



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
480 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

February 1, 1973

**Nixon Stresses Peace
At Prayer Breakfast**

WASHINGTON (BP)--"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin in me." With these words President Richard Nixon concluded his remarks to the National Prayer Breakfast, an annual event sponsored by weekly prayer groups in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Peace was the theme of most of the prayers, speeches and scripture selections delivered and read by national leaders to 3,000 distinguished representatives of government, religion, business and members of the diplomatic corps.

A special guest at this year's event was Mayor Vladimir F. Promyslov of Moscow, and his wife.

References to peace were not particularly those of celebration, but in most instances took the form of gratitude and cautious expressions that peace in Vietnam finally was becoming a reality.

The President cautioned that the ceasefire in Vietnam "will mean peace only to the degree that both sides determine to keep the agreement.

"We will keep the agreement and we expect others to keep the agreement," the President declared.

Nixon expressed concern that all Americans see peace as an "opportunity to do great things for people at home and abroad." Referring to "internal conflicts" that develop after every war, the President said he was concerned over "divisions between generations, races and religions."

Such divisions cannot be changed by laws, the President declared. "Laws cannot legislate compassion, understanding and an end to prejudice. These can come only with changing the man," he said.

Nixon concluded his brief remarks with the words of the song, "Let there be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin in Me."

Then, with a paraphrase directed to the 3,000 gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel, the President urged: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin in each and everyone of us."

Senator Mark Hatfield (R., Ore.), representing the Senate prayer breakfast group, cautioned against some dangers he saw in the prayer breakfast.

"Events such as this prayer breakfast contain the real danger of misplaced allegiance, if not outright idolatry, to the extent that they fail to distinguish between the god of an American civil religion and the God who reveals himself in the holy scriptures and in Jesus Christ," Hatfield said in his opening remarks.

"If we as leaders appeal to the god of civil religion, our faith is in a small and exclusively, a loyal spiritual advisor to power and prestige, a defender of only the American nation, the object of a national folk religion devoid of moral content," the Senator warned.

"We sit here today as the wealthy and the powerful," Hatfield said in his speech, which received the warmest applause with exception of that given to the President.

"But let us not forget that those who follow Christ will more often find themselves, not with comfortable majorities, but with miserable minorities," he observed.

Hatfield urged that the prayers of those gathered in the glittering ball room begin with repentance "for the exile of love from our hearts... (and) the sin that has scarred our national soul."

The Oregon Senator, prominent also as a Baptist layman, called for "a 'confessing church'-- a body of people who confess Jesus as Lord and are prepared to live by their confession.

"Lives lived under the lordship of Jesus Christ at this point in our history may well put us at odds with values of our society, abuses of political power, and cultural conformity of our church," Hatfield said. He urged those present to be "Christ's messengers of reconciliation and peace..."

"Then we can soothe the wounds of war and renew the face of the earth and all mankind."

Arthur F. Burns, chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the main message to the National Prayer Breakfast group, challenged the leaders gathered there "to bring new hope to our people... by devoting (their) energy to creating a social order based on justice and love... and to remember to pray for divine guidance in all your decision."

-30-

Baylor To Build Environmental
Science Institute Building

2/1/73

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University trustees have authorized construction of an environmental sciences building to house Baylor's Institute for Environmental Studies, research laboratory facilities and classrooms.

Trustees also heard an appeal for funds to complete financing of the new \$1.2 million Castellaw Communications Center. About \$850,000 in gifts and pledges has been received so far for the new center to house oral communication and journalism communication departments.

The new environmental sciences building is expected to cost about \$150,000. The Institute for Environmental Studies was created at the Baptist school, the largest in the nation, three years ago.

Trustees were told Baylor is also seeking funds to build a museum to house memorabilia of American Composer David Guion, best noted for his composition of "Home on the Range," who has designated Baylor as the recipient of his estate and collections.

-30-

Georgia Church Starts
Home to Treat Alcoholics

2/1/73

AUSTELL, Ga. (BP)--Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church here has opened a "Home of Hope" for the care and treatment of men with alcohol problems.

The home, in a converted 60-year-old school house, is across the street from the church and is run by a former alcoholic with a deep concern for the illness he overcame.

Edwin V. Hayes, member of the church, has worked for five years to make the home a reality.

A year ago, the church voted to convert the old schoolhouse into a home for alcoholics. Building construction was done at no charge by men of the church. The Brotherhood secured a \$2,500 loan for materials. Furnishings were donated.

The new "Home of Hope" is able to care for nine men, plus a resident director. Cost of running the home is borne by the church.

Hayes said he felt strongly it was the church's responsibility to do this to help the alcoholics. "We've kicked alcoholics out of church, but God loves them as much as us." -30-