



News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

FEATURES

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"Christian Morality and National Politics"
Second in a Series

Economics: Dollars and Sense,
May Be the Key Political Issue

By Jerry Gilmore*

"The Distribution of Income is clearly emerging as the issue that will dominate the American Political Scene in the closing quarter of this century."

Those words by a Harvard University economist spotlight the heated discussion and debate going on between the two major political candidates for President of the United States in 1972.

The questions clearly facing both political candidates are (1) how do you redistribute the income fairly and equitably without jeopardizing the continuing vitality of the economy, and (2) what balance do you maintain between private growth of economic wealth and the overall public good?

The clearly alternative routes are available to the voter in November.

The position of the challenger to the President is clearly one of change. Senator McGovern is strongly pushing for full employment, setting as his goal a four percent unemployment rate. He urges more public service employment in the areas of health and education, law enforcement, drug control, housing and transportation, pollution and the environment, and urges more meaningful job training in order to lift the poor members of society out of the vicious cycle of despair, poverty and unemployment. He urges more effective price and wage restraint, including fair application of rules for wage hikes for corporate executives as well as for blue collar workers. He urges comprehensive tax reforms to close tax loopholes, including the elimination or reduction of oil and gas depletion allowance, depreciation step up, and investment credits for corporations. He also calls for the nation to redirect its priorities by taking billions from the defense funds and channeling the dollars into housing, schools, jobs and health care in the urban centers.

The alternative route is strongly urged by President Nixon. He maintains that the economy is healthy and that the nation is on the road to greater stability and real prosperity. He cites the five percent annual increase in real earning rates. He points to past tax reform legislation, reducing individual income taxes by \$19 billion and excise taxes by \$3 1/2 billion, while at the same time increasing corporate income taxes by \$5 billion. He cites the tax reforms for corporations aimed at increasing capital expenditures in order to increase jobs, and points to twice the normal growth rate for new jobs. He focuses on the achievement of holding the rate of inflation at half its normal pace, and he cautions that public spending must be curtailed in order to prevent a renewed flare up of the inflation spiral.

Other issues facing both candidates include direct revenue sharing from the federal government to state and local governments; whether such revenue sharing should be by direct grants to the cities or whether the sharing should be by categorical grants in order to implement specific new programs on the local level. Additional sources of revenue must be found for the cities in order to replace the much attacked ad valorem tax system for financing local school districts and local governments, a source of revenue of diminishing value because of the shift of population from urban cities to suburban population centers surrounding the cities.

It seems obvious that while the war in Vietnam and midnight raids and wire-tapping by one political party on the headquarters of another political party may capture the political headlines, the real issues which ultimately turn the results of the election may be economic. It appears obvious that the Christian citizen who is concerned about his role as a vital member of the

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secular society must take seriously the task of analyzing and understanding the economic issues if he is to be relevant and influential in the political arena in the next few years.

To cast a vote with less than full understanding of its impact on society may well be a risk that a dedicated Christian cannot afford to take.

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*Gilmore is a Dallas, Texas, City Councilman and a Baptist layman. This is an adaptation of an address to a conference on Christian Citizenship at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, sponsored by the SBC Christian Life Commission.



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September 28, 1972

**CBS-TV Vice President Assures
Baptists: No X-Rated TV Movies**

FORT WORTH (BP)-- The Columbia Broadcasting System's vice president for program practices, Thomas J. Swafford, paid a personal visit to the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission here in an effort to reassure Baptists that the network "has no intention" of showing 'X' or 'R' rated movies on television.

Paul M. Stevens, executive director of the SBC Radio-TV Commission here, said after the visit he was convinced that "CBS does not intend to engage in this kind of practice now, on in the future."

Swafford's visit to the Baptist office here came nearly eight months after a storm of protest arose within the Southern Baptist Convention to news reports that CBS had purchased a package of 167 films, including several R rated and one X-rated movie for late-night broadcasting.

Resolutions opposing telecast of such movies were adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in June at Philadelphia, the SBC Executive Committee in February, and SBC Christian Life Commission and several other Baptist organizations. Numerous Baptist state papers carried editorials urging Baptists to flood CBS with mail protesting such movies.

Last March, in response to the resolutions adopted by the SBC Executive Committee and the SBC Christian Life Commission, another CBS vice president, John Cowden, denied that CBS planned to show any X or R rated movies on television. Cowden claimed that any movies previously rated X or R had been edited for television, deleting any objectionable scenes and thus changing the rating of the films.

Swafford told Stevens in his personal visit that both the viewers and CBS were justifiably upset. CBS was upset because there has been no such announcement, and because CBS has no intentions of showing X or R rated movies.

"CBS continues to be aware that we are guests in people's homes and we try to conduct ourselves accordingly," he said.

He pointed out that some movies screened by CBS are carefully edited to meet time and television code restrictions. Movie producers have sometimes objected to the cuts, but Swafford said he foresees no difficulty in obtaining suitable movies for television in the future.

