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February 24, 1972

Baptists Express Concern on TV  
X-Rated Movies, China Relations

NASHVILLE (BP)--Resolutions urging Baptists to pray for peace and discussions between President Richard Nixon and officials of Mainland China, and opposing broadcast of X-Rated movies on television were adopted here by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Both resolutions were adopted unanimously with no debate on the recommendation of the administrative committee of the 60-member nation-wide Baptist Executive Committee.

"The visit of President Richard M. Nixon to the People's Republic of China is of historic significance," said the resolution on that topic. "Beyond the questions of partisan politics and competing ideologies are the goals of peace for all mankind."

The resolution observed that the meetings by the heads of the two governments "have awakened new hopes for improvement in relations between East and West."

The Executive Committee called on Baptist people "to pray for a just and enduring peace, and for all those leaders involved in the current discussion with China, and for the Chinese people everywhere."

Another resolution decried plans announced by the Columbia Broadcasting System to show a series of X- and R-rated movies on late-night television.

"The invasion of America's homes with profanity, vulgarity, adultery, incest, homosexuality, child molestation, nudity and sadism represents a moral challenge of major proportions," declared the Executive Committee resolution.

The committee urged CBS authorities and those of other television networks "to exercise moral vision and leadership in promptly reversing their decision to show these highly objectionable films on television."

The resolution concluded by asking Baptists to support the network if it reversed the decision and by requesting the Christian Life Commission, the denomination's social action agency, to "take all appropriate steps for implementation" of the concern of Baptists, including the possibility of legal action.

On the same date of the Executive Committee action, the Baptist Messenger, state newspaper published by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, carried an editorial urging Baptists in Oklahoma to write a "strong letter of protest" to CBS "if you do not want the nation's television screens flooded with filth."

According to the Baptist Messenger editorial, CBS has purchased a 167-film package for its late show which has replaced the Merv Griffin Show.

The first X-rated movie to be shown is entitled "The Damned," scheduled for broadcast by the network on Monday evening, Feb. 28, said the Baptist Messenger editorial. The theatre version of the movie contains incest, homosexuality, child molestation, nudity, profanity, and a bloody massacre, the Oklahoma editorial said.

The editorial quoted a spokesman for CBS as saying that this is a late night show that has been cut by 25 minutes from the original 150-minute version. The editorial said, however, that the CBS spokesman did not offer assurance that the sexual perversion has been eliminated, or

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explanation of how children and young people under 17 would be prevented from watching the film on television if parents approve their staying up late or are unaware of what is happening.

"We rather suspect this is a test on the network's part to see how far they can go and that the results will set a pattern for the entire industry," wrote Editor Jack L. Gritz.

Calling for a letter writing campaign to oppose the showing of such movies, the Oklahoma editorial declared: "Now is the time for right-thinking, clear-minded citizens to speak up so loudly and clearly that the television industry will get the message and never forget it.

"The airwaves belong to all the people," Editor Gritz wrote. "Be kind but be firm. Let them know positively such filth is not wanted in your home."

The Oklahoma editorial listed the name of Norman Nelson, director of program broadcasting practices, Columbia Broadcasting System, 51 W. 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, as the proper person to write at CBS. The editorial also listed addresses of Oklahoma CBS affiliate stations, suggesting that the readers check local listings first since some Oklahoma television station managers "may show the good sense not to schedule this network movie."

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Record 1972-73 Budget Goal  
Of \$33 Million Recommended

2/24/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommended here a record \$33,042,506 Cooperative Program budget goal for fiscal year 1973, with almost half the sum going to foreign missions.

The total goal includes a proposed operating budget of \$31,826,184, plus an additional \$1,216,322 for capital needs.

The proposed operating budget would be an increase of \$2,691,223 over the operating budget for the 12-month period preceding the fiscal year.

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Philadelphia, June 6-9, will consider the proposed budget to be recommended by the Executive Committee.

It will mark the beginning of a new fiscal year extending from Oct. 1, 1972 to Sept. 30, 1973. Currently, the nation's largest Protestant denomination is operating on a nine-month fiscal year as it makes the shift from calendar year budgeting.

Comparisons for the operating budget were made with the 1971 operating budget since it is the last 12-month fiscal year, and since agency allocations for the first nine months of 1972 were identical to the 1971 monthly allocations.

Though the proposed 1972-73 operating budget would be an increase of nearly \$2.7 million, it is still nearly \$3.8 million short of the amount requested in operating funds by the 20 SBC agencies and organizations receiving Cooperative Program funds.

