



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 Orville Scott, 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

September 13, 1972

National Baptists, Inc.,
Divided Over Jackson

By Joan Harvison

FORT WORTH (BP)--The national Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., ended its six-day, 92nd annual session here with feelings sharply divided over a politically-oriented speech delivered by the organization's president, Joseph H. Jackson, of Chicago.

Jackson's speech was immediately followed by his re-election to an unprecedented 20th term as president of the 6.3-million-member body, which claims to be the nation's largest black organization.

Although Jackson was elected by an overwhelming majority of the delegates, with only four dissenting votes cast, a number of persons walked out at the close of his speech, many others abstained from voting, and some charged that the election was a "railroading" job. There were no other nominations for the top post.

"I'm going to pray for you, brother," one elderly woman delegate remarked as she stormed from the convention center, a retort evidently prompted by Jackson's earlier admonition to the delegates to "pray for your leader; don't just lie in your hotel rooms and talk about him."

Controversy had flared at the meeting, attended by some 12,000 delegates, when Jackson announced his support for the re-election of President Richard Nixon at a pre-convention news conference, which received prominent play by local news media.

Open dissent toward the black leader's political stance came to the forefront when Jackson's annual address was interrupted at one point by loud "boos" from the audience when he praised President Nixon and sharply denounced Democratic nominee George McGovern.

Jackson, a Democrat, noted that he had seen "the American way changed" and his own vote in the Illinois Democratic primary election go "down the drain" when Sen. McGovern's forces ousted the delegation led by Mayor Richard Daley at the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach.

He charged that a McGovern administration would be a "government of committees," adding that "there's only one other country that operates that way, and that is the Soviet Union."

He cautioned delegates not to be misled by McGovern's promises to help the poor, saying, "He dropped 'poor' Eagleton from the ticket and got a rich man to take his place."

"McGovern says that he'll get us out of Vietnam in 90 days. If he does more than Nixon in Vietnam, he'll carry a white flag."

At that point, Jackson's remarks were almost drowned out by loud "boos" and shouts from throughout the convention center. The protestors switched to cheers when Jackson added, "Mr. Nixon is not perfect...he has made many mistakes, but, unfortunately, for the time being, he is president of the United States."

"And if we don't like him, we can go to the polls and throw him out."

Staunch Jackson supporters charged afterward that the "boos" had come mainly from McGovern's who had been bussed in for the speech from Dallas, where the Democratic presidential candidate had made several appearances the day before.

-more-

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

But news reporters at the session noted that many of those who had voiced opposition were wearing delegate badges.

Reaction to the speech was mixed, with some angry delegates denouncing it as "unfair" and "outrageous" while other spokesmen within the organization hailed it as "an act of courage."

"It is ironical that Jackson should say that McGovern maneuvered through committees at the Democratic National Convention," said R. L. Evans, a delegate from Brooklyn, N.Y. Everyone knows that this convention (National Baptist Convention) is governed by hand-picked committees of Dr. J. H. Jackson," he charged.

He added, "My feeling is that this is a non-partisan convention, and the president should have made a non-partisan speech."

Another delegate, a 15-year pastor of a North Carolina church, said, "It seems to me that he (Jackson) was trying to persuade us to go along with him, and we can't go along with Nixon. I think a lot of people here are really upset about Jackson's speech, and they are still talking about it. In fact, some are talking about him stepping down from the presidency."

Lewis Griffin, a youthful delegate and pastor from Cincinnati, Ohio, bitterly said he would boycott future conventions until Jackson steps down as president. "He has been re-elected into office every year. Jackson says that only four people voted against him, and that's true," Griffin said. "The rest just walked out."

Despite the opposition from some quarters, staunch "old guard" Jackson supporters defended the Convention president's remarks and predicted that he will continue to "come out on top," just as he has survived heavy opposition throughout his 20 years in office.

A top Black Baptist leader from California, Edward V. Hill, argued that there weren't 200 people present who would have voted against Jackson. There are a lot of people who are pro-Jackson, but not pro-Nixon, said Hill, president of the California black Baptist body.

In resolutions passed by the convention, delegates denounced "booing" as a "backward step in human relationships, called for "tolerance and respect for the rights of those with whom we do not agree," expressed disapproval of network news coverage of periphery activities at national political conventions, and supported continuation of the Olympic games.

The resolution on booing obviously referred to the Jackson speech reaction. "We strongly and completely reject any political ideology and supporter for any candidate for office, who will allow themselves to be bussed to 'boo' any assembly or any gathering that does not accept their ideology," the resolution said. "Some of us who were once sympathetic to Sen. McGovern's cause will no longer support him since some of his supporters or sympathizers sought to interrupt... (this convention)," the resolution stated.

The resolution also called for a 12-month moratorium on such dual programming."

