

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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December 16, 1971

Survey Shows Most Baptists
Willing to Restrict Rights

By Floyd A. Craig

NASHVILLE (BP)--A majority of Southern Baptists questioned in a recent survey seem willing to restrict some of the basic freedoms constitutionally guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

The survey, conducted by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention with the assistance of the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, questioned Baptist pastors, Sunday School directors, Woman's Missionary Union directors, and Baptist Student Union presidents concerning their views on freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Patterned after the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) news poll taken in 1970, the survey asked the same questions in the CBS poll. The questionnaire, sent to 914 Southern Baptists in a national random sampling, was answered by 478 respondents (53 per cent).

Generally, the Baptist pastors, Sunday School directors, and WMU directors--the adults polled--reflected similar answers to those responding to the CBS poll. Of the ten questions asked in both polls, less than five percentage points separated the CBS and Baptist adult responses on six questions. Three of the four questions with a 9 to 13 per cent variance indicated more support among Southern Baptist adults for the Bill of Rights freedoms than reflected in the CBS poll.

The Baptist Student Union presidents responding to the questionnaire, however, were at opposite ends of the poll compared to both Baptist adults and CBS respondents on questions relating to peaceful assembly, free press, free speech, double jeopardy, preventive detention, and rights of privacy.

Generally, the respondents most likely to express a willingness to restrict various freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights were (1) women, (2) older people, and (3) those with relatively low levels of education.

Respondents in the Baptist questionnaire ranked slightly higher in the number of years of education than did respondents in the CBS poll, primarily because of the number of pastors with seminary education responding.

Here is the way the majority of the Baptist respondents replied to some of the key questions:

Two out of three (67 per cent) of the adult Baptist respondents, as compared to one out of four (27 per cent) of the BSU presidents, expressed belief that extremist groups should not be permitted to organize demonstrations against the government, even if there appeared to be no clear danger of violence. The question related to the right of peaceful assembly in the First Amendment.

The generation gap is also reflected in results of the question asking if respondents felt everyone should have the right to criticize the government, even if the criticism might be damaging to the national interest. Half the adults (52 per cent) said no; yet only one-fourth (26 per cent) of the BSU presidents would restrict this right.

The trend held up when well over half the Baptist adults (59 per cent) and only one-third (30 per cent) of the college group felt that newspapers, radio and television should not be permitted to report some stories considered by the government to be harmful to national interests.

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The Bill of Rights' guarantees against "double jeopardy" and "preventive detention" also would be restricted by most Baptist respondents. Two thirds of the adults (64 per cent) and two-fifths of the students (39 per cent) felt that if a person were found innocent of a serious crime, but new evidence is uncovered after the trial, the person should be tried again. Nearly one-half (46 per cent) of the adults and over one-fourth (27 per cent) of the students felt that if a person is suspected of a serious crime, the police should be allowed to hold him until they can get enough evidence to charge him with a crime.

These findings would suggest that group protests, vocal dissent, and the resulting publicity apparently have surpassed the public's level of tolerance. The general concern for law and order seems to have led people to a willingness to curtail the rights of the individual.

On the other hand, other constitutional guarantees involving the judicial process appear to be so deeply embedded in society that Southern Baptist respondents, young and old, continue to uphold them.

In particular, more than nine out of ten (93 per cent of the adults and 97 per cent of the students) felt that guilt or innocence in a criminal case should be decided by a jury, not by the judge alone; nearly three out of four (70 per cent adults and 73 per cent students) felt the government should never be allowed to hold a secret trial; and two out of three (64 per cent and 79 per cent) said that police should not be allowed to enter someones home without a search warrant even if they suspect that drugs, guns or other evidence are hidden there.

When questioned about the rights of defendants in criminal cases to avoid self-incrimination, nearly one-half (45 per cent) of the Baptist adult respondents, compared to three-fourths (78 per cent) of the students, said that a suspect should have the right not to answer questions if he feels his answers may be used against him.

More than one-third of the adult (38 per cent) and student (36 per cent) respondents said they believe there are times when the government should be allowed to keep the identity of witnesses secret from the defendant during court trials. The sixth amendment guarantees the right of the accused "to be confronted with the witnesses against him."

Two questions on the Baptist survey were not included in the CBS poll, one dealing with freedom of religion and the other with rights of privacy.

