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March 4, 1971

Seminary Extension Tape,
Reading Plans Given Okay

NASHVILLE (BP)--The administrative committee of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department approved specific plans for tape cassette and individual reading programs as part of the department's new continuing education series designed for Baptist pastors.

The committee also approved of two new certificates to be offered for completion of 10 courses each under the department's new "basic curriculum" plan, designed especially for Baptist pastors with less than college education.

The cassette tape and individual reading programs, however will be designed primarily for ministers with seminary training, according to Raymond M. Rigdon, director of the Seminary Extension Department.

Presidents of the six Southern Baptist Convention-owned seminaries, who comprise the department's administrative committee, approved three specific experimental reading programs in the "continuing education series," all dealing with "Problems Pastors Face."

First of the reading programs, to be released July 15, will provide aids to ministers in "Helping People With Drug Problems."

Though no release date is yet scheduled for the two others, general themes for the reading programs were approved. They will deal with the topics "Living Under the Pressures of the Pastorate," and "Counseling on Problems in Sexuality."

According to action of the committee, each detailed reading program will include several books, booklets, and other literature on the problem, plus a study guide of approximately 10 pages defining the problem, describing its prevalence, outlining an approach for study with study suggestions, and providing an annotated bibliography for further study.

The cassette tape program, another phase of the continuing education series for seminary-trained ministers, will provide study material for either individual use or group discussion stimulation, Rigdon said.

He added that the action does not mean that the department will enter the field of tape production, but will prepare listening guides and study materials to be used in connection with tapes produced by other sources.

The committee approved one new course to be added to the three previously approved a month earlier under the department's new "basic curriculum" designed especially for pastors with less than college education, and approved plans for two certificates to be offered to pastors completing 10 and 20 courses under the program.

Title of the new course to be offered will be, "Preparing and Preaching A Sermon."

According to the action, a certificate will be granted each person completing 10 courses, and an advance certificate will be granted each person completing an additional 10 courses.

Minimum time required for completion of a single course was set at 18 hours, with a recommended schedule of 12 study sessions of 1 1/2 to 2 hours each.

During the meeting, Rigdon unveiled the first copy of the "Basic Curriculum" course to be translated into Spanish and presented it to Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, the denomination's agency which coordinates mission

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work among Spanish-speaking people in the U.S.A.

One additional course was approved in the college-level curriculum. It will be a study of Galatians and will be offered first in connection with the Southern Baptist January Bible Study theme for 1973.

Last year more than 5,000 students were enrolled in courses offered by the Seminary Extension Department through its correspondence school and extension centers located in 46 states and 8 foreign countries.

Up until this year, all the courses were offered on "college level," but the administrative committee approved recently a major expansion authorizing the department to offer the new "basic curriculum for pastors with less than college education, and the new continuing education series for seminary-trained pastors in an effort to help them keep abreast with changes in society not covered in their initial seminary training.

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BP PHOTO BEING MAILED TO BAPTIST STATE PAPER EDITORS

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Government Leaders Outline
Priorities at Baptist Meeting

3/4/71

NEW YORK (BP)--Three top government leaders, including a cabinet member, the mayor of New York, and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, outlined their views of the government's priorities before a Southern Baptist audience here.

Mayor John Lindsay of New York, described the problems plaguing the nation's cities. Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Tomney, outlined the Nixon Administration priorities and United Nations delegate George Bush, described the government priorities internationally.

Lindsay, the first of the three to speak at a seminar on "National Priorities and Christian Responsibility" sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called for "a brotherhood of belief" that will not lead to a new revolution but will revitalize the old one, and not bind a new faith, but live up to the old one.

Mayor Lindsay said that too often "Washington has chosen profits over people," and provided more money to the war in Indo-China and defense spending than it has to help solve the problems of cities and neighborhoods blighted by poverty and distress.

"But money is not the only issue," the mayor said. "America could end up a prosperous nation but still be poor in spirit.

"We must make fundamental choices about the soul of America--about race, liberty, youth, and about ourselves," Lindsay declared.

The mayor also urged emphasis on "reconciliation among our races." He added that it is time to stop "some who still try to exploit prejudice to divide people."

The problems facing America's cities are so overwhelmingly that they cannot be solved locally or regionally but must to attack by common action coordinated nationally, he said.

Asked to comment on the role of the church in the face of such problems in the cities, Lindsay said he was encouraged by increasing numbers of youth entering church work, and by increasing social involvement of church work "in the streets." He called this a "very welcome sign," adding, "the more we have the better off we will be."

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Differing views were expressed by Romney, who countered Lindsay's views on where Washington's priorities are, and Bush, who said the nation was spending more on human resources than on defense.

Romney said President Nixon's national priorities were peace, curbing inflation, and returning power to the people.

