



BAPTIST PRESS

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March 11, 1974

McClellan Notes Changes in Retirement Plans Emphases

DALLAS (BP)--Despite the increase of church-related vocational workers enrolled in Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) retirement plans in recent years, it appears the percentage of Cooperative Program funds budgeted for retirement purposes has not changed appreciably.

This was the observation of Albert McClellan, Nashville, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the SBC Executive Committee. The statement was made to convention stewardship leaders meeting here as guests of the SBC Annuity Board.

Further, over a recent five-year period, there was a "significant decline" in the percentage of Cooperative Program funds budgeted for retirement purposes for pastors and other church-related vocational workers in the convention, McClellan declared.

In 1926, McClellan continued, 9.5 per cent of the \$5 million SBC budget goal, not counting the state conventions' part, was budgeted for retirement and relief purposes.

Only a little over five per cent of total 1972 national and state Cooperative Program receipts, which totaled \$91.5 million, was budgeted for ministerial retirement purposes, according to McClellan.

"The two percentage figures for 1926 and 1972 cannot be compared, since records showing the state Cooperative Program budgets for 1926 are not immediately available," he noted.

Figures for the budgets in 1968 and 1972, containing state and national Cooperative Program amounts, show the retirement proportion to be declining, he said.

In 1968, on a total budget of just over \$75 million, retirement plans received \$4,077,000, or 5.43 per cent. In 1969, the percentage dropped to 5.32, although those dollar and cent figures increased.

The total Cooperative Program amount passed the \$80 billion mark in 1970, but the retirement proportion fell to 5.30 per cent. In 1971, it was down to 5.25 per cent.

The latest figures available is for the year 1972, indicating that state and national Cooperative Program budget hit \$91.5 million. Of this, \$4,611,000 was budgeted to build retirement programs for church-related vocational workers, or only 5.04 per cent.

A Baptist state convention puts up \$200 a year to go with \$400 a year from the churches for each participating minister, it was pointed out. The money enters retirement plans for the ministers, plans which are administered to the SBC Annuity Board.

The state convention's contribution to retirement comes from state Cooperative Program budget funds.

Relief administration has diminished greatly in recent years, and now requires about \$200,000 annually from the national Cooperative Program of the SBC. The retirement contributions from state budgets do not include the yearly sum for relief, which is allocated from the national budget.

McClellan reminded the stewardship promotion officers that in 1926 there was no annuity plan for church-related vocational workers, "as we know it today."

The main effort of the then-called SBC Relief and Annuity Board was to administer relief funds. Those receiving relief funds from the denomination then would be drawing retirement benefits today, McClellan said.

The "retirement benefits" refers to the monthly annuity arrangements paid during retirement, toward which participants contribute while in active service.

"Relief benefits" consist of outright gifts in hardship cases, payable largely to individuals who had no plan for retirement benefits.

Annuity Board officials attributed the decline in relief administration to growing reliance on retirement plans jointly made available by the SBC agency and Baptist state conventions.

Because of this changing status, the name "Relief" was dropped from the title of the agency in 1960.

Stewardship promotion secretaries from Baptist state conventions and staff of the SBC Stewardship Commission, located in Nashville, were in Dallas for a two-day get-acquainted session with the Annuity Board as host. The Annuity Board explained its ministry to the stewardship leaders and listened to their suggestions and comments.

State stewardship leaders are responsible for promoting the Cooperative Program, a unified plan of support, within their state boundaries. The SBC Stewardship Commission gives direction nationwide to promoting the Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program supports Baptist state convention ministries and Southern Baptist Convention missionary, education and benevolent work according to percentage scales adopted year by year.

McClellan described the Cooperative Program as a "partnership in soliciting, collecting, and dispersing funds" for state and nationwide Baptist causes.

He listed four features of the Cooperative Program:

- (1) "Cooperative Program promotion day-by-day is an integral part of the work of all our Baptist agencies.
- (2) "Stewardship of the parts includes a firm and basic loyalty to the whole program.
- (3) "It is a total and absolute partnership of the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. There is an essential unity of state conventions and SBC work.
- (4) "It requires adequate, comprehensive planning," McClellan said.

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Baptist Women Ordained
In Kentucky, Georgia

3/11/74

By Baptist Press

Linda Jean (Mrs. James) Pruett, a Georgian, and Miss Esther Hargis of Kentucky are apparently the first Southern Baptist women to be ordained as ministers in their respective states.

