executive Committee

God answered our prayer before we knew we needed to pray. He had to use a United States ambassador to do it, but there is evidence that some members of the state department work within God's jurisdiction.

Ambassador Myron Cowen in Manila, Philippine Islands, had a representative meet our plane to invite us to dinner.

I have visited American ambassadors half way around the world. Without exception I have been proud of them. The two best in my book are Loy W. Henderson in India and Myron Cowen in the Philippines. Both have terrific jobs, but they know what they are doing. Cowen runs the largest embassy staff (2,000 people) of the U.S. government.

At the Cowen's table I turned the conversation over to my companion, Dr. W. A. Criswell of Dallas, Texas. I gave my undivided attention to that wonderful American food on the table. It tasted so delightfully familiar after two months of strange flavors.

Criswell started to tell ambassador Cowen of our preaching engagements in Japan. He took out his passport to illustrate some point. Suddenly his eyes popped out and his mouth dropped open! He forgot the ambassador and with trembling hand offered me his passport. "Can you find October 15 on that Military Permit?" he asked.

I studied his permit to enter Japan for a minute and exclaimed more fervently than piously, "Heaven help us, your permit expired last month!"

The ambassador smiled as he said, "I shall be glad to substitute for heaven, if you like. It will take me just two minutes to get that permit extended."

As far as I am concerned he was heaven's special agent. ~~Vice Consul Ross, who actually dispatched the cable to SCAB in Japan had this version of our good fortune: "Heaven takes care of fools, idiots, and drunks. That gives you two chances out of three."~~

Here we have traveled half way around the world to keep a date in Japan. Somehow we had neglected to make sure that we could both enter the country on arrival.

Beat this as a story of Divine providence if you can. In the last city where the mistake could be corrected, at the dinner table of the one man who could correct it, we discovered that somebody in Washington had used the wrong stamp to date the Military Permit.

God said through his prophet Isaiah, "Before they call, I will answer." He certainly did that for us.

Only once have I heard a prayer in which God was thanked for preserving a man from accidents which never come, illness that never began, trouble which never occurred. We do ask to be protected from such things.

Privately I am going to thank God for the disasters which have never happened to me.