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August 1, 1973

**Senate Hearings Begin  
On Prayer Amendments**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Hearings began in late July in the U.S. Senate on proposals for a constitutional amendment providing for prayer in public schools.

Only members of Congress testified at the one-day hearing on July 27, which was conducted by Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), chairman of the subcommittee on constitutional amendments of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Hearings will be resumed in late September or early October, according to a member of Sen. Bayh's staff. At that time public witnesses will be scheduled.

In his opening statement as chairman of the subcommittee, Bayh said, "What we are dealing with here is an effort to change the Bill of Rights. We are here to discuss the wisdom of altering the First Amendment to the Constitution--the amendment from which we derive our traditional 'four freedoms'--freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom to peaceably assemble."

Bayh pointed out that the question at issue "is not a question of being for prayer or against prayer; for God or against God." He elaborated, "It is a question involving the propriety of the state, through its schools, mingled in an intimate area generally reserved to the family in the home and in the church."

Specifically, the Indiana senator stated three questions to which the hearings should seek answers. They are:

1. "Exactly what is prohibited and what is permitted in the way of prayer or meditation or religious exercises by the Supreme Court decisions?"
2. "What will be gained by changing the Constitution in the manner suggested by the sponsors of the various proposed amendments?"
3. "What will be lost if we do not make any change and permit the decisions of the court to stand unchallenged?"

Seven senate joint resolutions proposing constitutional prayer amendments are now before the Senate. Sponsors of these resolutions plus one member of the House of Representatives testified at the opening hearing. They were Senators Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.), Dewey Bartlett (R., Okla.), William V. Roth (R., Del.), William L. Scott (R., Va.), Howard H. Baker (R., Tenn.), and Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie (R., Ohio).

The proposed amendments are largely variations of the old "Dirksen Amendment" and the Wylie Amendment which was defeated in the House of Representatives in the last congress. The text of the main proposal is:

"Nothing contained in this Constitution shall abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled in any public building which is supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds, to participate in nondenominational prayer."

Some of the resolutions add the word "voluntary" in the place of "nondenominational" as the qualification of the prayer that is allowed in public schools.

California Editor Resigns  
To Operate Texas Weekly

FRESNO, Calif. (BP)--Donald T. McGregor, editor of the California Southern Baptist since October, 1971, has announced his resignation from this post effective September 28.

McGregor recently purchased the Kemp News at Kemp, Tex., and will move to that area to assume the responsibilities of editor and publisher of the weekly paper.

Kemp is located 35 miles southeast of Dallas and is at the northern edge of a growing resort area around the recently created Cedar Creek Lake.

Prior to becoming editor of the California Southern Baptist, McGregor was Associate Editor of the Baptist Standard, Texas Baptist paper, serving there for 16 years.

He had also worked for the Dallas Times Herald, the Midland (Texas) Reporter-Telegram and radio station KCRS in Midland.

McGregor is a journalism graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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Musical Premieres During  
Royal Ambassador Congress

8/1/73

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--A world mission musical, "To the Ends of the Earth," will be presented for the first time August 14 at the opening session of the Fifth National Royal Ambassador Congress, St. Louis.

The music was written by Bill Cates and the words by Ed Seabough, Bill O'Brien and Rob Sellers, according to Charles Doggett, congress director.

The production will feature the youth choir of First Baptist Church, Ellisville, Mo., directed by Carl Moman, with accompaniment by the William Jewell College Jazz Ensemble directed by Phil Posey.

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Southern Baptist Chaplain  
Heads Protestant Assn.

8/1/73

CHICAGO, Ill. (BP)--Southern Baptist Chaplain Charles D. Phillips has been named executive director of the American Protestant Hospital Association headquartered here.

A native of Mississippi, Phillips joined an APHA staff in 1967 as the first full-time director of the Division of Chaplaincy Services, later changed to the College of Chaplains.

In that position he also served as assistant executive director of the association. The association, made up of hospitals and related institutions, has a membership of 250 institutions and 1,000 personal members.

Walter R. Hoefflin, president of the association, said, "In making the appointment, the trustees took recognition of Dr. Phillips' experience and demonstrated administrative competence, as well as an unusually keen insight into problems and issues confronting the membership on a day-to-day basis."

A former pastor in several Mississippi churches, Phillips is a graduate of Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, La. He completed his clinical training at the Baptist Hospital in New Orleans.

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CORRECTION

In Baptist Press story mailed 7-27-73, headlined POW-MIA Special Problems Surface at Retreat, please change graph 20 to read, Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., who worked an 18-hour day...etc. Thanks. --Baptist Press