



**BAPTIST PRESS**  
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April 22, 1971

### White House Conference Tackles Contemporary Problems

ESTES PARK, Colo. (BP)--A thousand young people, coming from many diverse areas of American society, and 500 adults, representing the "power" people in the country, gathered in this remote resort town for the first White House Conference on Youth.

Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries, was the only executive registered from the Southern Baptist Convention. The American Baptist Home Mission Society sent a youth delegate, Mark Barker, from New York City.

Organized around ten task forces, the delegates met to debate a wide range of national issues. Recommendations on the issues will be presented to the President and the nation at a later date.

The conference agenda included the subjects of war, poverty, race relations, education, the draft and national service, the environment, drugs, foreign relations, the economy and employment, legal rights and justice, and values, ethics and culture.

Elliott Richardson, secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, represented President Nixon at the opening session of the three-day meeting. Speaking for Mr. Nixon, Richardson promised that the Administration would "listen" and would "study with care" the recommendations made by the conference.

The HEW official challenged the 1500 delegates to make their recommendations "with passion" but to recommend "a course of action which is lucid and tough-minded."

"We need from you visions that are visions; not cloudy or vague shadows of a better society. But a dream in focus, sharply etched. We in government can then share that vision, for whether we agree or disagree with it, we can at least comprehend it, and its influence can then work on us as individuals and as a society," Richardson said.

When President Nixon announced this conference, which was an outgrowth of the White House Conference on Children held in December last year, he challenged the leadership of this meeting "to define problems, seek new knowledge, acknowledge past successes and failures, and outline alternative courses of action."

"At a time when government often seems far away and immovable--when many of our youth are rightly asking, 'who's listening? who cares? '--I hope this White House Conference, especially through the active involvement of a great many young people, will provide a positive answer," the President urged.

The youth delegates to this conference came from the broadest possible spectrum of American young people. They came from the ghetto and the suburb, the far and the city. Some are rich, already successful in their careers and a few are famous. Many are poor. Some of the youth registered were dropouts from high school. Some have had serious drug experiences. Several came after spending time in correctional institutions.

Stephen Hess, chairman of the conference, described the youthful participants as "decidedly unlike minded." To illustrate, Hess noted that some of the delegates live in communes, others in military barracks, still others in religious orders. Vietnam veterans registered, along with some who are conscientious objectors. Working mothers registered also, both wed and unwed.

College students and minority groups deliberately were "over represented," a spokesman for the conference staff explained.

The various youth delegates were chosen, according to the staff, because they were "activists in their own issue area." Nominations to the conference were made by national organizations and the final selection was made by leadership of the ten task forces and the conference staff.

Of the 220 national organizations registered at the conference, 36 were affiliated with some religious denomination or agency.

Hess explained at the opening session that the 500 adults present "were chosen, frankly, because they represent power." They are the type of people "who must understand what young people believe if this conference is to move from recommendation to action; if something is going to happen after the conference," he declared.

The adult delegates, for the most part, represented top executives in business, labor, government agencies, including Congress and the judiciary, religion and education.

Hess explained that the adults were not chosen because they agree with youth's views. "Some of you come from businesses that many young people consider polluters, governments they consider repressive, unions they consider discriminatory, or educational institutions they consider unresponsive," Hess said, urging the need for youth and adults to listen to each other during the three-day meeting.

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FMB Adds Family Consultant  
Approves Journeyman Trainees

4/22/71

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in a semi-annual meeting here appointed 27 new missionaries, reappointed 5 former missionaries, added a family consultant to its administrative staff and approved 74 young college graduates for training to be missionary journeymen.

Also the board voted to change the day of its monthly meeting from Thursday to Tuesday and to begin having a regular orientation for new board members.

Southern Baptist Convention President Carl Bates, in a speech to the board, predicted that the "unfinished business" of world missions will be more difficult in the future than it has been, but that more of the world's people are going to respond to Christian preaching.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, was named a Kentucky Colonel by G. Allen West Jr., executive director of the Long Run Baptist Association here. Cauthen announced that hereafter he will be known as Colonel Cauthen, and board members and their guests gave him a standing ovation.

The 27 new missionaries were appointed in an evening service at Freedom Hall here, with an estimated 7,000 people in attendance. At the close of that meeting 145 young people responded to an invitation to find places of services in church related vocations (see story mailed 4/21/71).

Two former missionary couples and a nurse were reappointed missionaries. They are Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Sherer of Springfield, Ill., reappointed for Japan; Mr. and Mrs. F. Herbert Cockburn of Winston-Salem, N.C., for Spain; and Miss Francis Hammett of Greer, S.C., to Tanzania.

Truman F. Smith, has been an associate secretary for missionary personnel for the board since 1964, was elected to the new position of missionary family consultant, effective May 15. He will be on the staff of the board's Overseas Division, under the supervision of its director, Winston Crawley.

Smith said he will be involved mainly in the "exploration of resources to assist in missionary family life." This includes finding resource material and specialists that would be related to specific problems, such as those involving missionary children, dormitories, etc.

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He came to the board's staff from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he had been an instructor in pastoral care for five years and director of student activities for three years. He also had been an associate director of field work.

A native Harnett County, N.C., Smith was graduated from Wake Forest, N.C. College, now Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, and from Southeastern seminary.

Prior to joining the seminary faculty, he was a chaplain assistant at Dorothea Dix Hospital, Raleigh, N.C., assistant pastor at Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and chaplain intern and resident at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem.

Seventy-four young Baptists were approved by the board for employment as missionary journeymen pending their completion of training this summer and their commissioning Aug. 1. They are presently assigned to work with regular missionary in 37 countries. They will serve for two years.

The board approved a recommendation that the regular monthly meeting of the board be held on the second Tuesday of each month, with the administrative committee meeting Monday evening prior to the board meeting. The board's first Tuesday meeting will be held May 11.

New board members will participate in an orientation to acquaint them with their relationship to the organization, following approval by the board members of a recommendation to that effect. The first orientation for new members will be held July 12 at the board's headquarters in Richmond.

Bates spoke to the board members, administrative staff members, Baptist leaders in the Louisville area, several furloughing missionaries and other guests during the concluding session of the meeting.

He said that the greatest pressures on people who are trying to do something about the world's needs are the pressures of unfinished business.

"The perfect approach to world missions has not finally been reached," he said. "There is on the workbench of the world much unfinished business. The most insistent pressures of life are the pressures of unfinished business.

"I am not a prophet, but I can tell you that I think that it is going to be rougher than it has been in the past," Bates said.

The uptightness of many people today is probably due to their sense of personal inadequacy, he continued. "Sometimes I think it is because of the inner knowledge which we have that we are not what God's wants us to be," he said. "This tension will never leave you, you are sincerely committed to the will of God."

Bates went on to say that Christian faith today has its greatest chance to be effective if the ways in which young people are expressing themselves with an indication, "this is our greatest hour and Southern Baptists need to realize that we have the freedom to reform to meet the challenge of the hour," he said. "Our preaching is going to be responded to by the increasing multitudes of the earth."

Cauthen expressed appreciation to Alma Hunt, executive secretary of the Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, for that organization's support of the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the SBC Cooperative Program. These are the primary sources of the financial support for the Foreign Mission Board.

Everett L. Deane, board treasurer, reported that \$16,109,473.97 have been received from the 1970 Lottie Moon Offering as of April 22. This is \$811,915.34 more than total receipts for the 1969 offering.

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#### CORRECTION

On BP story mailed 4/20/71, first graph, line 3, should read third executive secretary, not fourth. Story entitled: SBC Historical Commission Elects May Executive Secretary.

Thanks Baptist Press



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