In a resolution "deploring" the "Israeli tragedy" at the Olympic Games, the convention stated "We feel that it would be an even greater tragedy to destroy the opportunity of teamwork that enables its participants to unite forces for world peace. At a time when nations are at war with one another, the games bring our young people together in an atmosphere of comradeship."

The resolution also called upon the United Nations to "use its influence and facilities to reconcile the differences between nations."

-30-

Black Baptists Condemn Nixon
But Unenthusiastic on McGovern

9/13/72

By Martha Man.

DALLAS (BP)--Democratic presidential hopeful George McGovern received a somewhat left-handed "almost" endorsement from the National Baptist Convention of America meeting here.

-more-

In the only secularly political action of the gathering, more than 2,000 delegates unanimously approved a resolution condemning the Nixon administration and declaring, "We cannot in good conscience support this administration for re-election..."

While the convention spoke strongly against the Nixon administration, it declined to give an outright endorsement to the McGovern candidacy.

Even so, E. Edward Jones, chairman of the convention's Commission on Social Justice, said, "This is the strongest stand we have ever taken in an election year."

The resolution, presented by Robert Wilson of Dallas, host pastor for the National meeting, called on the denomination's four million members to "actively support (voter) registration efforts and to go to the polls in November and vote in good conscience, not for men nor parties, but for principles consistent with the spirit of Christ seeking the good will of all men."

Charging that the Nixon administration "consistently acts against the best interest of poor and minority citizens," the resolution said it "threatens the progress toward full citizenship of all citizens which this nation has made over the last two decades."

The resolution specified several "disturbing" actions by the administration:

- "Packing" of the Supreme Court with civil rights conservatives.
- Veto of bills which would provide better educational opportunities for minority poor and child care for needy, working mothers.
- Use of inflammatory code terms of racism such as "busing" and "welfare."

Meanwhile, in nearby Fort Worth, the larger National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., was hearing an address by their president, Joseph H. Jackson, strongly supporting President Nixon. Jackson was later reelected to a 20th term as president, but reaction to his address endorsing Nixon drew boos and protests. On the final day, the convention adopted a resolution condemning boeing.

The Nation Baptist Convention of America meeting here took the opposite stance, politically.

In other action, the convention here approved a report of the Commission on Social Justice which opposes the establishment of a volunteer army, decries the lack of grassroots involvement by black people in government, and supports busing as a means to achieve equal education. The report also calls for an end to the war in Vietnam.

Jones said an all-volunteer army would mean that the rich will never share in the agony of war and in the shedding of blood.

Concerning the explosive issue of busing, Jones said, "I think a lot of folks ought to stop hollering about busing, and if it is so bad, a lot of large white churches ought to stop their busing."

James Carl Sams of Florida was re-elected to a one-year term as president of the convention.

-30-

Pastor's Widow Reaps \$13,545
Benefit from \$110 Investment

9/13/72

DALLAS (BP)--Albert B. Parry paid less than \$110 into a retirement plan before he died in 1928, but his widow, Jennie Parry, who died in Los Angeles recently at age 92, drew \$13,545 in benefits over a 44-year span.

Officials of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here described the Parry file as one "unusual evidence of how a small investment can reap long years of benefits. You can't outlive your annuity."

They could not say definitely the 44 years set a record time for paying widow benefits, only that it could easily be.

Albert Parry was pastor of First Baptist Church, Santa Fe, N.M., when he entered the board's original retirement plan in January, 1927, and when he died of heart trouble in 1928.

- more -

Jennie Parry moved to Los Angeles after his death. She once worked for the Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society, according to her daughter, Mr. Ruth E. Glasgow, with whom she lived.

Later she regularly visited the women's section of Los Angeles City Jail, witnessing to prisoners, and visited the old people's wards in a local hospital. She taught a Sunday School class until she was 87.

-30-

John Sisemore to Join
Texas Convention Staff

DALLAS (BP)--John T. Sisemore of Nashville will become director of the Sunday School Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Oct. 1.

Sisemore, adult consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, succeeds R. Hooper Dilday who retired last June because of ill health.

Before joining the Sunday School Board in 1957, Sisemore directed the religious education department for the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington for seven years.

He served before that as minister of education and music in Texas churches for 16 years.

A native of Oklahoma, Sisemore is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, and is an alumnus of Chicago Music College, Multomah College, Portland, Ore., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

-30-

Christian Life Commission Gives
Jimmy Allen Top Service Award

9/13/72

NASHVILLE (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio and former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was presented the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's Distinguished Service Award as an example of a pastor who has tried to apply the gospel to moral issues.

Allen, who resigned five years ago as executive secretary of the Texas convention's Christian Life Commission to return to the pastorate, is the first pastor, and the youngest man to receive the award.

Foy D. Valentine of Nashville, executive secretary of the SBC Christian Life Commission, paid tribute to Allen as a 'faithful pastor, prophetic preacher, innovative leader, denominational statesman, responsible citizen, and doer of the word.'

