



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2356
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) 254-5461
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

September 23, 1971

Cauthen Says China May Repudiate Communism, Or Become Super Power

NASHVILLE (BP)--The masses in mainland China could repudiate Communism after the death of its elderly leaders, or Red China could become a world super power, the executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board predicted here.

Baker J. Cauthen, administrator of the nation's largest Protestant mission force and former missionary to China, made the predictions in an address before a Southern Baptist Communications Conference sponsored by the denomination's Executive Committee.

The future of China, he said, could bring the emergence of another great super power, or it could include the fragmentation of Communist leadership, or the masses of people could even reject Communism completely.

Cauthen did not say which of the possibilities he felt was most likely. "Things Chinese are not easy to understand," he explained.

On the possibility of China's becoming a super power, Cauthen described the Chinese mainland as a "colossus" from the standpoints of size, natural resources and human capabilities. He quoted Arnold Toynbee, saying, "The 21st century may be the Chinese century."

The image some westerners have projected of Chinese ignorance and lack of education is false, he said. "They have great capacity, great intelligence."

The Baptist missionary to China from 1939-45 added that there are "retarding factors" to China's becoming a super power.

They include, he said, the drag of China's tremendous population of more than 800 million, the sharp cleavage between Russia and China, and Japan's tremendous economic strength and possible future military might.

Asking what will happen when Chairman Mao Tse-Tung and Premier Chou En-lai die or lose power, Cauthen said...there is a possibility that Communist leadership, and all of China might fragment. "China has a history of fragmentation between great dynasties."

Concerning the possibility of complete rejection of Communism on the death of Mao and Chou, Cauthen pointed out that "the current (Communist) system is so un-Chinese that it has ridden rough-shod over what has made China China.

"Confucius' philosophy has been completely repudiated," he pointed out. "Mao has said, 'You must deal with a Confucian like a rat.'"

He added that Communism has destroyed the family system, which for centuries was rooted deeply in Chinese culture.

Describing the Chinese people as "patient," Cauthen added that they are also "explosive" and unpredictable. They could completely repudiate Communism.

"I'm not saying that this is going to happen, but it is a possibility," he observed.

Citing a precedent for such in Chinese history, Cauthen described the Chin dynasty which built the Great Wall of China, but also burned books on Confucianism and killed Chinese scholars about 220 B.C.

"In seven years, the people had enough. They repudiated it (the Chin dynasty) lock stock and barrel."

Earlier, Winston Crawley, Overseas Division director for the board, had traced the history of the development of Chinese cultures and dynasties. He, too, referred to the Chin dynasty.

On the thaw in United States-Red China relations, Cauthen said that regardless of apparent better relations, the Red Chinese still hate the United States because of previous mistakes of the western world in trying to relate to China.

Also, the United States stands between Formosa and mainland China, between the Red Chinese and the enemy they want to destroy, he said. Thus America is caught in a long-standing and deep hatred between Nationalist China and Red China.

An added factor is that the Communism of China is the most violent kind of Communism, far more violent than Russian Communism. "And we are the fury of their hatred."

Despite this deep hatred by the Communist Chinese, there is a "deep underlying bed rock of good will" among the masses of older Chinese who remember that the United States tried to help them find freedom in the fight against Japan in World War II, he said.

In the matter of U.S. relationships with Red China, he advised taking "the long, long look--wait, watch, listen and address ourselves to the people, the masses, with love and concern.

"We need to engage in dialogue with them and talk and talk and talk. We should be slow to make any agreements, for when a Communist makes an agreement, it is a step toward an objective out in the future," he said.

During a question and answer period, Cauthen said he had received no response yet from the White House following a formal request from the elected Foreign Mission Board in August suggesting a meeting between Cauthen and President Richard M. Nixon.

Asked about possible admission of both China to the United Nations, Cauthen said Red China would be slow to enter the U. N., while the Nationalist Chinese government is still represented.