When asked if religious training should be provided in the public schools, since many children do not receive "Christian instruction at home," more than half the Baptist adults (52 per cent) and students (53 per cent) responding agreed that religious training should be provided in public schools.

In comments written below the questions, some respondents said that religious training would be acceptable to them if it were conducted by "good Baptist teachers," or "if it were conservative teaching."

Three-fourths (76 per cent) of the adults and 56 per cent of the students responding approved of tapping the telephones of persons involved in questionable activities.

When results of the survey were presented to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission meeting here, several commission members said the responses were "frightening."

The results seem to indicate, many commission members agreed, that Southern Baptists responding to the survey do not fully appreciate and understand the rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Bill of Rights, nor do they seem to perceive how their desire to restrict freedoms for certain individuals and groups could endanger freedom for all.

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Georgia Baptists to Build
New Administrative Center

12/16/71

ATLANTA (BP)--Georgia Baptists will soon have a new Baptist Administrative Center, located on Atlanta Baptist College property in Northeast Atlanta.

The Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted to buy 25 acres of land from Atlanta Baptist College upon which to build the long-discussed new headquarters building for the state convention.
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Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary of the convention, said "I would guess that the new Baptist Administrative Center will cost about \$2.5 million, based on what I have seen of other state convention offices built in recent years. But that is strictly a guess."

The Executive Committee authorized architects to draw plans for the new building, with final approval for construction and financing to come after drawings and bids are completed.

Garrison explained that an Atlanta developer has offered a long-term lease for the present Baptist Building property in downtown Atlanta. The 99-year lease would net the convention about \$20 million.

That revenue, plus funds already on hand for a new Baptist Building, would finance the proposed new construction, Garrison said.

In other actions, the Georgia Baptist Executive Committee approved a record state mission budget for 1972 of \$1,221,004. Largest item in the budget is \$274,626 for student work at Georgia colleges and universities.

A special committee was also appointed to consider establishing a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts at Norman Baptist Assembly in Norman Park, Ga.

A lengthy set of by-laws governing operations of Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta was also approved, upon request of hospital accrediting agencies.

The Georgia Executive Committee sent a telegram to President Richard M. Nixon pledging prayers for his upcoming trips to Russia and China.

The telegram said "we pray for improved relations with these powers and for a fuller measure of peace for our country and the world as a result of your efforts and travels."

J. Hoffman Harris, pastor of Briarlake Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., was elected new chairman of the Executive Committee.

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Miss Neale Young, SBC
Retired Missionary, Dies

12/16/71

FLORENCE, S.C. (BP)--Miss Neale Young, emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, once entitled by a Nigerian king as the "queen of the Christians," died here Dec.15. She was 80.

Miss Young was president of the Woman's Missionary Union of Nigeria and Ghana for 26 years, and executive secretary of the women's organization for 13 years more. She retired in 1961.

The Nigerian WMU sent a large floral arrangement in the shape of a map of Africa for Miss Young's funeral. Services were held at Ebenezer Baptist Church here, Dec. 17.

Two former Southern Baptist leaders in Africa conducted the services--George W. Sadler of Richmond, formerly SBC Foreign Mission Board secretary for Africa, Europe and the Near East and former missionary to Nigeria; and I. N. Patterson, missionary to Nigeria for 41 years, who is now visiting professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Under Miss Young's leadership, the Nigerian WMU developed into one of the mainstays of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. Miss Young, as the key leader, was credited with bringing a better life not only to the women but to other Nigerians as well.

Appointed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board as a missionary in 1920, Miss Young assumed leadership of the Nigerian WMU in 1922. WMU members named their WMU assembly in Ede, Nigeria, "Camp Young" in her honor. They called her "Iya ni Israeli," or "Mother in Israel," and wore at an anniversary celebration garments with her picture on them, saying "She Is Our Mother; We Love Her."

In 1959, the Timi (king) of Ede conferred upon Miss Young the honorary title, "Lyalode Ohigbagbo," meaning "leader" or "queen of the Christians." She had once helped him escape when enemies drove him from his throne.

A native of Florence, S.C., she taught school in South Carolina for several years, and attended Southern Seminary (now Southern Seminary Junior College), Buena Vista, Va.; Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C., and Woman's Missionary Union Training School (now merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville) where she received the bachelor of missionary training degree.

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