During an entire day of budget presentations here, the 20 agencies presented pleas for 1973 funds totalling \$35.6 million. If all the requests were granted, it would have been an increase of \$6.5 million over the 1971 operating budget.

Largest 1973 operating budget allocation recommended by the committee would go to the SBC Foreign Mission Board--\$16,319,959, an increase of \$1,456,608.

National missions would receive \$5,824,963, an increase of \$519,896 to the SBC Home Mission Board. The six SBC seminaries would share a total of \$6,575,373, or \$586,873 more than they received in 1971.

The SBC Radio-Television Commission would be allocated \$1,472,839, an increase of \$72,839.

The total 1973 goal also includes \$1,050,000 in previously-approved capital needs allocations, plus \$166,322 which SBC officials estimate will not be reached in 1972 and thus would automatically be added to the 1973 capital needs goal according to convention procedure.

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In a footnote to the budget allocation to the SBC Home Mission Board, the Executive Committee said it was "favorably impressed with the proposal to initiate a television series with an evangelistic appeal for a decision, and would look with favor if some of the increased allocation could be used to produce the films.

The SBC Home Mission Board and Radio-Television Commission will work together on the series.

Other agencies and their proposed allocations for 1972-73 are as follows:

Annuity Board, \$175,000; Foundation, \$81,600; American Baptist Theological Seminary, \$95,000; Brotherhood Commission, \$295,200; Christian Life Commission, \$210,000; Education Commission, \$141,750; Historical Commission, \$121,000; Stewardship Commission, \$137,500; and Public Affairs Committee, \$126,000.

The six seminaries would receive individually: Southwestern Seminary, \$1,810,079; Southern Seminary, \$1,461,089; New Orleans Seminary, \$1,184,120; Southeastern Seminary, \$958,591; Golden Gate Seminary, \$609,822; and Midwestern Seminary, \$551,672.

In addition to the \$33 million total Cooperative Program goal for 1973, the Executive Committee will recommend adoption of a proposed Convention Operating Budget of \$598,000 for fiscal year 1973, providing funds for the annual convention session and meetings of SBC committees.

Of the \$598,000 total, \$250,000 would come from the Cooperative Program. The SBC Sunday School Board would supply \$318,000, and the remaining \$30,000 would come from dividends and interest.

The Convention Operating Budget would allocate \$345,000 to the SBC Executive Committee and \$118,000 to the Baptist World Alliance.

The SBC Sunday School Board does not share in Cooperative Program allocations but operates on income from literature sales and other activities.

The Cooperative Program goal represents only the amount provided nationwide SBC agencies and does not include funds spent by local churches and by state conventions, or amounts contributed through special offerings.

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Plaque Unveiled Honoring  
Luther Rice Birthplace

2/24/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--A plaque identifying the Massachusetts birthplace of Luther Rice and plans for commemorating the work of the Baptist pioneer missions leader were unveiled here during the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee meeting.

Arthur Rutledge, executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, said the two-foot high plaque would be placed on the home at the birth site of Luther Rice near Northboro, Mass., 30 miles west of Boston, in ceremonies June 10 following the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia.

Rutledge invited Southern Baptist leaders here for the Executive Committee meeting to participate in the June 10 ceremonies, and to remain in the area for organization of six new Southern Baptist churches in New England on Sunday, June 11. The additions will bring the number of Southern Baptist churches in the six northeast states to 36.

The house which will bear the plaque rests on the foundation of the home where Rice was born in 1783. The original structure was torn down in 1900, but the current building was built on the same foundation.

Living in the home is Elmer Sizemore, associational superintendent of missions for Southern Baptist work in New England.

Fred Mosely, assistant executive secretary of the SBC Home Mission Board, said that consideration is being given to building an associational office building on the property, which conceivably could later house state convention offices when the association qualifies for state convention status.

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Adjacent to the home is the Rice Memorial Baptist Church, which was dedicated in June of 1971. The SBC Home Mission Board owns the four-acre tract of land adjoining the home on which the church is located.

Text of the plaque to be placed on the home, written by Lynn May, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, states:

"Luther Rice was born March 25, 1783, in a house that stood on this site until 1900. Father of American Baptist foreign missions, denominational statesman, educator, and journalist, Rice was instrumental in the forming of the Triennial Convention in 1814, founding Columbian College (now George Washington University) in 1821, establishing the Baptist General Tract Society in 1824, and the uniting of scattered Baptist churches into a Baptist denomination."

