



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) 254-5461
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

January 21, 1972

**Stewardship Agency to Offer
Counter-Proposal on Structure**

NASHVILLE (BP)--After a four-hour discussion, the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission voted here to offer a counter-proposal as a substitute for a restructure committee's recommendation to dissolve the commission and assign its work to the SBC Executive Committee.

The action came two days after the "Committee of Fifteen," a sub-committee of the SBC Executive Committee, had released its report recommending that the Stewardship Commission be dissolved and its programs be assigned to the Executive Committee, as they had been prior to 1960.

The restructure proposal, along with minor reorganization recommendations for the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Radio-Television Commission, will be presented for a vote to the SBC Executive Committee meeting in Nashville, Feb. 21-23.

Any recommendations approved by the Executive Committee would then have to be approved by the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia, June 5-8, and perhaps again by the 1973 convention.

Strong opposition to the Committee of Fifteen's recommendation was voiced during the Stewardship Commission meeting by several members.

A motion by Albert S. Lineberry of Greensboro, N.C., asking the commission to voice its opposition to the proposal, passed with only one dissenting vote, but only after it was amended to emphasize positive alternatives to the committee's recommendation.

A three-member sub-committee of the commission was appointed under the amended motion to draft a counter-proposal to be presented to the SBC Executive Committee.

The counter-proposal, being circulated by mail among commission members, states that the commission does not feel the restructure committee's proposals "best meet the stated objective of enhancing the work presently done by the commission."

Instead of dissolving the commission and assigning its work to the Executive Committee, the commission will likely propose two other steps instead, according to the draft of the three commission members:

First, that a committee of three Executive Committee members and three Stewardship Commission members be created to recommend means by which the thinking of the two organizations, and efforts regarding promotion of the commission's program assignments, can best be correlated.

Second, that representation on the Stewardship Commission be broadened to include as non-voting members representatives from other SBC agencies, as deemed needed by the joint committee.

If the second proposal is approved, the organizational pattern for the Stewardship Commission representation would be somewhat similar to what the Committee of Fifteen is recommending for another SBC agency, the Radio-TV Commission, which would have on its commission non-voting staff members of several other SBC agencies.

Three major reasons for the counter-proposal were cited by the sub-committee drafting the proposals:

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1. Recognition of the need for greater involvement of all agencies in the ~~programs of stewardship~~ promotion.

2. Recognition of the "image" problem that would exist if the Executive Committee assumed stewardship promotion assignments, including a feeling that the Executive Committee should have no programs of its own, since it is the agency which allocates funds to the programs.

Furthermore, assignment of stewardship programs to the Executive Committee would intensify a growing opposition to greater centralization, the stewardship sub-committee pointed out.

3. Improvement of a recognized successful method of stewardship promotion rather than reverting to a method already proved less desirable.

In its report to the Executive Committee, the Committee of Fifteen had listed seven reasons for proposing the return of stewardship promotion to the Executive Committee.

"Better teamwork" was cited in three of the reasons. It would also return a three-way partnership into stewardship promotion that had existed from 1919 to 1960, between the Executive Committee, the SBC agencies, and the state conventions, the committee said.

Furthermore, it would put under one organization the responsibility for promoting Cooperative Program giving and recommending Cooperative Program budget allocations, the committee argued.

Most of the commission meeting here was spent in debating the advantages and disadvantages of the restructure committee's proposals.

Glen Norman, pastor from San Jose, Calif., said he felt the restructure committee's reasons for making the proposal "are exceedingly hazy."

A. L. Harris of Missouri called the restructure proposal "a step backward," and Paul Faircloth of Washington, D.C., said he felt the apparent centralization of power in the Executive Committee was "dangerous."

Echoing Faircloth's comments on centralization, Charles McKay of Phoenix, Ariz., urged the commission to fight the proposal on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention if necessary.

Lineberry, who made the motion to oppose the proposal, said he did not feel restructure and realignment of the programs was the answer to better teamwork in reversing trends for local churches to keep more funds locally for their own work and send less to missions.

