

(BP)---FEATURES

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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

produced by Baptist Press

July 7, 1971

RECEIVED
JUL 8 1971

HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC

News Analysis

Supreme Court Decisions "Tenuous
Beginning" On Church School Aid

By John W. Baker

WASHINGTON (BP)-- The United States Supreme Court, in its historic decisions on state and federal aid to religious education, made only a tenuous beginning at a solution to this problem which has divided the nation for years.

The number of concurring opinions and the number of dissents indicate that the justices have only minimal areas of agreement and broad areas on which they are strongly divided.

In the case which tested the validity of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 (Tilton V. Richardson), for example, only four of the justices could agree on a single statement.

Led by Chief Justice Burger, Justices Harlan, Stewart and Blackmun agreed that the act was constitutional with the exception of the clause which allowed the church-related colleges and universities to use a building built with federal funds any way they desire after 20 years.

These four justices held that the buildings must always be used for strictly secular purposes. Justice White did not agree with this exception but gave the court a five-man majority by concurring with the decision.

Justices Douglas, Black and Marshall joined in a strongly worded dissent which declared that the act provides for an unconstitutional establishment of religion. In a separate statement, Justice Brennan also dissented from the majority.

In this case the majority attempted to differentiate between higher education and that of elementary and secondary education on the basis that the students in higher education are more mature and, therefore, less susceptible to religious indoctrination.

They held that because there is a difference in this level of education and because grants for a building are on a "one time only" basis, there is not the excessive entanglement of church and state which the court ruled against in the 1970 Walz case.

A decision as divided as this does not provide sound case law for a determination of how the court, even in the immediate future, will decide on acts which provide state or federal aid to higher education. State laws to provide scholarships to church-related colleges and universities face uncertain litigation and do proposals to exempt tuition paid to these schools on the individual income tax.

Chief Justice Burger's statement that the line of separation between church and state "...far from being a 'wall,' is a blurred, indistinct and variable barrier depending on all the circumstances of a particular relationship" gives little guidance and less security to those who oppose the use of public funds for religious education.

In the cases dealing with state aid to elementary and secondary schools (Lemon and Dicenso) the court had a little more agreement. Chief Justice Burger was joined by Justices Stewart, Harlan and Blackmun in a decision which held that the programs in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island were in violation with the First Amendment.

In handing down the ruling, the justices said that such aid to elementary and secondary schools violates the constitution because the programs themselves and the so-called "safe-

-more-

guards" to assure that the tax funds would be used exclusively for secular purposes entangle the state with religion to such a substantial degree.

In addition the chief justice wrote, "a broader base on entanglement of yet a different character is presented by the divisive political potential of the state programs." A continuing year-to-year political issue of financing of parochial schools would divide the communities and the legislatures. "Political fragmentation and divisiveness on religious lines is thus likely to be intensified," the court said.

Justices Douglas, Black and Marshall joined in the opinion of the court and filed a separate concurring opinion. Justice Brennan filed an additional concurring opinion and Justice White concurred on the Pennsylvania decision (*Lemon V. Kurtzman*) but dissented on the Rhode Island decision (*Early V. Dicenso* and *Robinson V. Dicenso*).

Thus, despite the outward appearance of a united court on state aid to religious education, there was a rather sharp disagreement within the court on why the acts were unconstitutional.

These rulings are landmark cases.

However, they do not completely answer the question of the constitutionality of all forms of state and federal aid to parochial schools. The court left intact the previous cases in which they had agreed to transportation, secular textbooks, school lunches, etc.

Those who are proponents of public aid to parochial schools view the decisions as a setback but not a defeat. They feel that the court has struck down the form of public aid but not the concept itself. It is their belief that if the proper vehicle can be found--one which does not make for excessive entanglement of the state in religion--the court will declare it to be constitutional.

At present the supporters of public funds for parochial schools are looking with some hope to the various voucher systems which have been proposed or for a state income or property tax write-off for parents who send their children to parochial schools.

There are, no doubt, other plans which will come to light which will ultimately come before the Supreme Court. Rather than ending litigation in this sensitive area of church-state relations, the decisions of the court have served as an invitation to wider experimentation and, consequently, expanded litigation.