"It is my personal opinion that it would be very regrettable if Nationalist China were excluded from the U.N.," Cauthen said. He added it would have repercussion in other Southeast Asia countries.

Asked when he thought the earliest date a group of Christians from the United States could visit Christians in Red China, Cauthen said it would be "quite a while."

Noting that the president of the Baptist World Alliance, V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia had expressed publicly a desire to visit Red China, Cauthen said he did not expect a visa to be available for that purpose. "Frankly, I'd be surprised if that materializes quickly."

Earlier, in his speech, Cauthen pointed out that "churches in China are closed. Most Christians are dead or in work camps. China is not about to open doors to missionaries or allow widespread preaching of the gospel any time soon. We won't see any great welcome sign for the message of Christ to be preached," he said.

He added that he hoped if the day came for Christians to visit Christians in mainland China that people such as Eugene Hill, who shared the platform with him, could go "and talk and weep and ask them in love what to do."

Hill, secretary for missionary education and promotion for the board, was a missionary in Canton, China, at the time of the Communist takeover in 1949. He was put in prison for questioning more than 50 times after the takeover, he related.

Hill cited five things the Communists did after assuming power: (1) they nationalized everything; (2) they instituted total and ruthless indoctrination, (3) they used all means possible to subvert and spy on everyone, (4) they conducted mock trials and sentenced and eliminated suspected enemies and (5) they promoted anti-religious activities, closed the churches and prohibited teaching and preaching.

-30-

SBC Executive Committee
Clears Bylaw 16 Ruling

9/23/71

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee voted to recommend a bylaw change which, if approved, would in effect reverse a parliamentary ruling that automatically referred more than a dozen motions from the convention floor to the committee.

-more-

The 63-member Executive Committee proposed amendments to the convention's Bylaw 12 and Bylaw 16, both relating to voting procedures at the denomination's annual meeting. Both amendments must be approved by the Southern Baptist Convention next June in Philadelphia.

Bylaw 16 would be clarified by specifying that a referral clause applies to "recommendations by an agency," rather than to motions from the floor.

The proposed amendment would provide that "recommendations by an agency which are not published in the (SBC) Book of Reports or Convention Bulletin shall...be referred to the Executive Committee or to such other committee as the convention may direct."

The amendment would reverse a parliamentary ruling at the 1971 convention in St. Louis which applied the current bylaw stipulation to motions from the floor which related to SBC agencies but were not printed in the Book of Reports or SBC Bulletin.

Action by the Executive Committee came in response to two bylaw changes proposed by Jim Jones of Forest City, N.C., who had asked that the convention delete the Bylaw 16 statement which now reads, "Any motion or resolution affecting such agency or institution, which is not included in its printed report, shall...be referred to the Executive Committee...."

Jones also recommended that a section in Bylaw 12 dealing with voting procedures assigned to the SBC committee on order of business be deleted saying the committee could possibly recommend that a motion introduced one year might be held over until the next year.

The Executive Committee changed one word to indicate scheduling of votes should come during the same year a motion is introduced. It recommended substituting the word "that" for the word "the" so that the phrase would read: "...action thereon to be taken at a subsequent session of that (not "the") convention."

During the two-day meeting here, the Executive Committee dealt with a dozen motions referred to it by the convention either by direct action, or under the Bylaw 16 ruling. Most of the motions were referred to subcommittees or other SBC agencies for report and action by the February meeting of the Executive Committee.

The committee took action on only three of the St. Louis convention referrals during the September meeting--the Jones motion on Bylaws 12 and 16; a motion by M.O. Owens of Gastonia, N.C., regarding the Baptist Program magazine; and a motion by J. H. Spencer of Alabama requesting more financial support for foreign missions.

"In response to the motion...by M. O. Owens," said the Executive Committee, "we have studied carefully the materials on the Bible which were presented in the Baptist Program (magazine) and believe that an earnest effort was made by the editors to present a balanced response to the article.

"We believe," the committee continued, "that no good cause will be served by continuing the controversy in the Baptist Program." Owens had asked that a conservative scholar refute an article in the magazine entitled "Shall We Call the Bible Infallible?"

