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February 8, 1973

Churches and Parents, Not  
Schools, Should Teach Prayer

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark, who wrote the court's opinion banning compulsory prayer in public schools, said here that churches and parents are to blame, not the courts or schools, for lack of religious training for children.

Clark was major speaker at the 25th anniversary conference of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"Why cannot the churches teach the young people not only to pray, but also what prayer is about?" Justice Clark asked the 2,000 persons attending the conference.

Prayer in schools usually consists of forcing young people to mumble in unison over a prayer at the beginning of the school day, Clark observed.

"A child who prepares and gives grace at the family dinner receives more benefit from those few words of his own than from all the prayers that others write and he chants in school," the former Supreme Court justice said.

Clark traced the history of conflict between religion and the constitution, and concluded that the Supreme Court decisions on prayer in schools "has proven to be constructive."

During the same session, Americans United honored Earl O. Harding, executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Convention, as "a champion of religious liberty" for many years. Harding was presented the organization's annual Religious Liberty Award.

Porter W. Routh of Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, and Hugh Wamble, professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, paid tribute to Harding. Wamble described Harding as "Missouri's leading defender of First Amendment principles," marshalling Missouri Baptists and others to persuade public officials against sacrificing First Amendment principles on political alters.

Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Americans United, told the conference that proposed federal tax credits on tuition paid by parents of parochial school students would constitute "subsidies for churches" in violation of the constitution.

Such "tax credit schemes" are proposed as measures for "circumventing the constitution," Archer said.

Rep. James C. Corman (D., Calif.), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee before which tax credit measures are pending, told the group that a tax credit has the same financial impact on the treasury as a direct subsidy.

Corbin added that the tax credit plan would result in "a substantial revenue loss" and could "open the flood gates for a myriad of similar proposals."

Several other speakers during the two-day conference here attacked tax credit proposals, and pledged continued opposition to measures providing government funds for churches.

Leo J. Jordan, counsel for the National Association of the Laity, a Catholic organization, said Catholics have not had an opportunity to express themselves, but instead it is the bishops who push for tax credits.

"Catholics are no different from the majority of Americans," he said, "in relation to religious liberty." Only one in three Catholic students attends a parochial school, he added.

Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church of San Antonio and president of Americans United, closed the conference with an appeal for "reestablishment of an understanding of religious freedom."

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Sunday School Board Names  
New Information Associate

2/8/73

School

NASHVILLE (BP)--Charles Willis, an information specialist in the Southern Baptist Sunday/Board's office of public relations, has been promoted to information associate, according to Gomer R. Lesch, office director.

A native Tennessean, Willis joined the Sunday School Board as an information specialist in 1968.

In his new position, he will assist in planning, conducting and evaluating the information services of the office of public relations, and will be responsible for planning and coordinating production of office publications and advertisements. He also has been named associate editor of "Facts and Trends," a monthly publication of advance news and information sent to pastors and other vocational denominational workers by the Sunday School Board.

Willis holds the bachelor of science degree in journalism from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic society; the Nashville Chapter of Religious Public Relations Council; Baptist Public Relations Association; and The Associated Church Press. (Prepared by BSSB Bureau)

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Allen to Head Search  
For Texas Executive

2/8/73

DALLAS (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, has been elected chairman of the 14-member committee to nominate a new executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Executive Secretary T.A. Patterson will retire at the end of 1973, after 13 years service.

Other committee officers are vice chairman W.E. Norman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Quanah, Tex., and Recording Secretary Browning Ware, pastor of Calder Baptist Church, Beaumont, Tex.

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