The CBS official said that the final censor, however, is the one at home who controls the dials of the set and makes decisions on what programs to watch.

"The networks reflect the current social and moral climate of the nation," Swafford said. "People probably do not like the climate they see on television, so they blame the medium that shows it to them rather than seeking the roots of the problem.

"But CBS does not intend to compound the problem by showing X or R rated movies on prime time or for late evening viewing," he emphasized.

Stevens added emphatically that "if the networks want to commit suicide, if they want to justify all the criticism leveled at them by the public, and if they want to drive away 50 per cent of the sponsors as well as the audience, all they have to do is start morally cheating with the material they show.

"They can't, and they won't get away with it," Stevens declared. "Mr. Swafford has given me the assurance that I need that CBS does not intend to engage in this kind of practice now or in the future."

Government to Appeal
Compulsory Chapel Case

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court will have an opportunity during its upcoming fall term to rule on the constitutionality of compulsory religion at the nation's three military academies.

According to a spokesman for the Justice Department, the government will ask the high court to review a lower court decision knocking down military requirements that cadets and midshipmen attend church or chapel services regularly or be punished.

In July the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled against the Pentagon in a two to one decision in the case of Anderson V. Laird. The compulsory church attendance regulations at military academies are a violation of both the establishment and the free exercise clauses of the First Amendment, the majority opinion declared.

The government plans to file a petition for review by the end of October, according to the Justice Department spokesman. Sometime after that the Supreme Court will announce whether it intends to hear the case. If the court declines the petition, the decision of the lower court will stand.

When the case reached the U.S. Court of Appeals here the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs filed an Amicus Curiae (friend of the court) brief. The Baptist committee maintained that the compulsory religion regulations were unconstitutional because they violated the free exercise and establishment clauses of the first amendment. Further, the Baptist brief questioned the right of the government to use religion to accomplish state purposes.

If the Supreme Court grants the petition for review, the Baptist Joint Committee will have the privilege of filing another amicus brief, according to John W. Baker, associate executive Director. A decision to file in the event the court hears the case, will be made by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during its semi-annual meeting early in October, Baker said.

The Pentagon maintains that the compulsory church attendance regulations "are an integral and necessary part" of military training for future officers. The government's view was upheld in the U.S. District Court here when Judge Howard F. Corcoran agreed that the purpose of the regulations "is purely secular and its primary effect is purely secular."

The Court of Appeals judges disagreed. Circuit Judge Harold Leverthal in a concurring opinion for the majority cited a number of references in military manuals that he said did have "an unmistakable religious premise."

The regulations are "marked by religious character and impact not shown to be unavoidable and imperative...and are a violation of the establishment clause," Leventhal declared.

Chief Judge David Bazelon sharply criticized the Pentagon and the lower court for maintaining that the regulations do not interfere with a cadet's free exercise of religion.

Bazelon wrote that "the failure to attend formal group worship is punished like any other violation of academy rule. The most devout believer, who may wish just once or always to worship alone is plainly coerced to attend services."

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Foreign Board Notes
New Missionary Needs

RICHMOND (BP)--Requests for more than 800 new missionaries were validated and priorities for missionary reinforcement were set by Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators and missionary personnel officers here.

Their decisions were undergirded by confidence that resources to expand the missionary force will be forthcoming, and this was the basis for the new calls, said Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the Board's Mission Support Division.

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Posts in East Asia, Southeast Asia, West Africa and Central America were considered most critical. Korea, Mexico, Ivory Coast and the Philippines were at the top of the list of countries.

Calls for general evangelists were predominant as usual. The board considers seminary-trained pastors prime candidates for evangelistic posts, Fletcher said.

Twenty requests for theological teachers and for religious education workers emphasized the missionaries' concern for the training of national leaders, according to board officials.

Team evangelism through community development projects in Ethiopia, calls for student workers, agriculturists, vocational teachers, a veterinarian, an engineer and a dentist.

Medical centers in Ghana, Yemen, Korea, India and Nigeria continue to be hard pressed, with calls for physicians and nurses dominating a list that also includes dentists, dieticians and a medical technologist, the board leaders said.

Requests for student workers and agriculturists continue to grow, reflecting two strong emphases developing in Southern Baptist mission work overseas, they added.

Laymen will figure strongly in the search for new missionaries according to Louis R. Cobbs, secretary for the department of missionary personnel. He cited needs for book store managers, college and secondary teachers, and radio and television workers.

Numerous positions for women received special attention. Missionaries in 35 countries have asked for women to be nurses, religious education teachers, social workers and workers in programs for women.

Thirty-eight requests for missionary associates, who do not have to learn a foreign language, were cited along with over 100 calls for missionary journeymen--young college graduates who take two-year assignments. Most of these requests were for laymen and women.

In reviewing the personnel requests, Winston Crawley, the board's Overseas Division Director, said, "Our major goal is to expand the beachheads established during the past 20 years."

Crawley added that a "breakthrough is already evident in many areas, making new reinforcements imperative." He cited Korea as a prime example.