

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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**Nixon Unable to Address
Southern Baptist Convention**

BELLAIRE, Tex. (BP)--President Richard M. Nixon will not be able to address the Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia, June 8, because of a schedule conflict, the chairman of the committee that issued the invitation announced here.

Lee Porter, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bellaire, and chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, said his committee deeply regretted the schedule conflict.

President Nixon, through a White House aide, told the committee that "in consideration of the President's forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union, and other related matters, it is now apparent that he will not be able to take advantage of the opportunity to be with you at your convention."

The letter to the committee was signed by Dwight Chapin, deputy assistant to the President.

Porter said in announcing the decision that the White House had told him that the President's trip to Russia had been extended to include Iran, and that there is a possibility for other stopovers and extensions to other countries.

Currently, the President is scheduled to leave for the Russia trip on May 22, and return May 31, though the date of the return could change.

Porter added that although the President will be in the United States on the day he previously had hoped to address the Southern Baptist Convention, he will be involved in "debriefing" following the Russia trip.

The Houston area pastor staunchly denied that criticism from some quarters of the SBC of the President's speaking to the convention during an election year had anything to do with the President's inability to accept the invitation.

Editorials in three Baptist state papers have criticized the invitation to the President, while editorials in two other papers have favored the invitation. Editorials opposing the invitation to President Nixon have appeared in the Texas Baptist Standard, the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, and the Baptist New Mexican. Editorials supporting the President's speaking have appeared in the South Carolina Baptist Courier and the Mississippi Baptist Record.

Porter said, however, that his committee and Carl Bates, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, have received only a total of nine letters concerning the invitation. Five of the letters supported the committee, while four opposed the invitation.

"All our sources indicate that criticism of the President's addressing a religious body during an election year was not the reason for the decision," Porter said.

He added that the committee, as well as the officers of the convention, deeply regret that the President will be unable to speak to the convention.

Though the committee had announced on February 9 that the President "hopes" to accept the invitation, the original announcement pointed out that no firm commitment could be made until at least 30 days prior to the proposed engagement.

Home Mission Board Wins 10 Baptist PR Awards

SAN ANTONIO (BP)--The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and three other Baptist agencies dominated the total number of awards presented at the Baptist Public Relations Association's 18th annual meeting here.

The Atlanta based SBC agency received 10 awards, while the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Foreign Mission Board, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary tied for second with seven awards each.

The Home Mission Board, paced by Don Rutledge's six photography awards, also led in first-place awards, with six of its ten awards being first in their respective categories. Rutledge won four first-place awards.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, won six awards, all presented to Wesley M. Pattillo. The SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, and Baylor University, Waco, Tex., netted five awards each, and the SBC Sunday School Board received four.

Eighty-two regular awards (27 first-place and 55 runner-up awards) and five special awards were won by 25 organizations. Professionals outside the organization judged the 298 entries, a record number of entries in the competition.

Special \$50 cash awards and plaques went to John Earl Seelig and Don Hepburn of Southwestern Seminary; Floyd Craig of the SBC Christian Life Commission; Jim Newton of Baptist Press, Nashville; and Thomas J. Brannon of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Seelig, who collected six individual awards, collaborated with Hepburn for the first-place award for exceptional achievement in the total publications program category. Their entry also won a special cash award and plaque.

Seelig also won the cash award dedicated to M. E. Dodd, granted by the SBC Radio-TV Commission of Fort Worth to the best entry in radio-television and motion picture production. The Dodd Award was presented on the basis of Seelig's first place in the radio-TV category.

A direct mail campaign by Craig won him both a first place in the direct mail category, and the Arthur S. Davenport Award, presented to the best entry in the total publications, total public relations, total development and direct mail categories.

The Davenport Award is given by Arthur Davenport Associates, Oklahoma City, in honor of its founder.

A feature series by Newton on the Jesus movement won first place in the feature series category as well as the Douglas Tomlinson Award "for significant achievement in religious journalism.

The Tomlinson Award, presented by All-Church Press in Fort Worth in honor of its founder, goes to the best entry in ten news, feature and photography categories.

Brannon's work on South Carolina Baptists' sesquicentennial celebration won the plaque and cash award in the total public relations program category.

Pattillo won three first-place awards in the feature photography series, newsletter, and catalogue categories.

The Home Mission Board's leading total included Rutledge's four first-place awards and two first-place awards by Walker Knight for the best magazine (Home Missions) and the best feature article (written by Dallas Lee).