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#### Final Wrapup

SBC Executive Committee  
Acts on Jan.med Agenda

2/24/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--In a bustling February meeting, the Southern Baptist Executive Committee recommended the first phase of a restructure study of the Southern Baptist Convention, proposed a record 1973 budget, adopted resolutions on the President's visit to China and showing of X-rated movies on television, handled a dozen other major business items, and acted on nine matters referred to it by the 1972 convention in St. Louis.

The three-day meeting opened with approval of the first major report of a "Committee of Fifteen" appointed to study possible restructure of assignments to SBC agencies, voting to recommend the proposals to the convention in Philadelphia, June 6-9.

The committee will recommend that the programs of the SBC Stewardship Commission be assigned instead to the SBC Executive Committee; that the SBC Brotherhood Commission create an advisory committee involving state Brotherhood secretaries and SBC agency representatives; and that the SBC Radio-Television Commission include as non-voting members staff members of certain SBC agencies.

If the proposals are approved by the conventions in Philadelphia and Portland, in 1972 and 1973, the SBC Stewardship Commission would be dissolved as an agency of the SBC. The Brotherhood Commission's program assignments would be expanded to cover the "total mission scope of SBC activities," and the work of the Radio-TV Commission would include both production of broadcasting materials for the mass media and closer cooperation and coordination with other SBC agencies and Baptist entities in joint productions of broadcasting materials. The proposals on the Brotherhood and on the Radio-TV Commissions require approval only by the 1972 Philadelphia convention.

The proposed 1973 budget, also to be recommended to the convention in Philadelphia, totals \$33,042,506, and would include an operating budget of \$31.8 million plus an additional \$1.2 million for capital needs.

The proposed operating budget would be an increase of \$2.6 million over the operating budget for the 12-month period preceding the 1972-73 fiscal year. More than half the proposed budget would go to foreign missions.

In another major action, the Executive Committee proposed addition of a new bylaw for the Southern Baptist Convention to help solve a parliamentary snarl which arose at the St. Louis convention last June over an interpretation of another bylaw concerning introduction of motions on the convention floor that deal with the work of SBC agencies.

A motion adopted by the St. Louis convention requested the Executive Committee to propose a procedure for dealing with controversial issues affecting internal affairs of SBC agencies. In response, the committee proposed a new bylaw which states in part:

"Motions made by messengers dealing with internal operations or programs of an agency shall be referred to the elected board of the agency for consideration and report to the constituency and to the next annual session of the convention for action, with the exception that the Committee on Order of Business may be instructed by a two-thirds vote to arrange for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the same convention. . . ."

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In September, the Executive Committee had proposed an amendment to another bylaw by clarifying the wording to indicate that recommendations to the convention by an agency not publicized in advance would be referred to the Executive Committee or some other committee as the convention might direct. This bylaw dealt with proposals from an agency of the convention, while the new bylaw would cover motions by messengers.

Eight other matters referred to the Executive Committee by the convention in St. Louis prompted action in the February meeting. Briefly, the committee responded to each by:

--Recommending that investments of SBC agencies not be published in their annual reports, but that their investment guidelines be published and their list of investments be made available on request;

--Receiving a report from the SBC Sunday School Board as information to be presented to the Philadelphia convention stating the board felt the position of doctrinal reader was a historic and necessary one and should not be abolished; and that the name of the Broadman Bible Commentary should not be changed;

--Continuing a study of the need for a program of counseling ministers and their families, and requesting information from state conventions on what they are doing already to help ministers facing stress and other problems;

--Receiving as information a report from the Radio-Television Commission explaining in response to a convention motion that the commission had no official ties whatever with the National Council of Churches;

--Receiving as information a report from the Foreign Mission Board responding to a motion concerning payment of moving expenses of returned foreign missionaries;

--Recommending that the convention continue to meet annually rather than biennially, as suggested by one motion at the St. Louis convention, and reporting findings of a survey of SBC leaders and pastors showing preference for annual sessions;

--Reporting that a request for the SBC Annuity Board to increase its benefits by one-third annually between 1972 and 1974 (100 per cent total increase) is "not feasible since the money required to fund this plan would be prohibitive" and would create an actuarial liability of \$94 million.

Six resolutions were adopted by the Executive Committee--four expressing appreciation for retiring or deceased SBC leaders, and two dealing with current events.

Concerning the visit of President Nixon to mainland China, the Executive Committee urged Baptists "to pray for a just and enduring peace, and for all those leaders involved in the current discussion in China . . ." The resolution observed the meetings "have awakened new hopes for improvement of relations between East and West."

