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February 11, 1972

**Congress Approves
Meals for Elderly**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Congress has passed legislation to grant funds to churches and other nonprofit institutions, along with public agencies, to help them to meet the nutrition and social needs of elderly persons.

The vote approving the measure in the House of Representatives was 350 to 23. The Senate passed the bill unanimously some time ago.

The bill now goes to the President for his signature, which is sure to come, since he has placed the nutrition needs of elderly poor persons on the list of domestic priorities.

Under the provisions of the bill, the government will pay up to 90 per cent of the cost of the purchase, preparation and delivery of meals to persons over 60.

The program is primarily for the poor, but others will be able to participate according to their ability to pay. In awarding the grants, which will be handled by a state agency, priority will be given to projects operated by and serving the needs of "minority, Indian and limited English-speaking" persons.

The bill lists the following criteria for the participants who must be aged 60 or over: (1) they cannot afford to eat adequately; (2) they lack the skills to select and prepare well-balanced meals; (3) they have limited mobility; or (4) they have feelings of rejection or loneliness which obliterate incentive to prepare and eat their meals alone.

In order to be eligible, churches and others interested in the program must provide at least one hot meal a day for five or more days a week. Additional meals, hot or cold, may be included in the government-sponsored projects.

The bill calls for the provision of a minimum of one-third the daily recommended dietary allowances as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences--National Research Council.

Requirements of the program also include the following: (1) the project must be in close proximity to those in need of the meals, or transportation must be furnished to those who need the food delivered to their homes; (2) special menus must be provided, where feasible and appropriate, to meet the particular dietary needs arising from health or religious requirements, and the ethnic backgrounds of eligible individuals.

Also, the project must provide a setting conducive to expanding the nutrition project and to include "recreational activities, informational, health and welfare counseling and referral services, where such services are not otherwise available."

The new legislation, which amends the Older Americans Act of 1965, calls for spending up \$250 million over the next two years.

In speaking for the bill in the House of Representatives, Rep. Carl Perkins (D., Ky), said that the aged, more than any other population group in the U.S., cannot afford proper nutrition because as much as 30 per cent of them live in poverty, some on incomes of less than \$30 a week.

The sponsors of the bill were Reps. Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) and John Brademas (D., Ind.) in the House, and Sens. Charles Percy (R., Ill.) and Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.) in the Senate.

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Rep. Brodeur told the House that "it is ironic in a day when obesity is a major health problem, when our diets are prime targets of conversation, that we should be here talking about hunger and malnutrition." But such does exist in large numbers, especially among elderly persons, many of whom did not become poor until their retirements, according to testimony before the House Education and Labor Committee.

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SBC Home Mission Board
Names Four Missionaries

2/11/72

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed two couples as career missionaries, both to work in associational missions in the western part of the country.

Appointed as associational service missionaries were Har old and Aletha Field to serve in Montana, and Wayne and Wilma Eurich, to California.

Currently, more than 2,300 missionaries are serving throughout the nation under the SBC Home Mission Board.

Field, a native of Wheeler, Tex., was appointed superintendent of missions in Bozeman, Mont. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Mrs. Field, a native of Tennessee, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southwestern Seminary.

Also appointed as a superintendent of missions, Eurich and his wife will work in the San Diego, Calif., area. He is a native of Friend, Neb.; and she is from Yacolt, Wash. Both are graduates of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.; and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

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Swedish Baptist Editor Urges
Nixon-Mao Talks on Religion

2/11/72

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (BP)--An editorial in the weekly newspaper of the Baptist Union of Sweden has urged President Richard M. Nixon and the delegation which will accompany him to China in February to approach the question of religion in China with Chinese officials.

Editor Sven Svenson of "Veckoposten," in an editorial entitled "Mao, Nixon and the Christians in China," urged President Nixon to discuss with Chairman Mao the subject of religion in China, as well as politics, trade and culture.

"It is urgent that we try in every way to get more precise information on the Christians in China," the editorial said. "One would hope that President Nixon and his associates will find opportunities to touch on the question of religion while they are in China.

"One would hope," the editorial continued, "that among the 80 American journalists who will accompany Nixon there might be one from a religious press service or paper which could give the world information founded on facts about the current religious situation in China."

The editorial was reported through European Baptist Press Service based in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, only a few days before the White House in Washington announced the list of accredited news media representatives approved for the trip. The list did not include a representative from the religious press, although several had sought accreditation.

Svenson, in the editorial, noted that great changes obviously have taken place in China in recent years, but that little information has been available on the state of religion in China since the late 1950's.

