

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Brotherhood Commission Urges
Change in Restructure Proposal**

MEMPHIS (BP)--The Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention voted here to recommend a change in the restructure proposal released four days earlier by the Committee of Fifteen, a subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee assigned to study the organizational structure of the denomination.

In a unanimous vote at the suggestion of the state Brotherhood secretaries, the commission asked that only laymen and pastors, not state Brotherhood secretaries, serve as elected, voting members of the commission.

The Committee of Fifteen had recommended that the Brotherhood Commission be composed of one-half laymen, one-fourth pastors and one-fourth state Brotherhood directors.

The commission's counter-proposal will recommend a commission composed of three-fourths laymen and one-fourth pastors.

During discussion of the proposals here, state Brotherhood secretaries who spoke were unanimous in saying they did not want to serve as official members of the commission.

Glendon McCullough, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, said he and his staff had consulted with the state Brotherhood secretaries and the state men said they "want a voice, not a vote."

In other actions, the commission approved the first report of its new executive secretary, including a recommendation from McCullough that the Brotherhood Commission offer to serve as the promotional agency for involving more Southern Baptists in world mission conferences.

If the offer is accepted, the Brotherhood Commission would become the SBC agency responsible for promotion of association-wide world mission conferences (formerly called schools of missions).

McCullough said that the executive secretaries of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Arthur Rutledge and Baker J. Cauthen, looked with favor on the new promotional thrust being proposed for world mission conferences.

Two agency employees were promoted by the commission. Dana Driver, assistant editor of Baptist Men's materials, was promoted to editor; and Jack Childs, periodicals service manager, was named assistant to the director of the Business Services Division.

The commission also voted to open their meetings to SBC agency leaders and state Brotherhood representatives, to invite young men ages 18-30 to participate in the commission meetings, and to inform the SBC committee on boards they would welcome the nomination of young men, 18-30, as members of the commission.

Most of the discussion during the meeting centered around the proposals of the Committee of Fifteen to restructure the Brotherhood Commission. The committee proposals will go to the SBC Executive Committee for discussion and vote on Feb. 21-23. Any recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee would have to be approved by the convention in Philadelphia, June 5-8.

In addition to the recommendation that the commission be composed of laymen, pastors and state Brotherhood directors, the Committee of Fifteen proposed the creation of an advisory committee composed of each state Brotherhood secretary (other than commission members), a representative of the seminaries, and one staff member each from the SBC Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, and Christian Life

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Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, and Stewardship Commission. Each group would appoint its own representative to the advisory committee.

A third proposal suggested that the commission's program statement be rewritten to broaden the scope of the agency's work "to develop, project and implement plans and programs involving men and boys in the total scope of Southern Baptist Convention activities."

Such activities, according to the committee proposal, could include mission learning experiences, mission involvement, personal involvement, personal witnessing, evangelism and financial support.

Most of the discussion centered on the composition of the elected commission, and whether or not expenses of the advisory committee members should be paid by the commission.

Most commission members and state Brotherhood secretaries participating in the discussion favored the idea of the committee. "The idea of the advisory committee is great, . . . and if we invite these people to participate, then we ought to pay the bill," said John Moore, layman from Taylor, Tex.

Lewis D. Ferrell, pastor of Whitehaven Baptist Church, Memphis, and chairman of the commission's finance committee, said he felt a decision on expenses of the advisory committee should be referred to his committee since it could double expenses of the annual meetings.

Kenneth L. Chafin, director of the Evangelism Division of the SBC Home Mission Board, told the commission that while they spent most of their time discussing composition of the commission and expenses of the advisory committee, the really significant thing about the committee's proposal was that it would tremendously broaden the scope of the Brotherhood's work to deal "with the total mission scope" of the SBC.

Three state Brotherhood secretaries and staff members spoke out in opposition to the proposal that nine of the 36 commission members be state Brotherhood secretaries. All agreed they wanted to be heard by the commission as "advisors", but did not want to vote.

In an interview after the meeting, one of the state Brotherhood secretaries, Roy Gilleland of Tennessee, said many of the state Brotherhood secretaries do not want to be official members of the commission for fear of conflict of interest.

Gilleland also pointed out that he did not feel it was proper Baptist polity for a state convention staff employee to serve on a board which set policy for an SBC agency. He said he could no more be a voting member of the Brotherhood Commission than he could be a voting member of the Tennessee convention Executive Board.

Owen Cooper, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and a member of the Committee of Fifteen who presented the committee's proposal to the commission, said he felt certain that the full Executive Committee would welcome the views and expression of the commission when it meets to consider the committee report, Feb. 21-23.

Cooper pointed out that the proposal is in a tentative stage, and that the Executive Committee could easily change the recommendations before going to the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia in June.

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Senate Votes Approval
Of Day off for Worship

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Senate has unanimously approved an amendment to the Equal Employment Opportunities Enforcement Act of 1971 stipulating that an employee will not be forced to work on his day of worship unless it causes "undue hardship" on the employer.

If the legislation gets final congressional approval, freedom of religion and the right to free exercise of one's faith, already guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution, would be strengthened further, according to Baptist observers here.

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Vote on the amendment in the Senate was 55-0. A number of senators who were not present to vote arranged to have their approval of the amendment registered for the record.

Sen. Jennings Randolph (D., W. Va.), a layman in the Seventh Day Baptist General Conference which observes Saturday as its day of worship, sponsored the amendment. Randolph cited the problems of several denominations with traditional worship days different from the majority who observe Sunday as their day of worship.

Some denominations have complained of a "dwindling membership" relative to the situation of working on Saturday, Randolph told the Senate. Also, he said some faiths are having "a difficult time, especially with the younger people" because of employment practices and work schedules.

Randolph cited scores of court cases and complaints to the Equal Employment Commission wherein, contrary to civil rights laws, employees were discriminated against because of the practice of their religious faith.

Purpose of the amendment, Randolph declared, "is to assure that freedom from religious discrimination in the employment of workers is for all time guaranteed by law.

"...I think it is a well-intentioned amendment, a good amendment, a necessary amendment, a worthwhile amendment," Randolph told the Senate, "because it carries through the spirit of religious freedom under the Constitution of the United States."



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