



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, 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

August 12, 1971

30 Religious Leaders Briefed
By White House on Red China

WASHINGTON (BP)--About 30 religious leaders selected by Evangelist Billy Graham, including about eight Southern Baptists, received an hour-long briefing here at the White House on U. S. foreign policy involving Red China.

The briefing was led by Henry A. Kissinger, assistant to the President for national security affairs who made the arrangements in Peking recently for President Nixon's forthcoming visit to mainland China.

Kissinger talked to the 30 religious leaders for about an hour on basic principles of U. S. foreign policy and relations with Red China, with the final 30 minutes of the briefing devoted to questions and discussion by the group.

Following the briefing, the group went into President Nixon's office for a greeting. The President did not attend the briefing itself, which was held in the White House cabinet room.

At the beginning of the meeting, Graham explained that the President and Kissinger had earlier given him a private briefing. He said he was so impressed that he suggested that the White House invite a number of his friends for a similar briefing.

About 30 persons suggested by Graham, most of them representing the conservative and evangelical stream of religious viewpoint, were invited.

Southern Baptists who attended were W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee; Robert Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Graham and his associate T. W. Wilson of the Graham team.

Other Baptist laymen attending were Fred Rhodes, deputy administrator of Veterans Administration and former vice president of the SBC; W. Maxey Jarman of Nashville, former chairman of the board of Genesco, Inc.; and Bill Meade of Dallas, a bakery executive.

Among other churchmen who attended were such persons as radio commentator Paul Harvey, Christianity Today Editor Harold Lindsell, Campus Crusade Director Bill Bright, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Director Jim Jefferies, World Vision Director Stan Mooneyham, and others.

Most of those attending would have "no comment" on the briefing, saying that Graham told them the briefing was "off the record."

In Dallas, however, Criswell, immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, held a press conference following the briefing, saying he endorsed President Nixon's plan to visit Red China.

Criswell told the Baptist Press that he had asked Kissinger if he could quote him on his answer to a question Criswell had asked concerning U. S. support of Israel, and that Kissinger had said flatly, "Yes." Criswell added that since Kissinger's other remarks were generally known, he did not feel what little he said to the press would be damaging.

Asked if he endorsed President Nixon's trip to Peking, Criswell replied, "Yes, and I feel doubly that way after the briefing.

"It is unthinkable," Criswell said, "That we could blind our eyes to the fact that Red China is here. Red China is an astronomical fact." He cited 800 million inhabitants which he said soon would grow to one billion.

Criswell said Nixon was going to Peking because Red China must be reckoned with as a world power, and because of the deep cleavage in the Communist world. "We don't want Russia speaking for the entire Communist world," he said.

He added that Russia and China are deeply divided, practically and ideologically; that the Russians are blunt realists and the Chinese are zealous idealists; and that China could not challenge U. S. power for years to come but Russia could now.

Criswell added that the President's visit to China would seek to improve relations with a growing world power, but that America will not allow Southeast Asia to fall to the Communists.

-30-

Loan Service of Mission
Agency Expands Nationally

8/12/71

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board voted here to expand the work of its Division of Church loans by eliminating limitations for its work only to "new territory" areas and expanding its activities to the entire nation.

Since 1959, operating on the basis of limited funds and resources, the division had confined its work to those state conventions (organized since 1940) where most new churches were being started and where local financing was hard to find because Southern Baptists were not well known, board officials said.

Robert H. Kilgore of Atlanta, director of the division, said needs in the states where Southern Baptists are well established are greater now than in 1959.

He said weekly requests from these areas have been far between 10 to 20 loans. The division has made arrangements for expanded borrowing of funds to be used for these loans. However, Kilgore does not expect money to be the major assistance.

"Counseling to correlate the purchase of land and erection of buildings as it relates to the financial program of the church will be our major commodity," he said.

He cited an increasing number of churches which have been abused because of unwise financial planning, excessive building, and even erecting the wrong type of building.

"Quite often the location of the facilities in the community are not planned in relationship to the changing complex of the community or the growing edge of the community," he said.

Financial assistance may run second to counseling but funds will go for two purposes: (1) the purchase of church sites where new churches are being organized, and (2) where local financing cannot be obtained reasonably, the division will make loans as it is able.

The loans will not exceed \$1,000,000 for 20 years, and they are made for the "going rate" of interest based on current economic conditions and sound business principles.

"Mostly our rate of interest is determined by the rate we are required to pay for funds we borrow," Kilgore said. Currently that rate is 8 1/2 percent, but the division does not charge for its services.

Kilgore stressed the fact that the present action will not alter the division's ability to serve the churches in the newer areas.

-30-

Home Mission Board Names
Three New Staff Members

8/12/71

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, in annual session at Glorieta Baptist Assembly here, elected three new staff members to the national mission agency with offices in Atlanta.

E. Warren Rust, former president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and pastor in St. Louis, Mo., was named assistant director of the Division of Associational Services; and Roy W. Owen of the board staff, was appointed associate director of that division.

-more-

In addition, H. Dewey Barlow, pastor in Phoenix, Ariz., was elected secretary of the board's mission property services.

Owen, who previously has been assistant director of rural-urban missions in the Division of Associational Services, was appointed associate director in the division to succeed John McBride, who resigned to become executive assistant of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA).

Rust, who was pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St. Louis, will direct the division's work in metropolitan missions.

Barlow, pastor of Southern Baptist Temple in Phoenix, will implement actions of the mission agency concerning property, vehicles and office equipment used in mission work.

The three appointments were made during the board's summer meeting at Glorieta Baptist Assembly at the end of a week-long Home Missions Conference at Glorieta.

A native of Covington, Ky., Rust was president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention while pastor of First Baptist Church, Cleveland, Tenn., before going to the St. Louis church in 1963.

Rust said the Tower Grove church sought to develop a comprehensive ministry to people in the community in a parallel effort to develop a metropolitan program that emphasized pooling of resources and relationships with community resources to help people.

"I have a conviction that one of the priorities of Southern Baptists is to determine an adequate strategy of mission to minister to metropolitan areas," Rust said. "The theological and historical concept of the meaning and mission of the association needs serious review in the development of the modern metropolis," he said.

Rust has been chairman of the metro-missions committee of the St. Louis Baptist Association since 1966. He is also chairman of the board of trustees for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. He has been a trustee for both institutions.

Owen is a former superintendent of missions for Western Colorado and North and South Dakota.

Barlow, a native of Bowie, Tex., is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of Baptist churches in Weslaco, Tex.; Wichita Falls, Tex.; and Central Baptist Church, Phoenix, before becoming pastor of Baptist Temple in Phoenix.