He spent much of his speech advocating the government's attempt to shift power from the federal to local levels, outlining President Nixon's Revenue Sharing Plan to provide \$5 billion in general funds and \$10 billion in special assistance areas.

Challenged from the floor in discussion periods concerning the failure of local governments, Romney defended these groups saying there had been a process of improving in state legislatures in the last few years.

The former Michigan governor said, "The human and social problems have multiplied at the local level and the money has concentrated at the federal level, and with the concentration has come a choking bureaucracy.

On the Vietnam War, Romney said that the United States would not be involved in "the tragic war in Southeast Asia" had the President been forced to secure a declaration of war from Congress in the first place.

He said a fundamental lesson of Vietnam should be that the American people will not let a future president make war without such a declaration.

Bush, in his first public address after being installed as the new U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, told the 400 participants that "one of the things that appalled me at the time of the agonized outcry on Cambodia was the fact that many of our young people were so upset over Cambodia that they were unwilling to see the reordering of all priorities that have taken place in our domestic program."

Although he gave no figures on amount of expenditures, Bush said that "for the first time in a long time we are spending more on human resources than on defense.

"I don't agree with the pessimists who decry the unlivable world who are defeated before they try to solve problems, who have not faith in their country, themselves, of their God," the former Texas Congressman said.

He told the groups of the international concern of the United Nations, detailing the Assembly's work in the area of narcotics, population control, environment, and airplane hijacking.

Bush decried the bombing of the Iraqi Embassy, the previous night, saying "this Ambassador to the United Nations will not condone this as a legitimate way, whether concerning Soviet Jewry or each individual seeking to impose his own standards on the rest of society. This kind of protest we will not stand for," Bush said.

As Bush left for a meeting with Ambassadors from the Middle East, the seminar participants paused to pray for Bush and for world peace.

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SBC Urged To Establish
Consumer Advocate Arm

3/4/71

NEW YORK (BP)--One of consumer advocate Ralph Nader's "Raiders" challenged the Southern Baptist Convention to establish its own consumer advocate office to "extend the church's ministry beyond the victim to the causes of misery."

Miss Kate Blackwell, research assistant to Nader, Washington, D.C., told a seminar on National Priorities and Christian Responsibility sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission that "it is significant lawyers, like Mr. Nader, rather than churchmen are articulating human and ethical values that hold corporations accountable for adverse action affecting consumers, and denouncing policies that place profits before people."

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"So long as the church fails to demand responsible behavior from institutions or those who lead them, so long as the church continues to condone violation of human rights by corporations and agencies, it destroys the basis of its demands for Christian behavior from individuals," said Miss Blackwell, whose father is a Baptist deacon in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Pointing out that the Presbytery of New York had established a consumer office recently, Miss Blackwell proposed that the SBC consider appointing consumer advocates on the state as well as the convention level. She also suggested that individual churches and groups of churches hire attorneys to work on local problem areas.

Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission indicated that he was "very keenly interested" in a SBC consumer advocate and that the commission would take the proposal "under advisement."

In another speech, John Gaventa, 21-year-old Vanderbilt University student from Nashville, warned that current inactivity on college campuses did not signal compliance with existing structures.

A Rhodes scholar and member of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, Gaventa suggested that the "unexplainable quietness on today's campuses comes from inability to effectively influence the system and that new modes of social action are necessary.

Gaventa urged that those "interested in living a highly developed ethic" step outside the system, disengage from society and authentically affirm and live the higher human values.

In likening this approach to the commitment of early Christians, Gaventa said the "copout from the system" was not an invalid response, but the new strategy of "getting outside the old is perhaps the best way to transform it."

A second approach Gaventa suggested, is to work "on the edge of our institutions" living within the system but attempting to change it rather than bow to it. He also recommended recognizing that "personal compromise must be made in the process of social change, but that an eye must almost be kept on those ideals toward which the struggle is being made."

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FINALWRAP

Baptist Seminar Struggles
With Reordering Priorities

3/4/71

by Jim Newton

NEW YORK (BP)--More than 400 Southern Baptists struggled with reordering national priorities in the light of Christian ethics and values during a conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission here.

After three days of speeches and dialogue with government and national leaders, students and theologians, the seminar ended on the note with which it started--an emphasis on the need for a spiritual base and a Christian commitment.

Purpose of the seminar on "National Priorities and Christian Responsibilities," according to SBC Christian Life Commission Executive Secretary Foy Valentine, was to examine the priorities of the nation in the light of what Christians feel the priorities ought to be.

Both the opening and closing speeches at the three-day meeting at the Commodore Hotel here called for a spiritual, theological, and evangelistic base for changing the nation's priorities.

