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May 16, 1973

**Restructure Committee Slates
Open Hearing at SBC, Portland**

PORTLAND (BP)--The Committee of Fifteen, a special study committee assigned to study the structure and organization of the entire Southern Baptist Convention, will hold an open hearing at the June 12-14 session of the convention to allow any convention messenger an opportunity to make suggestions to the committee.

The hearing will be scheduled at the Hilton Hotel, Director's Suite, on Wednesday afternoon, June 13, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., according to committee chairman E.W. Price Jr., pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C.

"We want to give an opportunity for any Southern Baptist attending the convention to present a point of view before the committee before our study is complete," Price said.

In February, the committee held a similar "open hearing" immediately following the SBC Executive Committee meeting, but no one showed up with any specific proposals. Almost all of the 14 who attended were denominational workers who came "just to hear" what might come up during the discussions.

At the February meeting, Price stressed that the committee was open to any suggestions from anyone. "We've really tried to listen, to hear, to seek opposing viewpoints concerning alternatives in our study," Price said.

The committee was appointed in 1970 and assigned by the SBC Executive Committee to study the total program and structure of the convention. Last year, the committee made three recommendations to the convention in Philadelphia.

Two proposals, approved by the convention, expanded the scope and membership of the Radio-Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission. A third recommendation, which would have transferred the stewardship programs from the SBC Stewardship Commission to the Executive Committee, was defeated by the convention.

Price said that at this time, the committee does not plan to make any recommendations to the convention in Portland.

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Workshop Seeks Total
Communication to Deaf

5/16/73

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--More than 75 leaders in Southern Baptist ministries to the deaf met here for a national workshop, advocating the right of a deaf child to communicate freely through what they called a "total communication" process.

The "Workshop on Total Communication," was sponsored by the language missions department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in cooperation with state missionaries to the deaf.

"It may well be the most significant action of Southern Baptists on behalf of the deaf since the Home Mission Board initiated the program of deaf ministries more than 60 years ago," commented George B. Joslin, workshop director and state director of language missions in Virginia.

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Joslin said that for more than a century, deaf children have been educated under a philosophy that has severely limited the communication methods the children are permitted to use.

Conference participants, however, endorsed a philosophy of total communication in which any possible means of communication is encouraged, including speech, lip reading, the language of signs, and pantomime.

The total communications process involves the entire family learning to communicate with the deaf child even before school age.

Workshop participants prepared guidelines to assist Baptist churches and denominational agencies in development of an approach to support the concept of total communication.

The guidelines called for parent-infant education, sign language courses open to the community, brochures for distribution to medical personnel and other professionals, etc.

The 75 missionaries, pastors, interpreters and deaf laymen from churches attending the workshop urged that other state and regional workshops be scheduled to implement the guidelines they proposed for local churches.

"If the next generation of deaf people has a better life, it will be because of changed attitudes on the part of the community," said David M. Denton, superintendent of the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick, Md., and keynote speaker.

Churches should take a major lead in correcting the attitudes of the community toward the deaf, Denton said.

A report on workshop proceedings will be made available to those who work with the deaf in Baptist churches across the nation through the language missions department of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, according to Irvin Dawson, associate in the department who coordinates the Home Mission Board's work with the deaf.

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CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 5-14-73, headlined Scholarship Fund Created For Conference Staffers, please change graph 3, second sentence, to read, "Proceeds from this fund will provide a \$500 scholarship annually to a staffer from each conference center.", rather than \$50 as sent.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 5-15-73, headlined Sharron Lyon Named Keyboard Consultant, please change graph one to two graphs, reading:

NASHVILLE (BP)--Sharron Lyon, a former resident of Jackson, Tenn., has been named keyboard consultant in the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

For the past nine years Miss Lyon has served at First Baptist Church, Nashville, as organist-music assistant. She also has served as organist and accompanist at Dalewood Baptist Church, Nashville, and West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 5-15-73, please change headline of story, Summer Missionaries to Hold State With Communication, to read, Summer Missionaries to Help State with Communication.

CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 5-15-73, headlined Brown Joins Baptist Sunday School Board, please change graph 3 to read:

Brown, a native of McHenry, Ky., is a graduate of North Texas State University, Denton, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., where he earned the bachelor of divinity degree. He earned the doctor of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.