This leads to a final point. Because the court was divided on these cases, the shifting of one or two votes could make for substantive changes in future decisions. The membership of the court changes. There are several current members who are eligible to retire now. If they chose to do so, the kind of men appointed as their replacements would be decisive. Former Chief Justice Stone said, "The Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is."

As the court membership changes so will its interpretation of the Constitution. The lack of clear decisions and the lack of substantial case law developed by these cases indicates that the proponents of the principle of religious liberty must not be lulled into thinking that this segment of the struggle is won.

Supporters of religious liberty must work on the state and national levels for programs which do not compromise religious liberty and must actively oppose those which do. They must be concerned about future presidential appointments to the courts. They must be willing to sacrifice if they hope to achieve and maintain religious liberty in the United States.



BAPTIST PRESS
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, Acting 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

July 7, 1971

Baptist VIEWpoll
Martin B. Bradley, Director

Baptist Leaders Above National
Average On Book-Reading Audit

by Ken Hayes

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist pastors and Sunday School teachers read books all the way through much more frequently than does the U.S. adult population, a recent survey conducted by the Baptist VIEWpoll has indicated.

The representative panel of pastors and teachers were polled on this question: "When, as nearly as you can recall, did you last read any kind of book all the way through--either a hard cover or a paper-bound book?" Four response alternatives accompanied the question - "in past month," "one month to one year ago," "longer than one year ago," and "never finished a book."

The majority of the pastors (61.6 per cent) and 49.5 per cent of the teachers report having read a book all the way through in the "past month."

According to the Gallup Poll only 26 per cent of the U.S. adult population read a book all the way through during approximately the same one-month period (mid-December to mid-January).

Almost one-third (31.6 per cent) of the pastors and 33 per cent of the teachers reported having read a book all the way through during a period "one month to one year ago."

Sixteen per cent of the teachers and 5.1 per cent of the pastors report that it has been "longer than one year ago" since they have read a book all the way through.

Only 1.3 per cent of the pastors and 1.5 per cent of the teachers indicated they have never finished reading a book all the way through.

All of the teachers on the panel responded to the question, and only 0.4 per cent of the pastors failed to do so.

Data for this report is based on a 91 per cent response from the Baptist VIEWpoll panel, composed of approximately 300 pastors and 300 Sunday School teachers selected to represent a cross section of persons holding those leadership positions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

Church In Inner City Dissolves;
Gives Scholarship To Aid Area

7/7/71

LOUISVILLE (BP)-- Virginia Avenue Baptist Church here is dead, but its ministry to the troubled West End of Louisville will live on during years to come.

Forced to abandon its own ministry to the inner city by radical shifts in urban development, members of the church voted to sell the property, and congregational status, and set up a scholarship fund to aid a seminary student assigned to Christian ministries in the area the church once served.

-more-

Members of the congregation voted to give \$15,000 to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as an endowed scholarship to aid a student assigned to minister in West Louisville.

The scholarship recipient, to be selected by the seminary's director of field education will report to the field education director on the ministry the recipient gives to the area.

In addition to the endowed scholarship, the church also made smaller grants to other Baptist agencies in the area.

-30-

Two Named to Faculty, Staff
Of Southwestern Seminary

7/7/71

FORT WORTH (BP)-- The trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here have elected a new faculty member, at almost the same time seminary president Robert Naylor announced the appointment of a coordinator for use of the seminary's media equipment.

Elected assistant professor of childhood education was Hazel M. Morris, director of children's work for First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

Appointed to the newly-created position of media coordinator was Bill C. Langford, a recent graduate of the seminary. Langford will be responsible for maintaining and supervising the use of all media equipment used by the seminary.

A graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Miss Morris earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary. She taught in Ohio public schools for five years, and was director of a day nursery program in Louisville before joining the Jackson church staff.

Langford is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary. He has worked as an electrical technician, and was the audio technician for the seminary's School of Church Music while a student at the seminary.

-30-

Golden Gate Seminary Receives
Accreditation from Association

7/7/71

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)-- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here has received accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the accrediting agency for educational institutions in California, Hawaii and Guam.