The Executive Committee voted to "acknowledge the Spencer motion...and report that everything possible is being done to increase funds to the Foreign Mission Board with consideration to the urgent needs of other agencies."

None of the proposals prompted debate or opposition during the committee meeting. The only debate of the two-day session came in response to a recommendation presented by the Executive Committee's "Committee of 15" assigned to study the total structure and organization of the convention in the light of implementation of a 1959 reorganization.

The Committee of 15 had recommended that the Baptist Program magazine be shifted from the Executive Committee public relations office to the administration section and that it concentrate on promotion of the Cooperative Program and interpretation of the convention programs. The proposal passed unanimously in the first session, but the committee voted to reconsider it the next night.

Wallace Denton, professor at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., asked that the proposal be reconsidered, saying that the motion called for refocusing the emphasis of the magazine.

"Something this important demands more consideration based on more information than we had available last night," Denton said.

With only a few negative votes, the Executive Committee approved Denton's motion to refer the proposal to the administrative subcommittee of the Executive Committee for more discussion.

Denton also urged the need for outlining a procedure whereby other recommendations in the future from the Committee of 15 would provide full information in advance to all concerned. The Executive Committee approved a motion asking the committee to draft such a procedure for presentation in February and to publicize at least two weeks prior to the February meeting any recommendations they might bring at that time concerning SBC organization.

In other actions, the committee adopted a nine-months Executive Committee operating budget for 1972 totalling \$259,200; approved a policy inviting as many as six selected students to participate in Executive Committee meetings; selected the Hilton Hotel as the headquarters for the 1973 convention in Portland; approved a procedure for changing an agency's program statements; and authorized a \$325,000 self-liquidating loan for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., to construct a mobile home park.

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted commending the work of retiring Baptist leaders W. L. Howse, Education Division director for the SBC Sunday School Board; L. O. Griffith, Communications Division director for the SBC Home Mission Board; and George W. Cummins, Chaplaincy Division director for the Home Mission Board.

Nearly a dozen matters were referred to subcommittees, or to SBC agencies for action or study. Most of the referrals requested that a report be made in February.

Two motions presented to the SBC in St. Louis were sent to the Sunday School Board--a request to eliminate the position of doctrinal reader at the board and a request to delete the word "Broadman" from the Broadman Bible Commentary.

A resolution at the St. Louis convention on the relation between the Radio-Television Commission and the National Council of Churches was referred to the commission.

The finance subcommittee of the Executive Committee was requested to explore with the SBC agencies a convention request concerning investment practices and report in February.

The SBC Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board were requested to study jointly responsibilities for church bus ministries and the Home and Foreign Mission Boards were requested to study world mission conference needs and methods. The Foreign Mission Board was asked to study providing moving expenses for missionaries under certain circumstances.

A consultation was approved for leaders concerned with the problem of counseling ministers, and the Annuity Board was asked to study retirement fund matters for Southern Baptist hospitals no longer related to the SBC.

The SBC Home Mission Board and Radio-TV Commission were asked to jointly study use of television for evangelism and a program statement change requested by the commission was to be circulated to other SBC agencies for their consideration before February action.

More than 235 persons attended the opening session of the two-day meeting, filling to capacity the Austin Crouch Room at the SBC Building where the committee meets.

9/23/71

BAPTIST PRESS PHOTO

WASHINGTON'S CHAPLAIN PAINTING PRESENTED: A copy of a painting of Chaplain John Gano leading General George Washington's troops in prayer in 1783 was presented to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in Nashville. Making the presentation was George Cummins, retiring executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Chaplain's Commission, Atlanta (left). Accepting were Owen Cooper (center), Yazoo City, Miss., layman and chairman of the Executive Committee, and Porter W. Routh (right), executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee. The painting is one of a series depicting "Great Moments in Baptist History" by artist Erwin M. Hearne, Jr., of Dallas. (BP) Photo