He said that it was primarily for his "distinctive service as a faithful pastor" that the commission was presenting the award. "Combining evangelistic zeal with Christian social concern, Dr. Allen has led a great church in a great city to new heights of effective ministry for Jesus Christ, our Lord," Valentine said.

In accepting the award, Allen called his congregation "the most exciting church in the 15th largest city, and the poorest city in the nation."

He said he left the state's Christian Life Commission professional staff because he was convinced that "the cutting edge is not at the Christian Life Commission, but at the local church. That's where it's got to be done if it is going to be done.

"And it works, it really works," Allen said. "Evangelism and ethics do indeed fit together." He added that his church is having the finest response ever this year, and the best response ever to its caring ministries to help people in need in San Antonio.

"When people come alive to Jesus Christ, they become alive to people around them" he said "And if you belong to Jesus Christ, you ought to pray your way through the newspaper just as you pray your way through the Bible."

Allen told about specific laymen in his church, and their involvement in helping people in need in the nation's poorest city. "Applying Christianity, that's what it's all about," Allen said.

-more-

"This award says to the world that evangelism and social action do fit together in the local church," Allen said.

A native of Arkansas, Allen was pastor of churches in Van Alstyne, Wills Point and Dallas, all in Texas, before becoming head of the state's Christian Life Commission. He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, with a doctor of theology degree in ethics.

He currently is national president of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a director for the Community Welfare Council of San Antonio, a member of the Texas Advisory Commission on Crime and Narcotics, and the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He is a columnist for 40 newspapers, and moderator of two weekly television programs.

At 45 he is the youngest man ever to receive the Christian Life Commission Distinguished Service Award. Previous awards have gone to former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays, former Christian Life Commission executive A.C. Miller, Southwestern Seminary ethics professor T.B. Maston, and Southern Seminary ethics professor Henlee Barnette.

-30-

Black, White Friends Reunited
As Co-Pastors of Houston Church

9/13/72

By Robert O'Brien

HOUSTON (BP)--The appointment of George May, a black, as co-pastor of a white, Southern Baptist Church here, has reunited two men who first met 32 years ago on San Andres Island in the Caribbean, 400 miles off the coast of Colombia.

May, 45, will serve as co-pastor--at equal status and salary--with Charles W. McCullough, 59, at Houston's South Park Baptist Church in a racially changing neighborhood.

McCullough, who served on San Andres Island as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary from 1946-53, first met May when he was 13 years old. Mrs. McCullough taught him in their home, along with their own children.

The McCullough, who left foreign mission service in 1957, arranged for young May to come to the states in the early 1950's. He graduated from Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex., in 1954.

He was the first black to receive scholarship aid through the now-extensive minority scholarship program of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission.

After graduation from Wayland, May returned home and was graduated in 1959 from International Baptist Seminary in Cali, Colombia, an institution supported by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

In 1959, he became pastor of First Baptist Church, San Andres, where McCullough had served as pastor while a missionary.

May returned to the states in 1966 and joined a black Baptist church in Fort Worth as minister of education, 1966-68. Then he became pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio, a white church in a racially changing neighborhood supported by the SBC Home Mission Board.

That set the stage for his new post in Houston, which he assumed in mid-September, assisted by a salary supplement from the Mission Division of the Texas Baptist State Missions Commission.

He came to a position in which racial strife had developed into a harmonious ministry.

South Park Baptist Church had 1,500 members three years ago. Now it has 380, including a balance of blacks, whites, Indians, Mexican Americans and Chinese, said McCullough.

The "white flight" began, he said, when the first black family joined.

"But those who left were the losers," McCullough emphasized. "Some left us with anger and they took their anger with them to their new churches.

-more-

"Our ministry is really working more than we ever dreamed," he added. "Those who stayed belong to a happy, integrated church. Those who left freed us of destructive anger."

McCullough said about eight churches moved out of the neighborhood surrounding South Park church. The neighborhood is now about 95 per cent black. South Park is the only integrated, previously all-white church left.

He said his decision to integrate the staff followed the decision to integrate the church. It is a way of telling the black community, in action as well as words, that "we are interested in you," McCullough said.

May said he appreciated the opportunity to work with McCullough. "We have loved each other over the years. But whoever dreamed back in the 1940's that we would be in this church together?"

"Ever since I came to the states for the first time in 1951," May continued, "I found it hard to grasp that Southern Baptists can send missionaries all over the world to all races, but couldn't have racial openness at home."

But he has seen a change for the better. "In 1952, I wasn't allowed to stay on the grounds at Ridgecrest (N. C.) Baptist Assembly. In 1970, I was invited to hold a conference there."



BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

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

RECEIVED
SEP 14 1972
HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SBC