Robert O'Brien for news story, and Mrs. Lynn Yarbrough for publications photography single, won the two first-place awards in the Texas convention's total of seven awards.

Foreign Mission Board first places went to Richard Styles for advertising series; Fon Scofield for motion pictures; G. Norman Price, poster and promotional folder; and Jesse Fletcher and Stanley Nelson for general information literature.

The Brotherhood Commission's five awards include one first place in the single advertising category by the Pioneer Royal Ambassador Magazine editorial staff.

The Sunday School Board's four awards include one first place in the special events publications category by C. William Junker of the board's National Student Ministries.

Other first-place awards went to the office of news services, Mercer University, Macon, Ga., for development brochure; Mrs. Lee Allen, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, filmstrip and slide presentation category; William Warmath, Union University, Jackson, Tenn., annual report; W. Howard Bramlette, SBC Education Commission, for letterhead; and Fred H. Cooper, Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., for news story series.

Four organizations tied with three overall awards--Mercer, the Christian Life Commission, Union University and the Education Commission.

Six organizations had two each--Baptist Press, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, Stetson University, Gardner-Webb College, the SBC Radio-TV Commission, and Hardin-Simmons University.

One overall award each went to the Woman's Missionary Union, the SBC Annuity Board, Judson College, the Alabama Baptist state newspaper and the Alabama state convention, the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Oklahoma Baptist University, and Samford University.

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ABC Seeks Restitution,
Assurance of Justice

4/7/72

VALLEY FORGE (BP)--A top official of the American Baptist Convention has expressed concern that the United States Navy "take every step toward redressing serious grievances: relating to the recent court-martial of Cmdr. Andrew Jensen, an American Baptist Navy chaplain.

It was announced also that the denomination is consulting with its attorneys concerning the violation of Jensen's civil and judicial liberties "in order to prevent recurrence of such deprivation of justice in the future."

The ABC statement was released by Paul O. Madsen, associate executive secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Madsen asked for certain "assurances" concerning Jensen, including requests for promotion and for restitution of costs, and consideration of the payment of damages to Jensen "in areas where restitution can be made."

Jensen was acquitted of the Navy charges that he engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." The verdict came at the end of the 18-day court-martial in which the wives of two officers testified that they engaged in sexual relations with the chaplain. Jensen is the only chaplain on record ever to be court-martialed.

"The American Baptist Convention is profoundly grateful that Chaplain Jensen has been acquitted of all charges against him in the recent court-martial. We had every reason to anticipate that verdict," the ABC statement read.

In asking the Navy to make restitution to Jensen, Madsen said, "It would be impossible to restore completely the good name of Chaplain Jensen because of the world-wide publicity this case has received."

Madsen revealed also that the American Baptist Convention has sent a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, John H. Chafee, requesting "immediate promotion" for Jensen. Madsen noted that prior to the leveling of charges against him, Jensen was being considered for accelerated promotion because of outstanding service.

"Along with full restitution, we are asking that his transfer to new duties now and in the future have the approval of the American Baptist Convention," Madsen said.

The ABC spokesman reiterated the denomination's accusation that the Navy failed to follow established procedures in providing the denomination with any evidence against Jensen. This denied the convention any opportunity to exercise the discipline implied by ecclesiastical endorsement, he explained.

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Madsen explained further that the usual custom (and the one that is observed by the Army and Air Force) is to allow the sponsoring organization to determine whether a man is spiritually or morally fit to serve as a military chaplain.

"We . . . want assurance that future procedures will be followed cooperatively with the religious body involved and that military judicial procedures be consistent with civil law," Madsen urged.

Further, Madsen said, the ABC will present information to Congress to determine whether the legal procedures in the armed forces need review "because we believe that the Navy's judicial process has gone astray."

Also, the ABC is "raising question" with the legislative branch concerning revision of the current laws relating to the endorsement of chaplains "in order to guarantee full ecclesiastical prerogatives," Madsen said.

The ABC executive announced two meetings that denominational officials will participate in to discuss further the chaplaincy matter. On May 1, the ABC will be represented on the committee of the ecumenical board of the Commission on Chaplains in a meeting with the Navy department "where the matter of supplying chaplains to the Navy will be the key issue."

Also, at the suggestion of the office of the secretary of the Department of Defense, Madsen said a meeting is scheduled for May 19 for the ABC officials to meet with the armed forces chaplains board to discuss among other things "the endorsement issue in all of its implications."