Commenting on announced plans by Columbia Broadcasting System to show X- and R-Rated movies on late night television, the committee declared that "the invasion of America's homes with profanity, vulgarity, adultery, incest, homosexuality, child molestation, nudity and sadism represents a moral challenge of major proportions."

The resolution urged the network to "exercise moral vision and leadership in promptly reversing their decision to show these highly objectionable films on television," and asked the SBC Christian Life Commission to take appropriate steps for implementation of this concern, including the possibility of legal action.

Other resolutions expressed appreciation for the influence and ministry of the late Joe Waltz, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania-South Jersey Convention of Southern Baptists; retiring Editor Erwin McDonald of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine; retiring President Millard Berquist of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; retiring executive secretary Harold Sanders of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; and Alton Reed, retired executive secretary of the Annuity Board.

In two related major actions, the Executive Committee voted to appoint a special committee to study allocation of SBC capital funds in the future; and requested the committee's administrative subcommittee to study the budget review process and methods used in arriving at Cooperative Program allocations to the convention.

The Executive Committee also requested its Committee of Fifteen to study possible overlap of the programs of the Christian Life Commission and Public Affairs Committee. Two days earlier, the restructure committee reported it had studied these agencies "but is not prepared until all agencies "but is not prepared until all agencies are studied to make any proposal" concerning them.

The Executive Committee approved revisions in the program statements of the SBC Sunday School Board, Home Mission Board, and Education Commission for recommendation to the convention in Philadelphia, and voted to approve a withdrawal of a program statement change request from the Radio-Television Commission.

Detailed plans for promoting SBC programs in 1974-75 under the theme, "Share the Word Now," were approved for recommendation to the Philadelphia convention.

The committee also heard a report from the SBC Home Mission Board and Radio-Television Commission indicating they had resolved conflicts and had come to an agreement for cooperation in producing a television series stressing evangelistic response.

Permission was granted the Radio-TV Commission to conduct a fund campaign to raise \$2 million. No solicitation of churches will be allowed under the approval. Recently the commission was given a \$500,000 contribution, with the stipulation that it raise an equal amount in matching funds. Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was also given permission to borrow \$125,000 to build modular homes for students.

Bylaws of the Executive Committee were amended to delete detailed job assignments to staff members of the Executive Committee, and reaffirming administrative responsibility assigned to the executive secretary. It was stated the administration would study the role and placement of the Baptist Program magazine for six months before final decision is to be made on any changes.

Closing address for the three-day meeting was brought by SBC President Carl E. Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., who called for an emphasis on expressions of hope and encouragement in the midst of discouragement and despair in the problems facing the world, and the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

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SBC Executive Committee Acts  
On Nine Convention Referrals

2/24/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee acted here on nine matters referred to the 60-member body by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting last June in St. Louis, and drafted reports on how it will respond on the nine items to the SBC next June in Philadelphia.

Most of the items were referred to the Executive Committee on the basis of an interpretation by the parliamentarian of a convention bylaw which had stated that motions affecting an agency of the SBC not printed in the agency's report shall be referred to the Executive Committee or to such other committee as the convention might direct.

Two specific motions were made at the convention in St. Louis to assure the right of the messengers to introduce motions and resolutions affecting an agency without automatic referral and delay of the matter for a full year. Both were referred to the Executive Committee, with a request that the question be a first order of business this year.

In the February meeting, the Executive Committee approved addition of a new Bylaw 17 in response to a motion by Ernest White of Missouri asking for a procedure for dealing with controversial issues affecting the internal operation of convention agencies.

The proposed new bylaw, which will be recommended to the Philadelphia convention, would state that "motions made by messengers dealing with internal operations or programs of an agency shall be referred to the elected board of the agency for consideration and report to the constituency and to the next annual session of the convention for action, with the exception that the Committee on Order of Business may be instructed by a two-thirds vote to arrange for consideration at . . . the same convention. . . ."

Last September, the Executive Committee voted to recommend two other bylaw changes to the Philadelphia convention to respond to the second motion by Jim Jones of North Carolina concerning Bylaws No. 12 and 16.

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The committee recommended that Bylaw 12, concerning the duties of the Committee on Order of Business, be clarified by stating that if notice of the substance of a motion is unable to be printed in the Convention Bulletin, the committee may announce a time for action to be taken at a subsequent session of "that" convention. The recommendation would change the word "the convention" to "that convention," to make clear that the bylaw was referring to the same annual meeting, not the next year's session.