"There are insinuations from China about a possible change in the official Chinese attitude toward religion," the editorial said.

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As an example, the editor reported that an Italian journalist visiting China last November wrote that he took part in a Catholic service in Peking and that the priest in the church had explained that the church is now open for daily devotions.

The editorial also quoted a Lutheran leader as saying "there is still an active church in China," and that "the relationship between China and Christians in other countries must take place within a few years."

The editorial recommended some ecumenical action, perhaps through the World Council of Churches, regarding securing current information about Christianity in China.

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C O R R E C T I O N

On Baptist Press story mailed 2/9/72, headlined "Foreign Board Approves Largest Salary Adjustments," please change headline and first paragraph by deleting word "salary." Headline should read: "Foreign Board Approves Mission Support Increase." First graph, line two, should read: ". . . emergency adjustments in missionary support. . . ." Technically, the Foreign Mission Board does not pay "salaries" to its missionaries; it provides support. Thanks.

--Baptist Press

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Chapel of the Astronauts
Approved for Cape Kennedy

2/11/72

WASHINGTON (BP)--Both houses of Congress have agreed on the details of a bill to convey a parcel of land at Cape Kennedy, Fla., to build the Chapel of the Astronauts.

The chapel will be a memorial to all astronauts, especially those who have died in space efforts. The interfaith worship center, sponsored by a group of Florida business and professional men, will be built by nongovernmental resources and by nongovernmental people.

Under the final terms worked out in Congress, if the five and a half acres set aside for this purpose are not used, they will revert back to the government. The bill originated in the House, where it was sponsored by Rep. Louis Frey Jr. (R., Fla.).

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sold the land to a nonprofit corporation called the Chapel of the Astronauts, Inc. The report from the House Subcommittee on Science and Astronautics did not specify the amount authorized, but said only that it was to be sold at a "fair amount of value."

The subcommittee's report described the proposed building as "an interfaith worship space for the corporate community . . . (to) fulfill the deep need of individual meditation, which often characterizes these men who are lone adventurers.

"The interior of the chapel will reflect the confrontation of the human and the divine, the intersection of time and eternity. This must be unquestionably evident to all who enter," the report stated.

Further, the subcommittee said in reporting the bill for action, the chapel "will serve as a symbol of man's strength and determination, his search for worlds beyond the stars, and of the deep and lasting relationship of all men with God."

The appointments of the worship center must "in no way offend any aspect or faith or creed for all men," the report continued. "The chapel is a home for the religious community made up of men and women who believe in the continuing evolution of life, and who have dedicated themselves to reach for the stars. . . ."

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**National Baptist Leader Calls
For Racial Bridge Building**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The executive director of the Sunday School Publishing Board for the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., called for positive bridge building in race relations during an address at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

"We are inherently afflicted with prejudice," said D. C. Washington, speaking to employees of the Southern Baptist agency during a chapel service.

"We are guilty of pre-judging and forming opinions, usually absent of the facts," Washington said.

Calling for a positive, educational approach, he said: "Our last remaining stroke is to close the 'ignorance gap.' As long as we balk at truth, balk at justice, balk at fairplay and nurse prejudice, we create our own formula for failure.

"The church has played it cool. It has been a grandstand spectator, not a player on the team. The church has been an echo, not a voice. The church fathers have been afraid of the danger zones, slaves to traditions as well as current environments," he charged.

"With all her light she has been intellectually and spiritually immature. Nursing ignorance, for most of our fears are the creation of ignorance, we have known that ignorance is more costly than education," he added.

Citing the absolute necessity for a positive educational bridge in race relations, he declared, "Ignorance gives a sort of eternity to prejudice. It is the extension ladder of error."

Giving an overview of the contemporary situation, Washington said, "We traffic in negatives and our acts are based on the color of the skin, all of which have resulted in our running from shadows, running from non-existent evils."

Answering the question, "Why does the Negro react as he does today?" Washington listed the media's derogatory statements about Negroes, the opposition of the power structure in eating establishments, courts of law, schools and housing that have forced into the Negro "a long history of built-in bitterness and he is dipped and dyed in mistrust."

Washington related the positive attitudes of many Negro people toward racial bridge building.

"Negroes have long known and are anxious to make known that people can respect each other. They can work together without black rubbing off. They know that brain can be found in black heads and dumbness in white heads," he said.

"All of us are discovering that behavior is a mirror that reflects the image of any man. The sum of behavior is for one to retain his own dignity without intruding upon the liberties of others," he said.



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