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Look At What's Right,
Ford Urges Baptists

By Jim Newton

DALLAS (BP)--Vice President Gerald Ford, addressing more than 1,500 Baptists at a breakfast climaxing the Southern Baptist Convention, called on the nation to take a positive look at what's right with the nation.

"We've heard so much about what's wrong, the time has come to take a more positive look--a new assessment of our potential for human growth," the Vice President said.

At the breakfast workshop sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, Ford went on to express pride in the current peace mission to the Middle East by President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

"The detractors would do well to dwell on the high purpose that the President and the Secretary of State are pursuing as emissaries of peace," Ford said, as the overflow crowd in the Statler Hilton Hotel Ballroom responded with applause.

"Let us all pray for their success for us and for the world, and I know that you share my faith that they can and must succeed."

He told the crowd he felt America should take renewed pride in the fact that the "tormented peoples of the Middle East turned to us and trusted us. They turned to no other nation of the world to act as the mediator of peace."

He also expressed pride that the President has established new relationships with the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and that American forces had been pulled out of Southeast Asia.

"I ask this morning that this nation strengthen the President's hand when he is abroad on high purpose," he said. "Let politics and controversy stop at the water's edge."

"Regardless of our views on political controversies in Washington," he added, "the President of the United States speaks for us all when he seeks peace abroad."

Speaking on the conference theme, "The Challenge of Christian Involvement, the Vice President told the Baptists that the laymen of churches across the nation "can generate a healing spirit of love, cooperation, and understanding that can sweep the nation out of the depressive condition that afflicts too many of our fellow citizens.

"America now stands at a very crucial moment of decision," he warned. "We can surrender to anarchy and agony. Or we can reject negative thinking and get ourselves together and move forward to a higher state of moral responsibility and achievement.

"There are enough men and women of faith in the United States to think spiritually and think affirmatively and to prevent us from having a national nervous breakdown as the faint of heart fear. We can transcend. We can change."

Ford said he was delighted to learn of the new involvement of the Baptist laity in mission action in various communities and in responsibilities which go beyond the church into the area of public service.

"The layman...is becoming not just a listener on Sunday but a doer every day of the week. And I cannot tell you how important it is to expand your involvement, to broaden your consciousness, and to intensify your commitment to your community and to your nation.

"The church has come to the realization that the job is too big for the clergy to do it all alone. Lay people of all churches must see the broader need to apply their faith where it counts. When the laity moves out of the pews to meet the real problems of our fellow men, then truly will the faith of our fathers become a living faith."

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Ford was introduced by Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter, a member of the board of directors of the Baptist agency sponsoring the breakfast.

In his introduction, Carter said he had great respect for the Vice President. He called him a man who has an open mind and a compassionate heart.

"There is a tremendous untapped resource of talent that exists among our Christian laymen," Carter said. "Just think of the transformation that could take place if only half of our talents were used."

The Georgia governor, a Democrat, recalled that when he was elected governor, he discovered one of the major purposes of government was to help the alcoholics, the mentally retarded, the uneducated, the isolated, the rejected, the black, the Chicano, the oppressed and the prisoner.

"This is a ministry we have hardly tapped among Southern Baptist men," he said.

Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lubbock, Tex., and new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, gave the benediction.

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Commission, presided.

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Laymen Probe Mission
Involvement Opportunities

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--Ministry involvement opportunities, ranging from lay renewal to governmental service, were probed in a series of workshops here.

The workshops, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, zeroed in on lay involvement in the various areas, following addresses by Vice President Gerald Ford and Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter, Christian laymen involved in governmental affairs.

Each of the seven workshops centered on a specific opportunity for ministry.

During one of the sessions, David Haney said: "It seems to me the main emphasis of the whole convention (the Southern Baptist Convention which met in Dallas June 11-13) has been on lifestyle ministries.

"It is a New Testament idea but it is so new...It says that every Christian has a ministry. No longer is ministry an arbitrary term limited to preachers. He (the Christian) is individually equipped and must become the person God created him to be."