Only three commission members said they felt the commission should not oppose the restructure proposal. All three favored taking no official position.

H. C. Croslin, state stewardship secretary for Illinois Baptists, said he felt the committee's proposals had merits, especially since the Interagency Council of the SBC and the state stewardship secretaries generally favor assigning the stewardship programs to the Executive Committee. Croslin said he felt there would be better rapport between state conventions and SBC agencies if stewardship were the responsibility of the SBC Executive Committee.

V. C. Kruschwitz of Kentucky and A. F. Nelson of Louisiana also favored taking no official stand. Kruschwitz said the commission members who felt the Executive Committee was seeking "power" seem to be afraid that the Stewardship Commission might lose a little power. Nelson argued the commission had no authority to determine whether or not it should exist. Nelson cast the lone dissenting vote.

Mrs. Richard Kay of Fresno, Calif., urged the commission to come up with positive proposals as an alternative to the committee's recommendation for Executive Committee consideration.

McKay, Mrs. Kay, and commission chairman Rudolph Fagan of Florida, comprised the committee which was asked to draft the alternatives.

Fagan pointed out that the decisions made by the commission did not involve the commission staff, and that the staff was not present during the discussion of what stance the commission should take. "We don't want anyone to think the staff is opposed to the recommendations," he said.

The commission's executive director, James B. Lackey, took no position on the proposal, listing strengths and weaknesses, and saying he felt the pros and cons balance each other out.

In a statement to Baptist Press after the meeting, Lackey said he felt the commission meeting was a good example of Baptist democracy in action. "The commission listened carefully to the representatives of the Committee of Fifteen, asked incisive questions, and reached a conclusion based on its best judgment and the leadership of the Lord.

"I believe the same spirit of openness that pervaded the Stewardship Commission meeting will exist during the Executive Committee session in February, when the proposal of the Committee of Fifteen and the counter-proposal of the Stewardship Commission are presented," Lackey said.

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Laymen Need Spiritual Guts,
Courage, McCullough Declares

1/21/72

MEMPHIS (BP)--The new executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, in his inaugural address here, called for a new partnership in developing "a new breed of Christian courage, a new quality of spiritual guts on the firing line" for Baptist laymen.

Glendon McCullough, the newest head of the Baptist agency which works with laymen, said it would take a new partnership between laymen and ministers "to turn the world upside-down with this generation of Christian men in business suits or overalls."

The pastor must be neither passive, shepherd, nor super-salesman, but a partner with laymen to enable them to do God's will, McCullough declared.

"The army of lay disciples we could muster for effective evangelism staggers the imagination," he said. "Yet where is the army?"

"Civic clubs and other community groups," he answered, "can count on their participation in everything from light bulb sales to scholarship drives. But the church still depends on hired help (ministers) to win the world. We are fielding the coach instead of the team."

McCullough, who 80 days earlier assumed the top executive post with the Baptist laymen's organization, said he was convinced that Southern Baptists "are ready to tell the Brotherhood Commission to either get with it in a daring way or close up shop and quit talking about it."

The 50-year-old Georgia native told the crown of commission members, brotherhood workers, and SBC agency leaders, however, that "if any of you thought you were coming to the tomb of Lazarus to examine a resurrection or a wake, I've got news for you.

"The Brotherhood Commission . . . certainly isn't dying," he stated emphatically. "I wasn't joining a funeral cortege when I moved to Memphis," quipped the former personnel secretary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

"Exactly the opposite is true," he added. "Brotherhood enrollment is increasing."

McCullough cited statistical projections which indicate the work with men and boys in the SBC experienced the largest percentage enrollment increase of any organization in the SBC during 1971.

He decried the misconception that the Baptist men's program involves only "joining, meeting and listening" and is just another church organization struggling for survival.

"There are good Christian men across this nation who are tired of being just a part of a jolly fellowship or an elite corps of church door greeters or just holding the ushering franchise. They have moved into areas of mission action that are exciting," he declared.

