

**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

**NATIONAL OFFICE**  
SBC Executive Committee  
480 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
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

June 3, 1974

**Texas Baptists Hit "Cheap Attempts" of Gambling Proponents**

DALLAS (BP)-- "Cheap attempts of gambling proponents to arouse religious prejudice against Baptists" were hit here by the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The 192-member board -- which represents some two million Texas Baptists -- lashed gambling proponents for an "attack on our Executive Secretary, Editor of the Baptist Standard and President of the BGCT."

The statement during the board's quarterly meeting came in response to a statement by Joe Straus Jr. of San Antonio, who was co-chairman of the Texas Citizens for Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing, in which he accused Baptist leaders of "blackmail" and "bullying tactics" and an effort to "impose their moral beliefs on generations of Texans to come."

Recently, Texas voters overwhelmingly rejected the third attempt in 12 years to legalize pari-mutuel betting in the state.

The voters responded to the pleas of the Anti Crime Council of Texas, the Baptist Standard, the Christian Life Commission and other leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and other Texas groups in downing the proposal in the primaries of both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

The unanimously adopted statement said the charges "reveal that they are ignoring the fact that many people from all walks of life and religious persuasion joined Baptists in resistance to the pari-mutuel push.

"The opposition is based not on a narrow sectarian morality but on a clear evidence of obviously destructive social consequences which result from legalized gambling."

All three of the top Baptist leaders have taken strong stands against pari-mutuel gambling.

James H. Landes, chief executive officer of the Texas Baptist organization, has said he "cannot imagine people of this state accepting a new Constitution which does not forbid pari-mutuel gambling."

Ralph Smith of Austin, Tex., convention president, repeated his stance: "If the new Constitution does not contain an anti-gambling provision, I will do all in my power to get the Constitution defeated."

Smith also is chaplain of the Constitution Convention, currently revising the state constitution.

John J. Hurt, editor of the Baptist Standard, 375,000 circulation voice of Texas Baptists, also has urged defeat of the document being drafted if it does not include a strong anti-gambling provision.

The statement adopted added: "It would be tragic for legislators to ignore the political realities voiced at the polls recently. We are astounded that the gambling proponents who caused the statewide vote on pari-mutuel gambling during the Constitutional Convention now want to ignore it.

"We can understand the utter frustration of those who have lost millions of dollars of potential profits. This does not, however, justify their trying to make Baptists a whipping boy by painting them as bluenosed Puritans and attempting to divide the religious community."

-more-

The statement urges all Texas citizens to encourage Constitutional Convention delegates to include a strong prohibition against gambling in the new constitution.

-30-

Stewardship To Propose  
Cooperation Statement

6/3/74

DALLAS (BP)--A "Declaration of Cooperation" that reaffirms "our denominational unity and purpose in Christ" as Southern Baptists, will be proposed by the convention's Stewardship Commission when the Southern Baptist Convention meets here June 11-13.

The proposed declaration is being presented as a major part of the convention's observance of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program (unified budget) during 1975.

The declaration is designed to challenge each individual Baptist to a deeper commitment or recommitment to the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists as a primary channel of world mission support, said A.R. Fagan, executive director-treasurer of the commission.

Stewardship secretaries of 33 Baptist state conventions have already accepted a goal of three million signatures on the declaration during 1975, if passed by messengers at the SBC annual meeting here, Fagan said.

The proposal will be presented on Thursday evening, during the Stewardship Commission's report to the convention. If approved, Fagan said, it will be signed immediately by heads of all the SBC agencies that receive Cooperative Program support.

-30-

Cooperative Program Totals  
Show Continued Gain in May

6/3/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--Receipts channeled through the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Cooperative Program unified budget increased over last year for May and for the first eight months of the current fiscal year, figures released here show.

Cooperative Program totals SBC-wide for May reached \$3,443,370, for an increase of \$843,834 and 32.46 per cent over May, 1973, according to John Williams, director of financial planning and assistant to the treasurer of the Executive Committee, SBC.

Contributions, (designated and undesignated receipts combined) for the fiscal year to date, October, 1973, through May, 1974, were \$54,302,070, an increase of \$6,891,781 and 14.54 per cent over the same period last year.

Undesignated Cooperative Program totals for October, 1973 through May, 1974 were \$25,613,229, an increase of \$3,228,931 and 14.42 per cent over the same months last year. Designated receipts for the year to date were \$28,688,841 for an increase of \$3,662,850 and 14.64 per cent.

While undesignated Cooperative Program receipts have continued to rise each month of the current fiscal year, Williams noted that designated receipts, which showed a decline of 1.48 per cent in April compared with April, 1973, were up in May and showed an increase of 43.16 per cent over May, 1973. Designated receipts for May, 1974 were \$4,227,935, an increase of \$1,289,774, Williams said.

Combined contribution totals (undesignated and designated receipts) for May were \$7,721,305 for an increase of \$2,133,608 and 38.18 per cent over the same time span in 1973, Williams said.

Noting the increases in Cooperative Program giving during the current fiscal year Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, SBC, said:

"The significant increase in Cooperative Program receipts in May will help Southern Baptist Convention agencies meet inflation pressures. This represents continued concern on the part of Southern Baptist church members and pastors."

-30-

New Strike Provisions  
Affect Baptist Hospitals

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. House of Representatives passed, by a vote of 240-58, a bill extending coverage under the National Labor Relations Act to the employees of non-profit hospitals.

In brief, the National Labor Relations Act deals with procedures to be followed in management-labor disputes, including strike provisions.

At present, only employees of profit-making hospitals are covered by the act. The new bill also extends coverage of the act to include employees not only of hospitals, but also of health maintenance organizations, health clinics, nursing homes, and other institutions devoted to care of the aged, sick or infirm.

All Baptist hospitals would be affected by the new legislation.

The new measure calls for the establishment of a special set of strike and collective bargaining requirements and procedures for employees at all health care institutions.

One of the new requirements would impose upon labor unions the obligation to give the institutions a ten-day notice of intent to strike.

In addition, where collective bargaining agreements are in effect, either side would be required to notify the other 90 days before termination or modification of such agreements. The bill would also require either side to give notice 60 days in advance of a strike to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The measure further calls for mandatory mediation between the parties.

During floor debate on the bill, the House adopted an amendment presented by Rep. John N. Erlenborn (R., Ill.) calling for a 60-day "cooling off" period in disputes which in the judgment of the director of the National Labor Relations Board would substantially disrupt health care services.

Also adopted during debate was another Erlenborn amendment to the bill exempting from coverage employees who have religious convictions against joining or financially supporting a union.

Earlier in the current congress, the U.S. Senate passed a similar measure. The House bill now goes to a conference committee where relatively minor differences in the two bills will be worked out.