Haney, director of the lay ministries department of the Brotherhood Commission, was a participant in a program on lay renewal, along with C. B. Hogue and Reid Hardin, with the evangelism division of the Home Mission Board.

In addition to lay renewal, the more than 150 lay persons--men and women alike--looked at ministry opportunities in the fields of government, denominational affairs, missions work at home and abroad, services in resort areas and to the aging and mission support through the Cooperative Program.

Owen Cooper, immediate past SBC president, emphasized the need for more laity involvement as he led a conference on denominational affairs.

Cooper, a layman from Yazoo City, Miss., has helped organize an agricultural missions foundation which has seen laymen send two airplane loads of cattle to Ecuador and is helping in Honduras and other Latin American countries.

He commented Southern Baptists favor preachers as members of Convention boards, but said by-laws restrict membership to not more than two-thirds laymen or preachers.

"The interpretation, though," Cooper said, "is that the two-third of them should be preachers."

Pastors and laymen looked at involvement in the lay renewal program, probing the underlying philosophy, methods and ministries possible.

"You ain't seen nothing yet," said Hardin, associate director of renewal evangelism. "Things we have seen happening are just the beginning."

Haney told participants traditional Baptist evangelism is an "inversion of the Great Commission" of go and tell.

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"There are all kinds of evangelism," Haney said. "Bus, Sunday school, crusade, encounter. But most of our evangelism is the kind you go and do. Jesus said it is not just going to do, but something you do as you go."

The concept of lay renewal is to "get folks turned on to Jesus," Hogue, director of the HMB department of evangelism, said.

It is not a program, he emphasized, pointing out that each church has opportunities for lay renewal in ways that fit the "lifestyle" of that church.

The whole matter, Hogue said, is not a program but is "believing that God, through His Holy Spirit, should have the freedom to do what He wants to. We just report for duty."

Five panelists--a former professor, a legislator, a city councilman and two Christian Life Commission representatives--talked about the Christian and government.

"The institutional church, like its individual members, has a citizenship responsibility," said Welton Gaddy, director of Christian citizenship development of the SBC's CLC.

"Separation of church and state is right and proper. But it is improper if Christians separate themselves from the political process," he added.

Texas State Rep. Jim Mattox of Dallas talked about the problems a legislator faces in arriving at "the Christian position" on controversial issues such as abortion, the death penalty and women's rights.

There is difficulty in arriving at a consistent Christian principle on issues, the Baptist layman added: "But we often have difficulty because we don't exercise Christian principles."

Dallas City Councilman Jerry Gilmore, a Baptist deacon, charged churches often have failed to meet the people's needs, leaving that to government.

Phil Strickland, an associate in the Texas CLC, told conference participants: "If you're going to get involved, you can't walk through a mess and remain completely unscathed. But the alternative is non-involvement. We need people who will feel that redemption is worthwhile and will take the risk."

Money--its giving and use--was examined by a seminar on mission support through the Cooperative Program, led by Joe L. Ingram, executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Problems of challenging conventions, associations and churches to increase Cooperative Program giving were discussed by participants and panelists, as were communications breakdowns and misconceptions about the program and what it does.

Cecil Ray, director of the stewardship division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, cited the urgency of projecting the "tremendous needs" to be met through the Cooperative Program and commented "it is the best way we've found to reach the world for Jesus Christ."

Ministries to older adults and to persons in resort areas were viewed in a seminar led by Alma Hunt, who will step down as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, Oct. 5.

Most senior adults don't want a "fun and games" approach to retirement, participants decided, after hearing comments by James D. Williams, professor of adult education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., and Ken Prickett, Home Mission Board field worker in Santa Fe, N. M.

Williams talked about possibilities of ministries to older persons while Prickett's comments were on resort areas.

"The layman's approach--witnessing wherever and whenever you are--is very effective in resort ministries," Prickett told participants.

