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**SBC Pastors' Conference Aims
At "Equipping the Man of God"**

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, slated here at Memorial Coliseum June 11, will feature a day packed with preaching aimed at "Equipping the Man of God."

Proposed program for the conference, scheduled on the Monday preceeding the Southern Baptist Convention, was released by Vander Warner Jr., president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of Grove Avenue Baptist Church in Richmond, Va.

Warner said the program was designed "to help fellow pastors from across America including many who come with anxieties, frustrations and disappointments. Others," he said, "come from hard places that demand more a man than God ever intended for one man. Some of them might have lost 'the wonder of it all.'

"It is my hope that we will help these men by giving them something new to think about, something different to try, and a reaffirmation in some cases of the faith," Warner said.

The full day of preaching will include a dozen major messages and five personal testimonies.

Speakers for the opening session on Monday morning, June 11, will be : Padgett Cope, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark ; J.C. Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Winter Park, Fla.; Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; Harper Shannon, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala.; and Jack Taylor, pastor of Castle Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio.

The afternoon session will feature messages by Clyde Martin, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Macon, Ga.; Jaroy Weber, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala; John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston; and E.V. Hill, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Los Agneles, and president of the predominately black California Baptist convention.

Closing session speakers will be R.G. Lee, pastor emeritus of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; and S. Franklin Logsdon, itinerant Bible teacher from Largo, Fla., and former pastor of Moody Memorial Church in Chicago.

Personal testimonies will be presented by Miss Rachael Saint, Wycliffe Bible Translators missionary to the Auca Indians in Ecuador; Bob Harrington, evangelist known as the "chaplain of Bourbon Street" in New Orleans; Jess C. Moody, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.; W.R. Davenport, president of Campbellsville College, Campbellsville, Ky.; and Jack Carter, minister of music, Kempsville Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va.

Warner, in announcing the proposed program, pointed out that seven of the speakers had never before appeared on the Pastors' Conference program.

The session in Portland will be the 38th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which usually attracts a crowd of more than 5,000 persons.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Baptist Press will mail the proposed program for the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in tomorrow's mailing.

Baptist Colleges Ask for Continued Tax Incentives

WASHINGTON (BP)--Seventy-five Southern Baptist colleges and schools asked the House Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. Congress not to reduce the incentives for charitable giving as proposed in tax reform measures now before Congress.

The Ways and Means Committee, in extensive hearings, is considering proposals that would eliminate income tax deductions for charitable contributions, eliminate or reduce the deduction of gifts of long-term appreciated property, reduce the unlimited estate tax charitable deduction, and place a three per cent floor on income tax charitable contribution deductions.

Shelton Hand, director of development and general counsel for Mississippi College, a Southern Baptist school in Clinton, Miss., represented the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools before the Ways and Means Committee of which Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D., Ark.), is chairman. Lewis Nobles of Mississippi College is president of the association. Ben Fisher of the SBC Education Commission serves as executive secretary.

In addition to the association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, the University of Richmond, a Baptist school in Richmond, and a member of the association, presented separate testimony through Charles W. Patterson III, assistant to the president and director of estate planning.

Patterson took essentially the same position as Hand in opposing changes in current tax law that encourages charitable giving. He explained that a \$40 million gift in 1969 to the University of Richmond from E. Claiborne Robins and family "was and still is the largest single outright gift to a college or university in the history of this country."

"More than likely Mr. Robins would have made a large gift to the university no matter what the tax laws were at that time...but the tax laws, nonetheless, encouraged his gift," Patterson declared.

"Without the the advantages, perhaps the gift would not have been as large," he said.

Hand argued that it is in the public interest that the government continue its policy of encouraging charitable contributions by continuing tax incentives for such giving. He pointed out that the increase of public expenditures required to replace private contributions would far exceed the current loss in tax revenues.

The essence of Hand's 95-page testimony is summed up in four points. He said:

"The passage of the presently discussed tax changes (1) would go against the 'self help' theory of American greatness, (2) would greatly increase the involvement of the federal government in all agencies of life already recognized as 'for the public good,' (3) would follow much too closely on the heels of the massive 1969 Tax Reform Act, and (4) could require great increases in appropriations to continue the public access to those very agencies and institutions that would suffer most from these reductions now debated."

Throughout the hearings, Rep. James C. Corman (D., Calif.) asked the witnesses if they thought that the wealthy people of the nation should share in the cost of government rather than avoiding taxes by giving to their favorite charities to the extent that they would pay little or no income taxes.

In discussing this point, Hand took the position that tax deductible gifts to educational institutions is the equivalent to paying taxes to the government.

Rep. Corman, while not opposing a degree of tax incentives for charitable giving, obviously did not agree that such giving as the same as paying taxes.

Hand further asserted that if tax incentives were removed from the support of private colleges, many of them would be severely damaged, many would be forced to close their doors, or many of the private colleges would become public institutions.

"The consequences of these proposals," Hand said, "would be for the federal government necessarily to become totally involved and assume full responsibility for the operation of those institutions finding favor in the federal budget. . . This danger runs deep and the issue of church and state would be a major factor."

Hand concluded by saying that "education is not down--but a blow of reduced recognition would do great damage. He appealed for a continuance of present policies of government encouragement of private support of the nation's colleges and universities.

The testimony of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools was only one of many witnesses and panels representing both public and private higher education.

They all appealed to Congress to continue the present policies of tax incentives for private support of the schools.

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CORRECTION

On Baptist Press Story mailed 4-9-73, headlined Baptists Win Most Awards In Religious PR Contest, please make the following corrections and additions. An entire page listing of the awards winners was inadvertently omitted when the information was supplied to Baptist Press. Please change the story as follows:

Graph 2: Southern Baptists won 11 awards, and members of the Disciples of Christ won seven awards, dominating the winners' circle in the competition.

Insert the following after graph 4 of the story as sent:

John Earl Seelig, vice president for administration, and Don Hepburn, public relations associate, won a total of four awards for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Seelig won first place honors in the newsletter and booklet (catalogue) categories, and a second in the poster category; Hepburn tied for second in the booklet category for the seminary's summer bulletin.

(Pick up with graph 5 and rest of story as sent.)

--Baptist Press