Accreditation came after an examination team from the association visited the seminary last March, and after the seminary faculty had completed a year-long self-study under the direction of Dean Elmer L. Gray and Professor W. A. Carleton.

Golden Gate previously had been accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools.

President Harold K. Graves said the seminary's relationships with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges had been "most profitable", especially in helping the seminary determine higher goals for learning.

The additional accreditation will mean appropriate recognition for alumni who serve in the dual roles of public school teacher and preacher in pioneer areas, Graves added.

-30-

Cooperative Program Gifts
Up 5 1/2% For First Half 1971

7/7/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist gave more than \$36.8 million to world mission causes during the first half of 1971, including \$15 million through the denomination's Cooperative Program unified budget.

-more-

Cooperative Program contributions, which benefit 19 agencies in the denomination, increased 5.49 per cent, or \$783,387 compared to gifts for the same period last year.

The \$38.8 million total also includes \$21.8 million given to support specific designated mission causes in the SBC. Designations were up 6.15 per cent, or \$1,263,990.

The combined total gifts to SBC causes from January through June was an increase of \$2,047,378, or 5.88 per cent.

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee which prepared the financial report, expressed gratitude that Cooperative Program receipts for the first half of the year were up 5.49 per cent, but pointed out the increase was still not quite enough to meet budget needs.

"We will need a 7.72 per cent increase for the year to pay the 1971 operating budget and the balance due on the 1970 capital needs," Routh said. "We will need a 11.48 per cent increase to pay the 1971 operating, and both the 1970 and 1971 capital funds," he added.

The report indicated that during the month of June, Cooperative Program receipts totalled \$2,245,101, an increase of 4.85 per cent compared to June of 1970. In addition during June of 1971, \$1,468,603 was given to designated mission causes.

Of the \$36.8 million total, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, has received \$24.5 million (\$16.8 million in designated gifts, \$7.6 million through the Cooperative Program).

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta, also received \$7.6 million, including \$4.8 million in designated offerings and \$2.7 million through the Cooperative Program.

The amounts included in the report reflect only gifts to nation-wide Southern Baptist causes and do not include contributions to local and state Baptist mission efforts.

-30-

Baptist Leader's Son Turns
Off Drugs, On to Jesus

7/7/71

FORT WORTH (BP)--The teenage son of the president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas told 14,000 young people here that before he turned off of drugs and on to Jesus, he rode a roller coaster of despair that led him twice to attempt suicide.

Seventeen-year-old Skip Allen of San Antonio said he now gets his highs from Jesus instead of from marijuana, mescaline, and LSD.

The 14,000 young people from throughout Texas attending the Texas Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference here rose to their feet, cheering and applauding as Allen said: "I blew off of LSD and turned on to Jesus."

Sitting behind the teenage on the platform was his father, Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio, and president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"I loved LSD," the youth admitted. "I was happy as long as I was stoned--and I was stoned a lot."

But depressions followed the drug-induced highs. He said he had difficulty getting along with people at school and deliberately broke the rules. He tried to kill himself by an overdose of tranquilizers.

"I was afraid of the world and everything around it, and I didn't want to die because I was afraid of death too."

After his second attempt at suicide, Allen said, "I was placed in a school with pregnant girls and dope addicts."

-more-

During a Barry Wood crusade in San Antonio, young Allen was deeply moved by a talk with Justin Tyne, a former drug addict who operates a Christian coffee house in Los Angeles.

"I'm tired of running," he told his father, and he "turned it over to Jesus who caused an amazing transformation in my life."

Often the meeting here turned into a spontaneous old-time revival in modern garb as both long and short-haired youth praised Jesus pep rally style: "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," they yelled, one finger pointing skyward to signify "one way in Christ."

In two decision services, 655 youth made decisions for Christ. Included were 158 professions of faith, 40 special service volunteers, 404 rededications and 53 other commitments.

Former Cleveland Browns football star told the youth that Skip Allen earlier had "put his finger on the problem when he said, 'Sin is pleasurable.'"

"The Bible says the sinner may have pleasure for a season, but sin, like a boomerang, will come back swift and unseen, and it'll clobber you," Glass said.

"In the middle of one of the most tremendous spiritual awakenings I've ever seen are some of the most heinous sins I've ever seen" Glass said.