Missions opportunities in foreign fields or next door were discussed in two seminars.

Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, issued a challenge for laymen to use the skills, gifts and talents God has given them in short term missions work overseas to complement the ongoing work of career missionaries.

With increased ability of laymen to travel overseas, both because of increased financial resources and better transportation, the opportunities are mushrooming for laymen who live in America to travel overseas for short periods of time.

Several laymen who have gone overseas shared the experiences they had in short term-missions during the conference.

Opportunities for missions in our own backyard were discussed by panelists led by Bill Wilson, coordinator of the Home Mission Board Christian Service Corps.

"We ask for two to ten weeks of any type of service from holding Vacation Bible Schools to construction and renovation work, mostly in pioneer areas," said Wilson, a businessman who works part-time for the board.

"Service is like a virus," said one middle-aged woman from Illinois, who has worked in missions in Alaska. "Once you get it, it just keeps growing."

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Sin Caused Watergate
Graham Tells SBC

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--Sin caused Watergate, Evangelist Billy Graham told some 25,000 Southern Baptists here.

Graham addressed the closing session of the 117th Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. Messengers completely filled one huge hall and part of another where Graham was on closed circuit television.

"Our world is a world of despair, confusion, frustration, anger and hope all mixed into one. Despair, anxiety, fear, insecurity, uncertainty, disappearance of values, crumbling institutions, disillusionment with the scientific technocrat... turmoil, shaken by war," Graham said.

"The world is reaching out for an answer. It wants its palm read, seeks an exorcist, flocks to see a movie like 'The Exorcist,' follows the dark stars of astrology.

"Our world is longing for reassurance, longing for peace, certainty, the voice of authority. At no time in history has the world been so eagerly looking for a messiah, a fuhrer, a leader...a mr. clean...the perfect man.

Graham said the same thing happened in "Germany in the early 30s but the wrong man rode in on the wrong horse," and in Italy in the 20s and "again the wrong man rode in on the wrong horse."

"Once again there is a crisis in leadership," the world-famous evangelist proclaimed. "All nine of the common market countries have lost their leaders in the last six months. Our own leader is under a cloud. The whole world is looking for a leader."

He said the leader is Jesus.

"The great message of this book (the Bible) is that God has a plan. God has a program. God loves this world. God loves you and this is the thing that makes you important. You don't have any importance beyond that..."

Graham said the message of the Bible is that Christ died.

"He died. He didn't faint or swoon. He was buried. He rose again. He is a living Christ now."

Noting the "three enemies of the human race" which were defeated by Christ, the preacher said they are sin, Satan and death.

Of sin, Graham said: "People ask me what caused Watergate. I'll tell you what caused it. Sin.

"But don't go around so self righteous looking at all the 'bad people.' There is a little of Watergate in all of us. I know some bad people in both parties. I know some bad people all over the world. We are just sinners saved by grace..."

Graham said sometimes Christians are frustrated at their efforts to change the world, and commented: "We wish we had more power, influence. But what is going on here tonight is more important than any meeting at the UN (United Nations) because we are talking about the program that is already won. It will be consummated on God's timetable.

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"In the midst of 1974, in the midst of a crumbling, confused and bewildered world, I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not only am I not ashamed, I am proud to be an evangelist...a herald of that Gospel..."

Graham linked the theme of the SBC--Share His Love Now--with another theme--The King Is Coming--as he proclaimed the return of Christ.

"He's coming, not as a clap of thunder, but like a flash of light," Graham said. "Ours is a world of groans. Groans for redemption, freedom, liberation, peace. Groan, Groan. Groan. Groan."

He related a story in which Britons prepared for the return of their Queen, and were fixing things up for her homecoming.

"Fix up," he commanded. "The King is coming."

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Watergate Called "National Tragedy and Embarrassment"

6/14/74

DALLAS(BP)--Calling Watergate a "national tragedy and embarrassment," Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter predicted here that President Richard Nixon will be impeached.