A change was also recommended in Bylaw 16 to read that recommendations "by an agency" which are not published in its report or the Bulletin shall be referred to the Executive Committee or such other committee as the convention may direct. The change would clarify that the bylaw applied only to recommendations "by an agency," not by messengers.

In the February meeting, the Executive Committee responded to eight other motions referred for its action by the St. Louis Convention.

The committee, citing a Baptist VIEWpoll survey, recommended that the convention continue to meet annually rather than biennially as suggested in a motion by Charles Edmonds of Virginia. The Baptist VIEWpoll indicated "a major negative sentiment" toward biennial instead of annual sessions.

Responding to a motion by Mack Goss of North Carolina asking for SBC agencies to publish their investments, the Executive Committee recommended that the agencies instead publish their investment guidelines and make their list of investments available on request.

Another recommendation from the Executive Committee, responding to a request by Harvey T. Whaley of South Carolina asking that benefits from the Annuity Board be increased by 100 per cent in three years, stated opinion that the proposal "is not feasible since the money required to fund this plan would be prohibitive" and would create "an actuarial liability of \$94 million." Darold Morgan, president elect of the board, said the board was studying the possibility, however, of increasing benefits.

The Executive Committee voted to continue a study of the possibility of providing a counseling service for ministers facing stress and problems, and to request specific information from Baptist state conventions on what the states are doing to help their ministers. The study will continue through next year.

Reports from four SBC agencies concerning motions referred to the Executive Committee and passed on to the agencies involved for their recommendation were received as information to be presented to the Philadelphia convention.

The Sunday School Board reported, in response to a motion by Walter M. Stockburger of Virginia requesting the board to eliminate the position of doctrinal reader, that the trustees had affirmed that the position of doctrinal reader "is a necessary and appropriate one." A full report on why the board considers the position necessary will be presented to the convention.

The Sunday School Board also reported its trustees felt that no change should be made in the name of the Broadman Bible Commentary, and cited its reasons for the response. A motion had been referred by the convention in St. Louis asking that the name "Broadman" be dropped from the commentary "so as to remove any connection between the commentary and the Southern Baptist name, due to its liberal content."

The SBC Radio-Television Commission reported, in response to a resolution presented at the SBC concerning the commission's alleged relationship with the National Council of Churches, that there is no official relationship between the commission and the National Council, and never has been.

The SBC Foreign Mission Board, in response to a motion by Thomas Ayo of Alabama asking the board to pay moving expenses of returning foreign missionaries, reported that board officials had consulted with Ayo and that his motion had reference to one particular case, which was fully covered by the board's policy of paying moving expenses of returning missionaries.

Each of the reports from the agencies were received by the Executive Committee as information to be reported to the convention in Philadelphia. Executive Committee officials explained the heads of the agencies would be on the platform at the convention to report on disposition of the motions referred and to answer any questions that might arise.

## Bates Calls for Hope In Midst of Despair

NASHVILLE (BP)--Saying he was convinced ours is a disillusioned generation, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention challenged the SBC Executive Committee here to stress hope and encouragement in the midst of discouragement and despair.

Carl Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlotte, N.C., said in a major address to the Executive Committee that people have lost faith in mankind, and are lost in despair.

Citing man's unsuccessful quest for world peace, Bates said he had looked for hope in the United Nations, but many times it seems "little more than a house of straw."

He said he shares the feeling that the road to peace is wearisome with little to lead mankind out of the maze of hopelessness.

Bates quickly added, however, that "I cannot find any response to the future that sees the problem more clearly than it sees God, for in God alone is there hope.

"Some of our despair and disillusionment is nothing but a cop out," Bates said. "We're saying, 'Go away man, can't you see I'm hurting? I've got problems of my own.' But we've got to realize it is a tough situation all over, and everyone has problems."

Bates, who ends two years as president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination next June, observed that he wishes he could have made a greater contribution to the denomination as president.

"But every one of us must hoist the flag of life to the top of the mast and refuse to give up when one battle is lost. I've run the flag up, and the flag still flies. I don't intend to haul it down after June," Bates said.

The SBC president said he believes the denomination stands on the threshold of the greatest breakthrough in the history of the convention numerically, financially, and from the standpoint of Christian faith.

"Make no little plans. Dream no little dreams. But launch out in the greatest witnessing program Southern Baptists have ever known," he challenged the Executive Committee.





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