In many cases Baptist laymen are ready and anxious to do things their pastors have been afraid to tackle.

"There are thousands of lay people who are impatient with their church and their denominational leaders," he charged. "They are ready to do something in the areas of race, drugs, youth, poverty, and war."

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Three million Baptist laymen are not "a silent majority," he stated. "Rather, they comprise a group that has been lulled to sleep by the lack of purpose with a real challenge, . . . and a confused theology of clergy and laity that finds no support in the New Testament."

McCullough outlined several steps he plans to lead the Brotherhood Commission to take in order to challenge the committed and awaken the unchallenged.

He listed plans to: keep the good ideas and programs; improve the Brotherhood image; work as a team with other SBC agencies and state Brotherhood leaders; increase promotion of Royal Ambassador work; harness the potential of senior men and young men; train men to witness; involve men in creative and imaginative mission action; undergird SBC stewardship efforts; and build a solid theological basis for their work.

McCullough plead for the help of the SBC leaders present, especially in promoting Royal Ambassador work, reaching older and younger men, challenging men to take action on controversial issues, and helping make laymen feel they are needed.

He outlined plans to promote a program of enlisting young people to serve for one or two years in mission work at their own expense, or at the expense of their parents or churches--a program similar to one sponsored by Mormons.

The commission also is considering a computerized list of one million laymen who have special talents and skills for possible enlistment for emergency mission work in time of local or national disaster.

McCullough added, the commission is also evaluating the need for providing counseling services for young men who are confused and seeking answers over the war ethic. An organization which works primarily with men and boys cannot ignore the issue of conscientious objection, he said.

McCullough said he had been overwhelmed with the extent to which the work and potential of the Brotherhood Commission has been underestimated by Southern Baptists.

"Perhaps the greatest sin of the past has been that this excitement was not communicated adequately to our Baptist constituency.

"To be honest," he continued, "we need some encouraging words instead of cynical comments. I have come to ask some of you tonight to just give us a chance."

Earlier during the evening, a host of Southern Baptist leaders paid tribute to McCullough as the new agency head.

Five SBC leaders, and the administrative assistant to Memphis mayor Wyeth Chandler, brought greetings.

Speaking were Porter Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee; James L. Sullivan of the SBC Sunday School Board; Alma Hunt of the Woman's Missionary Union; Arthur B. Rutledge of the SBC Home Mission Board; Baker James Cauthen of the Foreign Mission Board; and James L. Netters of the mayor's office.

Netters is also pastor of a black Baptist church in Memphis.

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SBC Missionaries in Bangladesh
Want Funds to Rebuild Village

1/21/72

RICHMOND (BP)--Reconstruction of a village outside Feni, Bangladesh, has given Southern Baptist missionaries their first opportunity to become directly involved in relief operations since the former East Pakistan began its fight for independence almost one year ago. Currently, missionaries have \$50,000 with which to begin relief work.

"This opportunity in relief is just what we have been wishing for," said John D. Hughey, the SBC Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe and the Middle East. "Our missionaries can now participate in a substantial way in the relief of suffering and distress in Bangladesh," he added.

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"Southern Baptists now have a chance to prove that they really are concerned for the Bengali people," Hughey remarked. "If we fail now, we may not have another opportunity."

Missionaries had a \$25,000 relief fund on hand which the Bangladesh mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) has authorized for use in rebuilding a village outside of Feni, where two missionary families were formerly stationed.

James F. McKinley Jr., one of the missionaries in Bangladesh, wrote of that relief work: "The village to be reconstructed is within two miles of our Feni residences. There are 119 families who have nothing left but the good earth on which the houses are to be built. Everything was destroyed during the recent crisis.

"This work has been assigned to us by the local authorities. We can rebuild the houses and possibly provide some additional assistance for 119 families for the approximate cost of a good house in the States. Surely this will say something to Southern Baptists."