Mrs. Pruett was ordained by Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, a suburb of Atlanta, while Miss Hargis was ordained by Lyndon (Ky.) Baptist Church.

The Pruetts are former Southern Baptist home missionaries and worked with Dawson Baptist Mission Center in Atlanta until their resignation in the fall, 1973.

She asked for the ordination to fulfill requirements for entrance into a clinical pastoral education program, The Christian Index reported. She is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Miss Hargis is a graduate of Georgetown College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. She has been a pastoral intern at the Lyndon church.

Her plans lean toward a position as an associate minister or an institutional worker, where ordination is required, according to the Western Recorder.

Religious Spokesmen Clash
At Anti-Abortion Hearing

WASHINGTON (BP)--Religious leaders presented sharply conflicting testimony regarding proposed anti-abortion constitutional amendments during two days of hearings held here by the Senate subcommittee on constitutional amendments.

The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), heard two U.S. senators who have introduced anti-abortion amendments. Sen. James J. Buckley (Cons-R., N.Y.) has proposed S.J. Res. 119, which would prohibit abortion except when the life of the mother is endangered. Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) had introduced S.J. Res. 130, which would deny abortion under any circumstances.

The second day of hearings was devoted entirely to religious leaders who presented widely differing opinions on abortion.

A Texas Baptist pastor, speaking for himself and an organization called "Baptists for Life," appeared with four Roman Catholic cardinals, a Jewish rabbi, the president of the Eastern States Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), and a member of the National Board of Social Concern of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. These all supported in one form or another an anti-abortion constitutional amendment.

Opposing a constitutional restriction on the right of abortion were a Methodist bishop, a Jewish rabbi, the stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the president of the United Church of Christ, and other individual religious spokesmen.

At a later day, James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs will appear before the subcommittee to oppose anti-abortion amendments to the constitution. He will present a 1971 resolution by the Southern Baptist Convention and a 1973 action by the Baptist Joint Committee. Other Baptist groups taking similar positions may also be scheduled to testify before the Bayh committee.

The appearance of four Roman Catholic cardinals at a congressional hearing was a historic occasion. John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia, the group's principal spokesman, said that it was the first time such a delegation of high-ranking Roman Catholic Church officials had appeared before a congressional committee. The reason, he said, was the importance the church attaches to the abortion question.

Robert Holbrook, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Hallettsville, Tex., supported an anti-abortion amendment. During his testimony he attacked many main-line denominational leaders, who, he alleged, did not speak for the people.

Under questioning by Sen. Bayh, Holbrook admitted that he spoke only for himself and for his group, "Baptists for Life." He also acknowledged that when Baptist denominational bodies took positions, their spokesmen have a right to speak for those bodies.

The anti-abortion amendment hearing of religious spokesmen was organized around three panels and individual witnesses.

Panel one, favoring an anti-abortion constitutional amendment, was composed of John Cardinal Krol, Philadelphia, John Cardinal Cody, Chicago, Timothy Cardinal Manning, Los Angeles, and Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, Boston.

Panel two, opposing anti-abortion amendments, was composed of A. James Armstrong, bishop of the Dakotas areas, north central jurisdiction, and president of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church Barbara McNeel, professor of human relations and educational psychology, Colgate Rochester Theological School, Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. Jane Stitt, teacher at Abilene (Tex.) Christian College and a member of the task force to study abortion, established by the Presbyterian Church, and Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of the Commission on Interfaith Activities and director of the New York Federation of Reformed Synagogues of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Panel three, favoring an anti-abortion amendment, was composed of Rabbi J. David Bleich of the Rabbinical Council of America in New York, David Lawrence McKay, president of the Eastern States Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), New York,

Mrs. Jean Garton, member of the National Board for Social Concern of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, Ralph A. Bohlmann, executive secretary of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, and Robert Holbrook, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hallettsville, Tex., and spokesman for "Baptists for Life."

Others testifying against proposed anti-abortion amendments were William Thompson, stated clerk, United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Robert V. Moss, president of the United Church of Christ, and Howard E. Spragg, executive vice president of the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

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Scholarship Fund Honors
Murdered Seminary Student

3/11/74

FORT WORTH (BP)--A scholarship fund has been established in memory of Tom Connally Hollingsworth II a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student who was killed in a 1972 robbery-murder in Alabama.

Hollingsworth, 24, was spending his summer working as a Bible salesman in Alabama when he was killed. Two 17-year-old youths pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment each in the robbery-murder. Hollingsworth, according to reports, died from a blow on the head with a bumper jack. The robbery netted the pair \$9.05.