Although he did not set a timetable, Carter, a Baptist layman, indicated he believes the whole matter is only "a temporary aberration."

"The people of this country are much finer and much more committed to higher ideals of this nation than have been exemplified by the President and other political leaders," Carter told a news conference during the closing session of the 117th Southern Baptist Convention.

Carter was in Dallas to speak about lay witnessing to 25,000 Southern Baptists as part of the report of the Brotherhood Commission. He is Georgia Baptists' representative in the agency's board of trustees.

In referring to national leadership, Carter referred to "lowered standards and lack of compassion and love..."

About impeachment, Carter said: "The President has announced--and I take him at his word--that he will not release any more evidence."

On that basis, Carter said, Nixon apparently has chosen to be tried for the issue rather than on a complete assessment of the facts.

"It is my opinion that even the most conservative members of the Senate--those whose political philosophy is probably much the same as the President's--would vote for his removal from office on that (the refusal to release more evidence) basis alone."

The tragedy of Watergate is heightened, he said, by the upcoming 200th birthday anniversary of the nation, which is causing a "hunger" for the kind of human compassion, concern, honesty exemplified by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin.

Carter obliquely rapped Christians for lack of involvement.

"There has never been an adequate role played by Christians in this nation...in shaping the standards and quality of public life," Carter said.

He spelled out his belief that there are not different standards for the church and the marketplace or the seat of government. All, he said, have one standard of behavior.

Carter, a smiling, greying former peanut farmer, also talked about his own Christian involvement in government.

He is a deacon and a Sunday School teacher at his home church in Atlanta.

"My eyes were not really opened to the real needs of society until I became governor. I didn't see the needs of the alcoholic, the drug addict, the prisoner. I'd lived in an insulated area, different from those areas of need," he said.

Carter added that he believes people in political life "much more acutely feel the need for ministering" to alcoholics, drug addicts, black, rural, isolated people "that the average Christian, like I was, before I became governor."

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Carter, who noted he is national coordinator for the election of Democrats in November, said he has not solidified his own political plans.

He did say he is working with Democratic candidates to try to prevent Watergate being used as a major issue.

"I am working with about 2,000 candidates for 500 offices. I have told them that anybody who makes their major campaign effort based on Watergate is going to be defeated and they ought to be defeated because that is an improper basis," Carter said.

He added that it is "unfortunate that in the campaign many better qualified Republicans may be defeated by lesser qualified Democrats because of the millstone of Watergate..."

As a Christian in politics, Carter said he is "doing the best I can personally" to help with the involvement of other laymen in government.

"I look at political office as a way to expand my influence," he said. And, I know the Bible also tells us that men who are qualified ought to serve in political office."

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Jennie Thanks Baptists
For A New Lease On Life

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--An expression of appreciation to Baptists for their interest and concern by a young woman whose father strangled her mother and took his own life left many messengers tearful at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention here.

The unannounced event came while messengers were adopting a "Declaration of Cooperation" in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program for support of world-wide missions in 1975.

Mrs. Sam (Jennie) Broughton, Brownwood, Tex., said she had grown up amid the misuse of alcohol and sex.

When she was 11, her father killed her mother and then himself.

"I went to live in South Texas Children's Home in Beeville, Tex., and there through the undying love of a housemother, I met Christ," Jennie said.

"She (the housemother) spanked me," Jennie laughed, "not into believing in Christ, but when I needed it.

"Through the Cooperative Program," said Jennie, "I was able to meet Jesus and go to Howard Payne College where I met my husband who means so much to me.

"If I could challenge you to do one thing, it's to love your children like people at South Texas Children's Home.

"I just thank you for the Cooperative Program, whether you know me personally or not."

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Evangelists Elect Leader;
Set Up Central Office

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist evangelists established a central office and hired an executive secretary during their annual conference in Dallas here.

