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May 17, 1973

**McCall Plans SBC Motion  
To Transfer Stewardship**

LOUISVILLE (BP)--The president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, Duke K. McCall, has notified Southern Baptist Convention leaders that he plans to introduce a motion at the denomination's convention in Portland, Ore., which would ultimately dissolve the Stewardship Commission as an agency of the convention.

The motion, almost identical to one which was defeated at the 1973 convention in Philadelphia, would transfer the programs now assigned to the Stewardship Commission to the SBC Executive Committee, effective Oct. 1, 1974.

If McCall's motion is presented, and approved by both the convention in Portland in 1973 and Dallas in 1974, it would mean in effect that the Stewardship Commission would be dissolved as a convention agency, and its programs would be transferred to the SBC Executive Committee.

McCall, who was executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee before becoming president of Southern Seminary here in 1951, detailed his plans to make the motion in a letter to Baptist Press, to the president and secretary of the SBC, and to the executive secretaries of the Stewardship Commission and Executive Committee.

Writing in the October, 1972, issue of *The Tie*, the seminary's alumni publication, McCall argued that the defeat of the recommendation from the Committee of Fifteen, a subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee assigned to study the structure of the SBC, was a "blunder" and gave notice of his intention to see that the issue "gets a full airing" when the SBC meets in Portland, June 12-14.

McCall charged that the matter was not well handled at the convention in Philadelphia, and that the messengers were told that if they defeated a motion to refer the recommendation back for further study, information would be forthcoming in a debate period. But after the vote to refer was defeated, the convention quickly went on to defeat the original recommendation, without any additional debate or information.

"This leftover matter must be reviewed in the convention in Portland in 1973," McCall wrote in *The Tie*. "The Lord willing, I intend to see that the issues get a full airing without the restraint and suspicion that it is a power grab by the Executive Committee."

McCall, in telephone interview, admitted he is likely to draw criticism by bringing up the matter personally, since there is a tradition that one SBC agency head never speaks on the floor of the convention against another SBC agency.

He was quick to point out that he was "motivated neither by opposition to the Stewardship Commission nor support of the Executive Committee...I have no ax to grind."

Asked why he planned to make the motion, McCall responded: "Frankly, I think the Cooperative Program will grow at a faster pace, and thereby theological education will be better undergirded" with promotion of the Cooperative Program placed under the SBC Executive Committee than under the Stewardship Commission.

"The very character of the SBC makes the SBC Executive Committee the stackpole of our cooperative efforts, including cooperation between the SBC and state conventions," McCall said. Thus, he argued, the executive secretaries of the state conventions and the executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee are the key persons in promoting the Cooperative Program.

McCall said he did not feel the state executive secretaries were as enthusiastic in their promotion of the Cooperative Program as they should be, primarily because they feel they are left out of the planning process.

McCall said he had written to each of the state executive secretaries of the state conventions, and that all but two of those who responded had favored his proposal to transfer the stewardship functions from the Stewardship Commission to the SBC Executive Committee.

McCall's proposal in *The Tie*, however, drew strong criticism from an editorial in *The Capital Baptist* by editor James O. Duncan, who also serves as the state stewardship secretary of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

Duncan questioned why McCall had not polled the state stewardship secretaries to get their views as well as the state executive secretaries. "Since when do we turn such decisions over to about 25 people?" he asked.

"The Stewardship Commission is doing a fine job," Duncan's editorial concluded. "The work of the commission is growing. The commission needs our support, not some who keep trying to abolish it."

In Nashville, the executive secretary of the SBC Stewardship Commission, James Lackey, said he had not had an opportunity to discuss with McCall his proposal.

Lackey said that when McCall's article appeared in *The Tie*, he wrote to the seminary president, and invited him to come to Nashville to discuss the matter with the staff and see what the commission is already doing to promote the Cooperative Program. McCall did not respond to the letter, Lackey said.

In a telephone interview, McCall conceded that the Stewardship Commission was indeed doing a good job. "Thank God for that. While the present system is not failing, surely there is a better way."

What we are talking about, McCall said, is not "good vs. bad," but "good vs. better."

McCall said he felt the issue was important enough for a full airing and discussion at the Portland convention.

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Arkansas College Names  
Nicholas New President

5/17/73

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark. (BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist College here have elected D. Jack Nicholas, 40-year-old chairman of the Baptist junior college's department of psychology, as president of the school, effective July 1.

Nicholas, who has also served as executive vice president of Southern Baptist College, will succeed H.E. Williams who is retiring after 32 years as president. Williams is the first and only previous president of the school.

Williams said that Nicholas is "eminently qualified by background, education, experience and Christian commitment to become the second president of the institution."

The president of the school's board of trustees, Padgett C. Cope, praised both Williams and Nicholas for their leadership abilities. "The college has had a glorious past," Cope said. "I predict that it will have an even greater future under the leadership of Dr. Nicholas."

Nicholas has been pastor of Baptist churches in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas, and was professor of psychology at California Baptist College, Riverside, Calif., before coming to the Southern Baptist College faculty.

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He also has been guest professor of psychology at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark. At Southern Baptist College here, he has held administrative responsibilities in addition to teaching as executive vice president and as director of student personnel services.

He is a graduate of Arkansas State University, Jonesboro; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and North Texas State University, Denton, Tex., where he earned the doctor of education degree and was a teaching fellow.

Last year, Nicholas was recipient of the distinguished alumni citation from Southern Baptist College. He is listed in Outstanding Young Men of America, Who's Who in American Education, Outstanding Educators of America, and Who's Who in the South and Southwest.

He is married to the former Martha Ann Williams of Walnut Ridge, daughter of the current president.