The student's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. Connally Hollingsworth, Southern Baptist missionaries to Argentina, presented an initial \$1,000 check, which they said included funds given by gifts from family, friends, their late son's former fellow students, and others in Alabama.

The fund has been invested through the Southern Baptist Foundation, and dividends will be used to award a scholarship annually to the seminary's outstanding language student, a seminary spokesman said.

"We would like to keep this fund open for additional contributions so that it would be a perpetual memorial," Hollingsworth's parents wrote President Robert E. Naylor shortly before their return to Argentina.

A 1969 graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Hollingsworth had completed all required courses for the master of divinity degree. He had decided to take additional work for the master of religious education in order to receive both degrees in December 1972. The faculty voted to award him the master of divinity degree posthumously.

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Illinois Baptist Board
Opposes State Lottery

3/11/74

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (BP)--The Illinois Baptist State Association board of directors have gone on record as "deploring the passage of a bill by the General Assembly authorizing a state lottery, which in effect involves the state in legalized gambling."

The action authorized board president Stanley H. Dill and executive secretary James H. Smith to co-sign letters of commendation to legislators who opposed the bill, and letters of regret to those who voted for it, including Gov. Dan Walker "who used the influence of his office" to secure its passage.

The board also approved a recommendation by the executive secretary to phase out interim financing on the new Baptist Building in Springfield. Illinois National Bank provided the interim financing in the amount of \$1,550,000, which has been gradually replaced by permanent financing.

Permanent financing includes \$1,250,000 in Broadway bonds, a \$255,000 loan from the Children's Home Investment funds, \$26,500 from the unrestricted Marie Webb estate, plus \$18,500 from lease and investment income. Original plans called for \$300,000 to come from the home's investment fund, but when only \$255,000 was available, the \$45,000 difference came from the Webb estate and lease income.

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The day following the board meeting, the final check was delivered to the Illinois National Bank, as full payment for the interim financing, a convention spokesman said.

The board approved allocations for this year's state missions offering goal: \$60,000 (or 60%) of the \$100,000 goal for salaries of personnel for new churches, \$20,000 (20%) each for inner city and resort ministries.

An agreement was voted with the Huber Foundation for the Baptist Children's Home to operate the Huber Boys Home near Carbondale; gave permission for a land owner to drill for oil on property where the Children's Home retains a percentage of mineral rights; but referred back to the special ministries committee a role specification for a recreation-education director at the home.

The name of the church training department was changed by the board to department of church administration and training and a new role specification approved for its director.

The board also elected G. W. Schweer, Palatine, as a member of the board, approved the annual auditors' reports, heard a summary of the sale of the Baptist Student Center in Champaign, received the annual report of the administrative committee, heard a progress report on long range plans, and approved "equipping the man of God" as the major task assignment for the executive system in 1975.

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Evangelism, Ethics Leaders
Discuss Cooperative Efforts

3/11/74

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--Southern Baptist leaders in evangelism and Christian ethics huddled here to demonstrate their support of each other's application of the gospel and to explore ways to cooperate in leading individuals to Jesus Christ and in meeting social responsibilities.

Led by C. B. Hogue, director of the division of evangelism of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Home Mission Board and Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the SBC's Christian Life Commission, staff members of the two agencies shared views on their areas of work.

Evangelism and ethics discussions include problem attitudes and crucial issues. The leaders also looked at ways they can help each other go about their work more effectively.

Both Hogue and Valentine acknowledged that in the minds of some Southern Baptists, traditionally, there has been conflict between evangelism and ethics.

But both underscored the need for Southern Baptists to be concerned not only with winning people to Jesus Christ but also the need to make the world a better place in which to live.

"Evangelism must confront people with Jesus Christ, seek decisions, and call for commitment to Him in the total area of life," Hogue said.

"Conversion is but a beginning for the fulfillment of personal responsibility through the demands of discipleship. We have a twofold task--to win men and women one by one to a vital relationship with God and to fashion a world fit for the children of God to live in."

Valentine added, "As Southern Baptists love and serve one God, so we preach and practice one gospel which is both good news for individuals and good news for society."

He said that all evil will not be eradicated and all the world will not really be won to Christ because most people choose lives of sin.

"But this does not keep Christians from witnessing for Jesus to all the world and winning those who will to take Jesus Christ as Lord.

"We cannot eradicate all social evils, but this does not keep Christians from challenging social evils and by God's grace letting justice roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers.



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