Don Womack will serve as the administrative officer at the evangelists' central office at 19 Pinehurst St. in Memphis, Tenn.

Officers elected during the conference include Sam Cathey of Tulsa, Okla., president; Bill Penley, Chanler, N.C., vice president; John McKay, Hurst, Tex., music director; Felix Snipes of Atlanta, assistance music director; and Lester Buice of Decatur, Ga., pastor-advisor.

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Churches Urged to Upgrade
Annuities; School Approved

DALLAS (BP)--It's up to churches whether or not their pastors and other staff members have adequate financial benefits when they retire, the Southern Baptist Convention was told here.

The annuitant study committee, appointed two years ago by the Convention, pointed this out in its report adopted by the messengers to the convention.

A three-part recommendation from the committee was passed which:

1. Asked the SBC Executive Committee, which prepares the annual Convention budget, to consider more than doubling the present allocation from Cooperative Program for relief of needy ministers and their widows or other dependents.
2. Called on the SBC Annuity Board "to write each church where an annuitant in need has served and encourage that church out of its own concern and awareness to help relieve the need."
3. Urged "all churches to move immediately to the minimum of 10 per cent of total compensation bases for all pastors and staff members."

The first two recommendations would meet emergency needs of those already in retirement. The third recommendation would help provide adequate retirement or death benefits in the future so there would be no need for relief aid, a spokesman for the Annuity Board explained.

The Annuity Board administers retirement and insurance programs for church-related vocations workers in Southern Baptist churches and denominational agencies.

The committee recommendation asked the SBC Executive Committee to consider appropriating \$500,000 a year for relief, compared with the current \$175,000.

"Total compensation" referred to includes salary and various allowances, rather than salary alone.

The committee acknowledged the urgent needs of annuitants who have only a modest income, but said the Annuity Board is only a trustee of funds, and must administer benefits according to individual contracts.

John S. Rasco of Odessa, Tex., chairman of the study committee, noted the Annuity Board cannot take money from one group and give it to another.

The convention approved establishment of a Missionary Training Center at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. It will offer "programs of adult education for ministry, including the Boyce Bible School," president Duke K. McCall stated.

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Archer Warns of Threat
to Religious Freedom

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--Glenn Archer, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, warned 18,000 Southern Baptist Convention messengers here that religious freedom is threatened.

"In this fat, flabby and fruitless environment our heritage of religious freedom suffers. The welfare government is making vassals of the states and serfs of the people," Archer contended.

Archer said expedience, not principle, has become the notion of progress and compromise has become the creed for action.

"It would appear that the rule of thumb in political circles is 'get by with it but don't get caught,'" Archer said. "Well, we are getting caught. Our immorality is showing and our corruption is streaking. We have departed from the Sacred Word."

Archer, who will retire from Americans United after 26 years next September, said he believes the church can witness more freely when it is not in perpetual debt to the state.

"I fight for freedom from religious tax because I don't believe we can be successful evangelical people when we force a religious tax upon the very people we would call into God's kingdom," he said. "I think it is sinful for a church to gain freedom, then use it to destroy the First Amendment, from which they are beneficiaries.

Archer's address was part of a program honoring the late J. M. Dawson, a founder of Americans United and the first executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director-treasurer of the Baptist Joint Committee, told messengers that Dawson had led in representing Baptists in several significant governmental matters between 1946 and 1953, including the writing of the United Nations declaration on religious liberty.

In other business, messengers received reports of the SBC Annuity Board and the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Kendall Berry, executive secretary-treasurer of the foundation, told messengers that the foundation is not in danger despite the unstable economic state of the nation. "We are investors, not traders," he said, "and we have invested for safety and income rather than for quick profit."

Berry predicted that economic adversity will pull the nation together, in contrast to the wasting of resources caused by affluence. Berry said that the SBC had reaped \$14.00 for every dollar invested in it.

