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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS
ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 21, 1971

New Orleans Judge Suspends
Sentence on Baptist Pastor

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--U. S. District Judge Lansing W. Mitchell handed down a three-year suspended sentence against Mid-City Baptist Church Pastor J. Paul Driscoll here, giving him a 25-minute lecture for his involvement in a church bond mail fraud case.

Judge Mitchell sentenced three other defendents in the case to four and two year prison terms, giving them until June 21 before going to prison.

Clyde L. Rabun and Paul D. McMillan, identified as operators of Southland Church Funds, Inc., of Houston, were each sentenced to four years. Jessie Muriel Ray, also known as Jimmy Ray, the church's bond director, was sentenced to two years.

Driscoll and the three others had pled "nolo contendre", meaning "I do not wish to contest" the charges of one of the 13 counts of mail fraud handed down by the New Orleans Grand Jury.

Judge Mitchell placed Driscoll on a three-year probation and sternly warned him: "Now, Reverend, if at any time you get involved in these nefarious schemes during these three years, I'm going to get you back and put you in jail; you understand that?"

For nearly 25 minutes, the judge lectured the Baptist pastor, saying he shared the blame for the church bond fraud, and that "it could not have happened except for you."

The indictment handed down by the New Orleans Grand Jury charged Driscoll and four others with conspiracy, fraud in the sale of securities, and mail fraud. The first count charged fraud in the sale of securities, and counts two through 12 charged separate instances of mail fraud.

The defendents pled "nolo contendre" to count eight, which was worded in such a way as to reallege all the charges of count one involving fradulent sale of securities. The indictment charged that the defendents caused the church to issue bonds totalling $11,986,000 during the period June 1, 1961 and Jan. 1, 1966.

Count one of the indictment further charged that the defendents caused the church to issue new series of bonds to conceal sinking fund deficits, that they falsely stated the proceeds would be used for church building construction, and that the defendents knew the church was not financially able to repurchase the bonds and meet sinking fund schedules.

Count eight charged the mailing of a letter on July 7, 1965, to a Mrs. John B. Looby of Metaire, La., in violation of mail fraud provisions.

Charging the defendents were guilty, Judge Mitchell in passing sentence gave Driscoll what two observers present called a "sound tongue lashing."

"I think you need to go down on your knees many a night in the future and pray for forgiveness for your part in this," the judge told Driscoll. "You were, Rev. Driscoll, involved in it. It could not have happened except for you."

He accused the minister of having "a terrific ego," and added: "You lack humility, and you had better ask God to straighten you out on that end.

"Yet you are a good man, basically," the judge continued. "You are a powerful preacher, and you have the ability to lead people to God, and for that reason and for that reason only I am going to give you a second chance," Judge Mitchell said.

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After telling him of the suspended sentence and probation, Judge Mitchell told Driscoll, "You just cannot take money from innocent widows and old men....I want you to think of the thousands (of dollars) you bilked out of these old people...that have nothing to live on...but relief and old age pensions.

"You are not without sin, and I tell you that you have got a lot of praying to do," the Judge said. "I know that I have too, but you do also.

"But I think you are deserving of a (second) chance," Judge Mitchell said. "I think you are basically a fine man. I think probably your ego is one of the things that got you into trouble."

With that, the judge declared court adjourned.

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Donald Trotter Named
Sunday School Manager 5/21/71

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Donald F. Trotter has been named manager for the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Presently supervisor of the church training department's general administration section, Trotter will succeed Charles Livingstone, director of the board's church program organizations group.

A native of Oklahoma, Trotter attended Oklahoma Baptist University and received the bachelor of arts degree from University of Tulsa. He earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and the doctor of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He also has completed studies in adult education at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Trotter joined the board's Training Union staff in September 1964 as editor of special materials following two years' service as minister of education at Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.

Previously, he was minister of education for six years at Third Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, and at Huntington Park (Calif.) Baptist Church.

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Kansas Appoints Lindsay
As New Mission Director 5/21/71

WICHITA, KAN. (BP)--R. Rex Lindsay, superintendent of missions for the Eastern and Western Nebraska Baptist Association, has been named director of the department of missions, evangelism and student work for the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

Effective Aug. 1, he will become the first new staff member appointed by the convention since 1968, when the convention faced a financial crisis. He was jointly appointed by the Kansas Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which agreed to provide the necessary funds for 1971 and 1972.

A native of Oklahoma, Lindsay attended Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and is a graduate of Ft. Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kan., and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Appointed by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board as a summer missionary to Kansas in 1967, Lindsay became pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Russell, Kan., in 1968.

He became pastor of Northside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb., in 1959. Seven years later, the church divided into two congregations, and Lindsay pastored both churches simultaneously until 1968 when he became superintendent of missions for the two Nebraska associations.

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460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203