He noted that Joe Namath, famed quarterback of the New York Jets says free love is all right. "But that's just your problem, Joe Namath. You just don't see at all. You're blind," Glass declared.

"Love is neither free nor love, if it's free love," the ex-Cleveland star said.

Another Christian athlete, Terry Bradshaw, quarterback of the Pittsburgh Steelers, told the young people that he would take Jesus with him as he returned to training camp in July.

Bradshaw, one of three Pittsburg players who reportedly read their Bibles regularly and witness, told the young people, "You'll have no real joy, no real excitement 'till you really learn who Jesus Christ is."

The former all-American star at Louisiana Tech told the young people that he gave his life to Jesus as a high school senior and gave Christ the credit for his success as a professional athlete.

"I realize that my right arm and all the talents I have were given to me by God, but let me tell you something else. He can take them away as quickly as he can give them," Bradshaw said.

"I might never throw another pass, but no one is going to stop loving Jesus Christ for this. It's not going to change me one bit," he added.

The conference soloist, Myrtle Hall of the Billy Graham evangelistic team, told the youth, "my love for Jesus grows deeper and deeper. He's given me an opportunity to communicate with people and to go out and sing my love for him," the Negro soloist added.

Special music, in both traditional and Christian folk style were presented by youth choirs of First Baptist Church, Dallas, which will tour Canada this summer, and by Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, which will tour the Soviet Union.

The youth choir of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, presented a new folk musical, "Real," written by Bob Oldenburg and Lanny Allen of the church's staff.

Another speaker, Peter McLeod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Waco, Tex., said most people make Jesus "a passenger in their lives instead of the captain."

He urged the youth to let the spirit of God dwell in them.

About 10,000 young people from 450 churches took part in a spiritual "blitz" of Fort Worth, singing and telling about Jesus over a wide area of the city.

SBC Missionaries Slain In Dominican Republic

RICHMOND (BP)-- Two Southern Baptist missionaries were found murdered in their residence in Santiago, Dominican Republic, on the morning of July 7, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board here learned.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Potter, 38 and 36, both natives of Marshfield, Mo., were discovered in bed by their children, Susan, 12, and Paul, 10. They had been beaten and stabbed to death.

While investigations were still underway, motive for their deaths was not known. Potter had reportedly cashed a large check the previous day in order to purchase a motorcycle for his work on the day he was killed. It was not immediately known if anything was stolen, however.

Missionary Howard Shoemake, who flew to the site of the tragedy from Santo Domingo, reported that there was no sign of a struggle and that the pair had apparently died without waking. The children, who were not harmed, were asleep during the assault.

Bodies were being flown to Marshfield, Mo., for burial later in the week. The children planned to return with Mrs. Potter's parents to Marshfield.

The murders were the first within the 2,500-missionary Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board since a missionary doctor died in a Communist prison in China in 1951. A missionary was killed in the Taiping Rebellion in 1861, and another was killed in Mexico in 1880.

Baker J. Cauthen, the board's executive secretary, said:

"Paul and Nancy Potter were deeply dedicated to Christ. They loved the people they served and were fruitful in their missionary labor. Even through their tragic death, they will continue to bear witness to our Lord who laid down his life for all mankind."

A field missionary stationed in Santiago, Potter was pastor of two churches and three mission points and worked with the country's radio and television ministry. Mrs. Potter assisted her husband in his preaching ministry.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Potter studied the Spanish language in San Jose, Costa Rica, for a year before going to the Dominican Republic.

He attended Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., and was graduated from Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield, with the bachelor of science degree and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., with the bachelor of divinity degree. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Paris, Mo., for nearly five years before going overseas.

Mrs. Potter, the former Nancy Roper, attended Cottey College, Nevada, Mo., where she was selected by the faculty as the student who most nearly approached "the ideal of intellect and spirituality" and who had exerted "the most wholesome influence upon her associates." She was graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, with the bachelor of science in education degree.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Roper of 579 N. Clay St., Marshfield, Mo., flew to the Dominican Republic on learning of the tragedy, Potter's mother is Mrs. Roy H. Potter of Rt. 2, Marshfield.

The Potters only recently returned to the Dominican Republic in June after a furlough in the United States.



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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