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September 25, 1972

**Dallas Pastor Threatened
for Liquor Election Role**

By Dave Montgomery

DUNCANVILLE, Tex. (BP)--A Baptist pastor battling a volatile liquor issue in south Dallas County charged he is being terrorized by threats, insults and obscene mail and telephone calls.

"I have never in my life encountered as vile and abusive things as I have in this issue," said Gene McCombs, chairman of the Greater Oak Cliff Civic and Moral League.

The minister's loosely knit organization has been activated since August to combat pro-liquor forces seeking a local option election.

Since that time, the pastor of Duncanville's First Baptist Church, has received more than 1,000 obscene letters, a box of human excrement and threatening phone calls which have left his family in fear of their lives.

In addition, bomb threats at his church in Duncanville, a suburb of Dallas, forced an early end to a recent Wednesday night prayer service as police searched the building for explosives.

McCombs said two callers had warned that a bomb "would bring harm" to the minister and his congregation. The pastor conducted a brief service, then ordered worshipers home while police outside stood watch.

Both the minister and Duncanville Police Chief D.H. McElroy said they believe the terrorism tactics to be the work of "cranks" acting independently.

"It has to be someone just trying to vent his own irrational verbiage," said the minister. "I don't believe it's part of any organized effort."

The chunky, 41-year-old minister said he has stopped short of arming himself, although police have urged him to "take precautions."

"I've never carried a pistol and I never will," he said. "But I'm certainly being extra cautious for myself and my family. Who can equate the difference between an emotional act of violence and just a crank call?"

The pastor said his wife, their 17-year-old son and a 17-year-old girl who has been living at the McCombs home since June all have answered threatening phone calls.

In another malicious act, someone dumped an erosive liquid on the family's automobile, ruining the finish.

McCombs, pastor of Duncanville's First Baptist Church for 10 years, was appointed to head the long-dormant Civic and Moral League after another organization, People for Economic Progress, launched a petition campaign seeking a local option election for legalizing liquor sales.

Working 18 hours a day and all but abandoning his ministerial duties, the Baptist Pastor has molded the league into a highly vocal group, with the outreach of a well-oiled political campaign.

Full-time headquarters have been set up and staffed by volunteers. Hundreds of other volunteers have waged a continuous telephone campaign urging registered voters not to sign people for Economic Progress petitions.

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McCombs said approximately \$15,000 in contributions from churches and individuals has been spent for full-page newspaper ads and bumper stickers, which read, "For the Sake of My Family I'll Vote Dry."

In 25 years of preaching, McCombs said, this is the first time he has been involved in a local option election.

"I've never done it before, he said, "and I'm not sure I'll ever do it again."

But then he added, "Well, I guess I would if I was needed. Right is right."

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Dave Montgomery is a staff writer for the Dallas Times Herald.

Theme Set For 1973 Portland Southern Baptist Convention

NASHVILLE (BP)--Theme for the Southern Baptist Convention's 116th annual session in Portland next June will be, "Share the Word Now."

Theme for the meeting, and selection of a music director, was announced here by the convention's Committee on Order of Business, which is charged with responsibility of planning the convention agenda. Russell H. Dilday Jr., pastor of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, is chairman of the committee.

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here, will be music director for the convention. Reynolds also directed the convention's music for the 1972 session in Philadelphia.

Dilday, in announcing the theme for the 1973 convention, said the theme is an adaptation of the 1973-74 Southern Baptist Convention agency program promotion theme, "Sharing Christ Through His Word."

The convention will begin Tuesday morning, June 12, 1973, and conclude Thursday evening, June 14. No convention sessions will be scheduled on Wednesday afternoon, June 13, to allow for seminary alumni luncheons and other related meetings.

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J.C. Bradley to Direct Seminary Extension Centers

NASHVILLE (BP)--J.C. Bradley of Nashville, a staff member of the Baptist Sunday School Board here, has been named associate director of Extension Center Education for the Seminary Extension Department of the six Southern Baptist Convention Seminaries.

Bradley will assume the position with the department's administrative committee, composed of the presidents of the six SBC seminaries.

Currently, Bradley is supervisor of the adult section, Church Training department, for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Previously, he taught for two years at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.

A native of Arkansas and a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., Bradley earned the doctor of education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Louisville, with special study in the field of continuing education for ministers.

In his new work with the Seminary Extension Department, Bradley will have responsibility for devising and implementing plans for establishing and servicing Seminary Extension Centers operated by the department across the nation, according to Raymond M. Rigdon, director of the department.

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The department operates about 200 extension centers scattered throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Nearly 4,000 persons studied at these 200 centers last year.

Although current enrollment figures are not available, Rigdon said that orders for materials to be used in the centers for the first three months of this academic year have been 13 per cent higher than orders for a comparable period last year.

"During recent years, the department has developed a wide range of learning resources with courses for all pastors, regardless of the extent or the limitations of their training," Rigdon said. "Dr. Bradley, with his training and experience in continuing education, can help us to make these resources more accessible to all pastors and other church vocational workers throughout the Southern Baptist Convention."

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Federal Program Launched To Strengthen Family Life

WASHINGTON (BP)--A new federal program has been launched here in an effort to "strengthen the family as the primary institution affecting a child's life" and to teach teenage youth how to become good parents.

Education for Parenthood, a major government program, will utilize public schools and national organizations in an effort in 1973 to reach 500,000 adolescents through parent education programs in 500 local schools districts.

In announcing plans for the program, U.S. Commissioner of Education Sidney P. Marland Jr., cited these national statistics to support the need for parenthood education programs for teenagers:

--Approximately 210,000 girls aged 17 and under gave birth in the U.S. last year.

--One of every 10 school-age girls is a mother, and 16 per cent of these young mothers have two children.

--The national divorce rate for those married in their teens is three to four times higher than that of any other age group.

The Office of Child Development has awarded a grant of \$570,000 to the Education Development Center in Cambridge, Mass., to develop a curriculum for parenthood education.

In addition, the Office of Child Development will award grants totaling approximately \$500,000 to about five national youth-serving voluntary organizations and their affiliates to promote Education for Parenthood programs among young people during 1973.

The program is sponsored jointly by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Education, and Office of Child Development. The two sponsoring offices are currently identifying the best curriculum and program materials available, with plans to provide these materials to interested school districts and national organizations.

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