The mission has requested from the Foreign Mission Board an additional \$75,000 for similar projects in or near Dacca, Comilla and Faridpur. Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the board, has already approved the mission's request for \$25,000 of that money.

In its February meeting the board will be asked to respond to the appeal for the additional \$50,000, Hughey said.

The funds missionaries plan to utilize in this effort amount to a total of about \$100,000, "one of the largest recent Southern Baptist investments in relief," Hughey noted.

McKinley said, "We will be involved in the work ourselves and handle the funds. The money will not be turned over to someone else."

Hughey added that the missionaries have continued attempts to become involved in relief work since the eruption of civil war in East Pakistan last March. But there and in India, where millions of refugees fled during the strife, missionaries were restricted mainly to an indirect involvement.

Until now missionaries have been able to channel funds for relief efforts only through local churches and government-approved relief agencies, or among their own personal acquaintances.

The two missionary families besides the James McKinleys (Ky.) who are currently in Bangladesh are the Troy C. Bennetts (N.C. and Va.) and the Thomas E. Thurmans (Miss.). J. Howard Teel (Ala.) is also in Bangladesh; his family in Bangkok, Thailand, expects to join him soon.

Hughey said that the R. T. Buckleys (Miss.) are preparing to return to Bangladesh in February after a furlough in the United States, and the James E. Youngs (Miss.) will be delayed for a few weeks longer in their return, due to health reasons. The Carl F. Rythers (S.D. and Tex.) are scheduled to return in June after the completion of their furlough.

The Charles A. Becketts (Va.), who have taken a temporary assignment in Taiwan because the Pakistan government denied them a visa, will probably return to Bangladesh in a few months, Hughey said.

In light of recent developments, the prospect of obtaining visas looks much more optimistic than before, according to Hughey. In addition to the return of missionaries already under assignment, it is hoped that the way will soon be open for new appointees to go to Bangladesh, he added.

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Missionaries in Paraguay Injured in Auto Accident

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)--Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Nichols, SBC missionaries in Paraguay, and three of their children are recuperating from injuries suffered Jan. 15 when their car collided with a transport truck less than an hour's drive from their home here. Their son Jon was the only member of the family to escape injury.

The impact sheared off the left side of the Nichols automobile.

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The family was brought to Baptist Hospital here, and all but Jon were admitted. Nichols and his wife, both of whom sustained head injuries, suffered concussions and remained unconscious for an hour or so after their arrival. He had no memory of the accident.

Dr. Donald E. McDowell, missionary surgeon at the hospital, termed 16-year-old Becky the most seriously injured. She suffered fractures of the thigh, upper arm and jaw, and a deep cut in the left shoulder area caused severe bleeding. "Fortunately," he said, "we had her blood type on hand, and we gave her a total of four pints."

In addition, Becky's left ear was partially severed. "We were able to suture the ear back," said Dr. McDowell, "and I believe it is going to take all right."

He reported by ham radio five days later that circulation in the ear was good.

Susan, nearly 8, suffered fractures of the collarbone and the tibia, the heavier bone between ankle and knee. She and her mother were released three days after the accident.

Amy, 14, who was released a day earlier, is caring for them. She was treated for a cut on the back of the head.

Nichols, scheduled to be released with his wife, was detained when doctors discovered that several of his ribs were fractured.

The crash occurred in daylight on a highway slippery from rain. The family was returning from a five-day vacation on the Brazilian coast.

Only because of an unusual circumstance was blood of Becky's type on hand in the hospital, according to McDowell. "The day before the accident," reported Dr. McDowell, "an unknown man appeared at the hospital and said that he wanted to give blood. He had RH negative blood, and since we have little use for this group, he was turned away. He remained, however, and insisted that he wanted to give. So, more to please him, the blood was finally extracted by the technician. This pint of blood may have saved Becky's life."

Other donors were found later that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, natives of Arkansas, were appointed missionaries in 1958 while he was pastor of Baugh Chapel Baptist Church, Austin, Ark. He is a native of Mountain View, and she is the former Deanie Marshall of Cabot.

