



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 341-5455
W.C. Tidwell, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234
Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 14, 1974

Bomb Threat Halts Work At Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)--Employees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board evacuated board buildings here for nearly one hour on Monday, May 13 following a telephone bomb threat for the second time in recent years.

At approximately 12:30 p.m. a woman called into the switchboard and said "There's a bomb."

The switchboard operator relayed the message to the office supervisor, who came to the switchboard in time to hear the second call, which was immediately after the first.

"There's a bomb set to go off at one o'clock," the caller said.

When questioned by the operators, the woman assured them there was really a bomb. She then repeated the threat to the other operator, never indicating the location.

Board officials made the decision to evacuate the premises. "We know that this is probably an empty threat," stated president James L. Sullivan, "but our primary concern is for the safety of our employees."

Metro Police officers arrived at the board in a matter of minutes. The one o'clock deadline passed, and after a search of the board by the police officers, employees returned to work grateful that the alarm was false.

-30-

Supreme Court Refuses to
Review Abortion Decision

4 5/14/74

By Stan L. Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court declined to accept a Rhode Island case which would have forced the court to review its controversial 1973 decisions permitting women to obtain legal abortions.

Although the high court's refusal to hear arguments in the case indicated neither approval nor disapproval of two lower courts' decisions, the practical effect of the order was to uphold the 1973 decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe V. Bolton* which have produced a storm of controversy.

The 1973 rulings held that the decision to obtain an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy "must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician." During the second trimester, the court declared, the state may "regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health." During the final three months of pregnancy, the state may regulate and even prohibit abortion except when, "in appropriate medical judgment," it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the woman.

Rhode Island's anti-abortion law, like those of other states, was in effect declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in last year's landmark decisions. Rhode Island, however, proceeded to re-enact its law forbidding abortion except when the life of the mother is at stake. The state legislature went one step further, adding to the law a clause declaring that a fetus is "a person within the language and meaning of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

-more-

When suit was brought challenging the constitutionality of Rhode Island's newly revised statute, the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island declared it unconstitutional. On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the first circuit upheld the district court's decision. The appeal was then brought to the U.S. Supreme Court by Rhode Island's attorney general, the Local Right to Life Committee and Ann Frank, a woman who had been declared legal guardian of several unborn children.

In their legal brief to the high court, the petitioners argued that unborn children are "indispensable parties to and have a right to intervene" in court through a legal guardian. Further, the argument went, unborn children are full human beings and should be protected by provisions in the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

The petitioners argued also that unborn children are U.S. citizens protected by the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment and that fathers of unborn children are indispensable parties in legal action involving abortion.

The women, each of whom had obtained a legal abortion as a result of the 1973 decisions, argued in their brief that Rhode Island's anti-abortion law was unconstitutional. Further, they held that neither the fathers of unborn children nor the woman appointed as legal guardian of their unborn children held indispensable interests in the case.

-30-

**10-Point Statement Sums
Concerns of Associations**

5/14/74

By Toby Druin

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP)--Superintendents of missions from most of the 1,189 Southern Baptist associations adopted a 10-point "Ridgecrest Statement" here suggesting their titles be changed to "director of missions" and that emphasis continue on "unity without compulsory uniformity" among cooperating Baptist bodies.

The superintendents, denominational leaders and others attending the National Convocation on the Southern Baptist Association at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center here also reaffirmed the historic pattern of cooperation among associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"The associations interpret, strengthen and promote support of cooperative Baptist work," the statement said. "The state conventions are primarily responsible for promoting the denominational program, receiving and remitting gifts for the cooperative ministries and enterprises supported by Baptists and providing field services for various programs of work.

"The SBC agencies initiate programs, reinforce and strengthen promotional and training events through providing literature, resource persons, field services and national and/or regional conferences."

Presented by Ernest J. Kelley, director of evangelism and missions for the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, the "Ridgecrest Statement" was a summation of the sentiments of the chairmen of 32 study groups who, during the convocation, pored over areas of concern to the associations.

Debated for more than an hour before being approved, the statement, in addition to suggesting the title change for superintendents and reaffirming the relationships between Baptist bodies, made the following points:

--Labeled the future of Southern Baptist associations "bright and promising."

--Associations, based on biblical principles, assist and relate churches to each other and the denomination for a broader and more meaningful ministry.

--Major concerns of the association, which identify its role, are: evangelism, missions fellowship, doctrinal soundness, helping churches and providing a channel for training and information.

-more-

--The association fosters a fellowship of encouragement, love, acceptance and inspiration and strengthens and encourages fellowship.

--The association provides adequate organization for leadership in cooperative ventures.

--Encouraged the six SBC seminaries to provide courses on both undergraduate and graduate levels on the association and encouraged the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and state conventions to provide assistance for training associational Baptist leadership.

--Encouraged associations to use public news and other mass media to influence persons with a Christian witness.

-30-

Baptist, Catholic Schools
To Co-Sponsor Institute

5/14/74

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. (BP)--Wake Forest University, a Southern Baptist school here, will team with the Roman Catholic-operated Belmont Abbey College in co-sponsoring an ecumenical institute beginning in September, 1974.

Claude U. Broach, has resigned a 30-year pastorate of St. John's Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C., to become the institute's full-time director.

The institute is an expansion of one established by Wake Forest in March, 1968. Officials of the two schools say they believe sponsorship by a Baptist and Catholic institution will give the program "greater meaning and strength."

The ecumenical venture was announced by John P. Bradley, president of Belmont Abbey, and James R. Scales, Wake Forest president. The two institutions will share institute costs equally.

Scales said the institute is not a "propaganda agency." Rather, "It is a cooperative venture of scholars to find answers to the questions that trouble the religious world of our generation."

Broach said, "The joint sponsorship of the institute makes it ecumenical in its very nature, not just in its objectives. Our interest in ecumenicism does not mean that we are trying to abolish denominations or gloss over differences between different branches of church and religion.

"We are trying to dispel some of the damaging myths we often hold about one another," Broach added.

The institute has sponsored or jointly sponsored eight conferences between various faiths and denominational groups, including Baptists and Roman Catholics, Baptists and Jews and black and white Baptists.

Brook Hays, a Baptist layman, former congressman from Arkansas and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was the institute's first director.

John William Angell, professor of religion at Wake Forest, is currently directing the program. Hays and Angell will be consultants to the institute.

Broach said the institute will sponsor a major inter-religious conference each year and will continue to offer a January seminary abroad. Also, smaller ecumenical, pastoral and research seminars will be offered. He will have offices on both the Wake Forest and Belmont campuses.

A graduate of the University of Georgia and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., with the master and doctor of theology degrees, Broach was a "visiting theologian" in the final sessions of the 1965 Vatican Ecumenical Council. He has been pastor of the Charlotte church since 1944 and has announced his resignation, effective July 21.

Broach holds honorary degrees from a number of colleges, including Belmont Abbey and is on the Catholic school's board of advisers. He has served several terms as a Wake Forest trustee and was also active in establishing the institute.