



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE  
SBC Executive Committee  
400 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37233  
(615) 254-4555  
W. C. Fields, 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 21, 1974

## New Senate Bill Allows Aid to Nonpublic Schools

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate passed a major education bill which includes a provision for bypassing state prohibitions against public funds for private schools.

The bill extends for four years, through fiscal 1978. Most of its provisions are contained in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. That historic bill marked the beginning of substantial federal spending in the field of elementary and secondary education.

The new Senate measure calls for the expenditure of \$25.2 billion over the four-year period.

During several weeks of debate, the bypass provision never reached the Senate floor. Earlier in the current session of Congress, the House of Representatives passed a similar measure.

According to the new bill, the U.S. commissioner of education is given authority to provide funds for disadvantaged children attending nonpublic schools even in states which have enacted laws prohibiting distribution of any public funds for such schools.

The Senate bill, which passed by a vote of 81-5, was amended during the final day of debate to include a provision calling for participation of nonpublic school officials in a proposed 1977 White House conference on education. The amendment was introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.), a Baptist.

Much of the debate on the bill centered around anti-busing amendments. The Senate rejected by a narrow 47-46 margin a proposal already passed by the House prohibiting courts from ordering the busing of children for racial balance beyond the school closest or next-closest to their homes.

A much milder proposal, which would prohibit busing across school district lines to attain racial balance, easily passed.

The White House has indicated that the President would veto any education measure which does not contain a strong anti-busing provision.

Before either the House or Senate version can go to the President for signature, conferees from both houses are expected to engage in a lively debate on several of the bill's provisions, including the anti-busing section.

Any modification of the bypass provision, however, seems unlikely in view of the ease with which both the House and Senate acted on that controversial section of the bill.

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## Tennessee Baptists Plan Aging Program

5/21/74

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)--The executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention took action here to open the way for Tennessee Baptists to develop a comprehensive program of care for the aging.

The program would utilize 175 acres of land in east Tennessee, worth about \$1 million, donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Catlett of Dandridge, Tenn., as well as utilizing other parcels of land which would be secured throughout the state.

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The proposals to enter the new field resulted from a two-year study by a special Tennessee Baptist Convention committee.

A life care center under consideration for the east Tennessee location, to be known as Holly Oaks, would eventually house about 1,200 persons. The main line of development will be through a proposed new Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, a non-profit corporation which must be approved at the convention's annual session next November.

The corporation would be authorized to set up similar centers throughout the state. Some locations are already under consideration.

Gene Kerr, assistant to the executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, will continue to spearhead the program.

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SBC Aging Conference  
Set for October 23-25

5/21/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--The first Southern Baptist Conference on the Aging, an event sparked by a resolution at the 1973 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Portland by a 23-year-old seminarian, will be held here Oct. 23-25, 1974.

The conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Inter-Agency Council, will involve 225 invited participants who will develop guidelines to aid SBC agencies, state conventions, associations and churches as they develop ministries for and with senior adults.

Purpose of the conference is to increase denominational awareness of the problems of aging and the aged, to provide an information base from which SBC agencies and state conventions may act in the future and to present some guidelines for developing future programs and projects.

The conference will also seek to clarify the responsibilities of SBC agencies and state conventions in meeting the needs of senior adults.

A group of students, led by Gary Cook, then a second-year master of divinity candidate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, initiated the proceedings last June with a resolution at the annual SBC meeting. The SBC passed a resolution asking the SBC Executive Committee "to do a feasibility study on the need for a major survey of present and future ministry to and with senior adults and to take appropriate action."

The Executive Committee referred the matter to the Inter-Agency Council last September and the Inter-Agency Council, in its meeting last January, authorized a special committee to plan the conference.

The man who first advised Cook to take his concern to the convention in the form of a resolution, Albert McClellan, chairs the special committee to plan and conduct the conference.

McClellan, program planning secretary and associate executive secretary of the Executive Committee, will coordinate invitations to those with responsibilities for ministries for or with senior adults, who are interested in attending, as long as space is available.

Participants will include persons from SBC agencies, state conventions, Baptist homes for the aging, certain local church staff members and representative older persons.

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