He has been director of the Baptist Theological Institute in Asuncion since 1969 and is executive secretary of the Paraguayan Baptist Convention.

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Sunday School Worker
George Stuart Dies

1/21/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--George Wilse Stuart, 60, long-time Southern Baptist Sunday School worker, died Jan. 20 in St. Thomas Hospital.

A consultant in the general officers section, Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Stuart had been recovering from a heart attack suffered in December.

A native of Paragould, Ark., he was educated at Arkansas State College, Jonesboro, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Stuart came to the board in July, 1960, as a consultant in extension work. Later he served as a consultant in associational work and as a general administration consultant. Working in the area of outreach and enlargement of the Bible teaching program, he compiled the study course book "A Guide to Sunday School Enlargement." He directed Sunday School enlargement campaigns in major metropolitan associations in most of the Baptist state conventions. He worked in his local church, Beumont Heights Baptist, as the Sunday School outreach director.

Prior to joining the board's staff, he was associate in the Sunday School department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1957-60. In that capacity he was in charge of associational and district promotion.

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Earlier he served as minister of education for Baring Cross Baptist Church, North Little Rock, Ark.; South Beckley Baptist Church, Dallas; First Baptist Church, Muskogee, Okla.; Northwest Baptist Church, Oklahoma City; and First Baptist Church, Galveston, Tex.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ferne Barnes of Nashville; a son, George Michael Stuart; a daughter, Mrs. Gene Mason; and one grandson, all three of Dallas.

Funeral services were scheduled at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, on Jan. 22, and at First Baptist Church, Paragould, Ark., on Jan. 23.

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BP PHOTO being mailed separately to Baptist state paper editors.

Shoulder to Shoulder
Negroes, Whites Rebuild

1/21/72

TEXARKANA, Tex. (BP)--Negroes and whites from several Texas cities started a new year laboring in sub-freezing weather here to rebuild a Negro Baptist church that burned to the ground in fire bombings last March.

White Baptist volunteers from churches in Tyler and Dallas worked with Negroes and whites from Texarkana in what B. C. Green, pastor of the burned St. Paul Baptist Church, called "an old-fashioned log-raising."

"Both races are working together, shoulder to shoulder, eyeball to eyeball, rebuilding in love what was destroyed in hate," said Lory Hildreth, pastor of Texarkana's First Baptist Church.

He said his church gave \$5,000 in a special offering to purchase construction materials, and many laymen from the congregation are helping in the construction in the southwest edge of the city.

More than \$35,000 has been raised to help rebuild the St. Paul and the Mt. Orange Baptist churches, both of which were destroyed in fire bombings in March 1971.

The burnings followed racial disturbances between Texarkana students that forced the closing of a local high school. Fire bombs which failed to ignite were found in three other churches.

Taylor Pendley, coordinator of church extension for the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), said the cooperative effort to rebuild has resulted in a greater understanding between blacks and whites.

Finished spruce logs for the walls, trucked in from Colorado, will help provide a \$100,000 building to seat 300 people for a fraction of the normal construction cost, said Carson Everett, mission-church builder for the 1.9 million-member BGCT. He was named to supervise construction after helping erect a similar log church in Laredo, Tex.

Everett said cooperation by the all-volunteer army of mostly unskilled builders has resulted in completion of the walls of the new church in only two weeks.

St. Paul Baptists hope to worship in the new building for the first time on the anniversary of the date it was burned.

"The new church will stand as a monument of something we are doing together," said Mrs. Clara Rodgers, director of the St. Paul Baptist Youth Choir.

"The night that the church was burned," said Mrs. Rodgers, "I looked out my window and I cried. It hurt me to know there were people in our world that could do a thing like this. But it has united our hearts and minds," she added.

Green said the response to the tragedy "has brought us closer together and made the community more conscious of race relations."

The arsonists never were apprehended, and a \$5,000 reward by the chamber of commerce for information leading to their arrest was added to the rebuilding fund.