Other speakers and conference participants in discussion periods, emphasized both positive and negative aspects of such issues as pollution, military expenditures, war and peace, poverty, unemployment, protection for consumers, racial justice and equality, law and order, drugs, education, unresponsive systems and institutions, wealth and greed,

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foreign aid, the problems of the nation's cities, communications gaps, etc.

Although several of the speakers proposed possible solutions, no resolutions or specific actions were taken by the seminar participants.

"We hope now for action--some dramatic acts of concerned students, pastors and laymen," Valentine said in a closing evaluation. "But they may be small, undramatic acts growing out of simple courage, hope, conviction and love."

Throughout the seminar about 40 students among the 418 delegates had been vocal in discussion periods pressing for actions, not words.

Following one daylong session, the students, joined by about 50 or more adults talked informally, until after mid-night. Though not a scheduled part of the program, they divided into four groups to discuss the problems of peace, denominational structure, political action and communication between youth and adults. No specific vote or actions were taken, however.

Opening and closing on similar themes, Evangelist Leighton Ford of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association told the seminar that as Christians their first priority must be evangelism, "provided it is evangelism of the right kind."

Such evangelism must not be "narrow, parochial, shallow, unrelated to the great ethical, cultural and social realities of our day," but rather must tie "the Christian way of salvation together with the Christian way of life," Ford said.

"Too often we have been content with an evangelism that has changed neither men nor society," Ford added. "A decision for Christ that does not produce a disciple of Christ is a fraud."

The parade of speakers that followed evaluated current national priorities, sometimes examining the issues under the light of Christian ethics and responsibility.

In the keynote address, former White House Press Secretary, Bill Moyers said the nation's priorities were "up sidedown" when the country spends \$200 billion on military security--25 times what it spends on social-economic development.

Moyers charged that "the system in America gives preferential treatment to the rich and influential, and tends to oppress the poor and needy. America's priorities are dominated by special interest, private greed and political myopia, Moyers added.

"Through it all the church has been in bed with the culture," Moyers contended, and "has failed to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Three government officials of the Republican Party gave differing, sometimes conflicting, views on the priorities of the nation's government.

New York Mayor John Lindsay said that "Washington has chosen profits over people," and has provided more money in Indo-China and defense spending than it has to help solve poverty, hunger, housing and the needs of distressed people in America.

Mayor Lindsay said problems of the cities are so complex that they cannot be solved locally, but must be attacked nationally. He said President Nixon's Revenue Sharing Plan would help, but was not enough.

Housing and Urban Development Department Secretary George Romney and United Nations Ambassador George Bush gave differing views.

Bush said that for the first time in a long time, the nation is "spending more on human resources than on defense." He did not give specific figures.

Romney said that President Nixon's priorities were peace, curbing inflation, and returning power to the people. Both Bush and Romney went into detail about their particular government agency assignment in helping solve the nation's problems.

Discussion from the floor registered sharp disagreement at some points, especially following Romney's speech and following an address by the president-elect of the American Bar Association, Leon Jaworski of Houston.

Jaworski expressed strong opposition to non-violent civil disobedience saying it eroded confidence in "the rule of Law" and the courts. He said he saw no justification for breaking the law and added those who do so saying the laws are immoral are in effect speaking to impose their own views on the rest of society.

Attorney Ross Shearer of Arlington, Va., and his wife, plus several students challenged Jaworski saying that slavery and segregation were once maintained by law until the process was broken through civil disobedience.

The pastor of the black Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, Gardner Taylor, traced the influence of slavery in America, saying that society was "racist to the core and wedded to the idolatry of color."

Taylor said that because of the race issue, "Christians have not yet been able to prove that they are Christians or that Jesus Christ can really change people in their basic and ultimate life style," He added that where Baptists have been the strongest, "the fiercest pattern of racism has prevailed most openly."

John Gaventa, 21-year-old Vanderbilt University student, Nashville, said in another speech that students today are solely against war, racism, unresponsiveness of institutions, poverty, etc., and many had given up in despair over the apparent low priority these issues have in the nation.

"If there is anything to be told us by the malaise of the campus, the overuse of drugs, or to search for escape through drifting or inauthentic experimentation with life styles, it is that the challenge we face is how to find and enhance human meaning--that spark that makes existence worthwhile," Gaventa said.

Several speakers referred to the overwhelming problems of population control and pollution as high national priorities.

Eric Rust, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, said that by the year 2000, "we will all perish if we don't do something about the pollution of our ecology."

To deal with the problem, Rust urged more Christians to enter politics, advocated churches and individuals cleaning up local pollution problems, urged churches to bring pressure to bear on government forces, and individual Christians to join conservation groups.

On the problem of unethical business and safety factors, Miss Kate Blackwell, research assistant to consumer advocate Ralph Nader, proposed that the Southern Baptist Convention and each state convention establish its own consumer advocate office to deal with "the causes of misery among the nation's consumers."