Larry Rose, missionary of the Bowie Baptist Association, which includes Texarkana, said the effort had resulted in "the finest spirit of cooperation that I've seen in the five years I've been in Texarkana."

Nixon Challenges Nation To Humanitarian Progress

WASHINGTON (BP)--President Nixon, in the annual State of the Union Message, called welfare reform "the first item of unfinished business" for the second session of the 92nd Congress.

In a nationally televised program the President delivered a 4,000-word statement on the State of the Union, recounting the achievements of this administration and calling for bipartisan help in enacting more than 90 of his proposals still before this Congress. The proposals, with welfare reform heading the list, include programs to improve life for the aging, to combat crime and drug abuse, to improve health services, and to promote equal opportunity for members of minorities.

Other major items relate to the environment, help for the cities, new initiatives in education and programs to revitalize rural America.

Since he made his proposals in August 1969 to reform the welfare system in the country, Nixon said, some four million additional persons have been added to the welfare rolls at an additional cost of \$4.2 billion.

Nixon did not spell out his proposals for coping with what he called "the gathering crisis of school finance and property taxes." Recommendations on this will come later this year, he said.

"But these recommendations will be revolutionary," Nixon promised, departing briefly from his printed speech.

On the same day as the State of the Union Message, the Senate finance committee announced three weeks of hearings on welfare reform. Twice the House of Representatives has passed bills to cover the President's proposals, but for various reasons the Senate has not acted.

Sen. Russell B. Long, chairman of the Senate finance committee, promised that his committee would report a bill to the Senate by March 1.

In a 14,000-word message delivered to each senator and representative, the President dealt at length with the need to resolve the critical question of how best to finance our schools. The overhaul of school finance involves two complex and interrelated sets of problems, the President said, "those concerning support of the schools themselves, and also the basic relationships of federal, state and local governments in any program of tax reform."

In earlier messages, the President has indicated support for finding ways for the government to aid private and parochial schools. His commission of school finance, due to report in March of this year, was asked especially to investigate ways that federal funds could be used for these schools.

Also in his larger message to Congress, the first of its kind by any president, Nixon asked for a new emphasis on career education and the development of programs that combine the most valuable features of both vocational and academic education.

The President's message did not include specific proposals for changing the present system, but he urged "a nationwide search for such methods--a search which involves every area of education and every level of government."

"Let's make this a year of action for the aging," the President challenged Congress. In another plug for his bill on welfare reform, Nixon said the 21 million older Americans would benefit especially from some of the proposals of H.R. 1, the President's welfare reform bill. Specifically the bill would place a national floor under the income of all older Americans, it would guarantee inflation-proof social security benefits, allow social security recipients to earn more from their own work, increase benefits for widows, and provide a five per cent increase in payments.

Altogether, H.R. 1, as it now stands, would mean some \$5.5 billion in increased benefits for America's older citizens, Nixon said.

The President also asked Congress to eliminate the \$5.80 monthly fee now charged under Part B of Medicare--a step which would add an additional \$1.5 billion to the income of the elderly.

Also, following up promises made at the White House Conference on Aging which convened in late 1971, the President asked for a five-fold increase in the budget of the administration on aging. The funds will be used largely to enable older citizens to stay in their own homes and will expand service programs for older Americans such as Foster Grandparents, the Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) and others.

In his remarks on education, both in the extended message and in the televised spe ch to Congress, Nixon expressed concern over local control of schools.

"All of my recommendations (on education), however, will be rooted in one fundamental principle with which there can be no compromise: local school boards must have control over local schools." In the house chamber, filled with senators, representatives, members of the Cabinet and the Supreme Court, diplomats from foreign countries and other very important visitors, there was long and loud applause.

In his written message, the President said: "We must have an end to the dual school system, as conscience and the Constitution both require--and we must also have good schools.

"In this connection, I repeat my own firm belief that educational quality--so vital to the future of all our children--is not enhanced by unnecessary busing for the sole purpose of achieving an arbitrary racial balance."



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