Another speaker, Arthur S. Flemming, president of Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn., urged churches to use the goal of the Urban Coalition designed to reorder America's priorities in church education programs.

The six goals of the organization cover full employment, equal opportunity, meeting basic life necessity, changing revenues going to state and federal sectors, national security, and assistance to underdeveloped countries.

William M. Dyal, a Peace Corp official, and former staff member of the Christian Life Commission, warned the seminar of the danger "of thinking because we have heard something or said something about an issue, we have also done something about it."

The seminar closed with suggestions for action by a panel of Baptist leaders, and the closing address by Grady Cothen, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Herbert Gilmore, pastor of the Baptist Church of Covenant in Birmingham, Ala., urged a theological base for action grounded in an understanding of the mission of the church, and the role of the minister as a prophet with integrity.

Walker Knight, editor of Home Mission Magazine, Atlanta, cautioned against a naive view of power and authority whereby Christians spend their lives seeking enough acceptance to gain authority and once obtaining authority, never using it for fear of losing acceptance.

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, called for community involvement and political action on moral issues.

In the closing address, Cothen, stated that reordering the nation's priorities is not the total answer for the country needs ethical and spiritual answers that grapple with the nature of man and his greed.

He called for creation of an institute to study the theological and moral implications of developments in science and technology, such as genetic research by micro-biologists seeking to determine the sex and characteristics of unborn children. He called these "God-like choices," and questioned who is qualified to make such decisions and on what basis.

Cothen closed the seminar by urging Christians to accept personal priorities as individuals. "Other remedies may ease the pain and leave the scandal untouched."

He called for a spiritual basis for studying priorities both personally and nationally, ending the meeting on the note with which it started.

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Supreme Court Hears Cases On Aid To Church Schools

3/4/71

WASHINGTON (BP)--Government, ranging from local school boards through state departments of education to the U.S. Department of Justice, urged the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the constitutionality of public tax aid to parochial and private schools.

The argument before the nation's highest court took place March 2 and 3 in cases that had been appealed from Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

Challenging state and federal laws were groups of taxpayers, who were represented by various civil liberties organizations. In general the charge was that tax aid to religious schools violates both the "establishment clause" and the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The portion of the first amendment that is involved reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

In brief, the three cases considered seriatim by the Supreme Court are:

*Connecticut. Fifteen taxpayers of the state challenged that portion of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 which provides funds for construction grants to colleges, including sectarian schools.

Specifically, the Connecticut case challenged the constitutionality of federal grants to four Roman Catholic colleges for the erection of two libraries, a fine arts building, a science building and a modern language laboratory.

On March 19, 1970 a three-judge district court dismissed the suit, thereby ruling in favor of the colleges. This ruling was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Pennsylvania. A group of taxpayers and a combination of educational, civil liberties and civil rights organizations challenged the Pennsylvania Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1968.

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This law empowers the state superintendent of public instruction to contract for purchase of "secular educational services" from nonprofit schools which fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of the state law.

The law further authorized the state to reimburse private schools the cost of teachers salaries, textbooks and teaching materials in the fields of mathematics, modern foreign languages, physical sciences and physical education for the preceding year.

Funds for this program originally were derived from a tax on flat and harness horse racing and not from funds normally used for public schools. A subsequent change shifted the source of tax revenue for parochial schools from horse racing to a cigarette tax.

A three-judge federal court ruled in a 2-1 decision that the Pennsylvania law is constitutional. This decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Rhode Island. The law involved here is "an act providing salary supplements to non-public school teachers," which became effective July 1, 1969.

Under the Rhode Island Supplemental Salary Act the state appropriates state funds for payment of a 15 per cent supplement to the salaries of eligible teachers in nonpublic elementary schools, the majority of which are Roman Catholic parochial schools.

In order to qualify for the supplemental salary the parochial school teachers must teach only those subjects required by state law or which are taught in public schools; the teachers must be certified by the state department of education; their salaries must meet the minimum salary requirements for public school teachers; the teaching materials are only those used in public schools; and the teacher must not teach a course in religion while receiving a salary supplement from the state.

On June 15, 1970 a three-judge district court in Rhode Island ruled unanimously that the Supplemental Salary Act violated the U.S. Constitution. The court ordered a discontinuation of the supplemental teachers salaries.

On June 27, 1970 Justice Brennan of the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay of the lower court's order until the Supreme Court could consider and decide the case.

Rulings in the above cases are expected sometime between now and the end of the current session of the Supreme Court, which will come near the end of May or in June.

There is no way for observers of the Supreme Court to predict how it will rule in these three cases. All parties concerned, however, agree that regardless of the decisions the results will have a profound effect, both on elementary and secondary and higher private education in the United States.



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