On the other hand, the head of the Annuity Board said that he gives the Dow-Jones averages priority on his prayer list. Darold H. Morgan, president of the Annuity Board, said he hoped the board would continue to be able to grant extra dividends to annuitants despite the fact that "it's been a rough year for investors."

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FINAL WRAPUP

SBC Messengers Decline to Endorse
Enlarged Role of Women In Church

6/14/74

By Jim Newton

DALLAS (BP)--In a paradoxical series of actions, the 117th annual Southern Baptist Convention rejected recommendations uplifting the role of women in the church, yet left completely up to the local church the question of ordination of women.

The convention elected its first black officer and adopted a strongly-worded recommendation from its Christian Life Commission on race relations; yet rejected proposals to set up a quota system for representation of women and minorities on its boards of trustees.

It came close to reversing or contradicting previous convention-approved stands on world peace and abortion after emotion-charged debates against controversial sections of resolutions.

During a packed agenda of business, the convention also elected Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, Tex., as the new convention president; adopted a record \$40 million budget, approved appointment of a committee to study changing the name of the SBC, tabled a motion to create a new commission on evangelism, and authorized a study of world mission strategy for the denomination.

A record number of messengers--in excess of 18,165--registered for the meeting. This exceeds the former record of 16,678 set in 1969 in New Orleans.

Dominating business sessions of the 12.3 million-member denomination was the question of women's role in the church.

In the controversial matter of ordination of women--and the whole spectrum of the woman's role in the church--messengers retained the status quo.

In effect, decisions by messengers sent the questions back home to some 34,600 churches across the nation.

The matter of ordination of women as deacons and ministers has been boiling for several months. It was intensified by recent ordination of women as deacons in scattered parts of the nation and in particular by ordination of two women to the chaplaincy ministry. There are about 12 to 15 women who have been ordained to the ministry by local Southern Baptist churches.

In returning the matter to the churches, the messengers:

--Rejected a constitutional amendment by Tom Reynolds of Lubbock, Tex., which would have forbidden SBC boards and agencies from endorsing anyone but men to the military and institutional chaplaincy.

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--Slapped down a Christian Life Commission report which included a general statement recommending SBC agencies and churches elect "women to positions of leadership for which God's gifts and the Holy Spirit's calling equip them." Some saw this as a tacit endorsement of women deacons and pastors.

--Rejected by an overwhelming majority a commission recommendation that SBC agencies and boards include on their boards at least 20 per cent women. The rejection seemed more in reaction to the quota system than to that of female representation.

Two opposing resolutions introduced early in the convention on women's role in the church never reached the floor of the convention for a vote by the messengers. Both were killed by the convention's resolutions committee.

One resolution on the subject of "unisex" was introduced by Mrs. Richard Sappington of Houston, Tex., and the other on the full equality of the sexes was introduced by Gerald Mann, pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin, Tex., which earlier this year ordained three women as deacons.

It was Mrs. Sappington, wife of the pastor of Houston's Cloverleaf Baptist Church, who was the main spokesman in opposition to the Christian Life Commission's four-point recommendations on the role of women in the church.

The outspoken woman, dressed in a flowing white robe, led a successful campaign to defeat the quota proposed and to table recommendations from the commission stating that "in Christ, there is neither male nor female" and urging Baptists to work against discrimination against women in society and in the church by providing equal pay for equal work and electing women to positions of leadership.

Although Mrs. Sappington, described as a "militant apostle of submission," got approval of almost everything she asked on the convention floor, her resolution on "unisex" was never reported back to the convention floor by the resolutions committee.

In effect, however, she won the same point with the rejection of the Christian Life Commission statement which pointed out that the Bible teaches "that every individual has infinite worth, and that in Christ there is neither male nor female." Her resolution had argued that this same biblical concept had been interpreted to mean "there is no difference in the roles of the sexes in the social, secular, home or church life."

Last year, Mrs. Sappington made headlines when she introduced a resolution adopted by the SBC in Portland condemning the women's liberation movement and stating that "Christ is the head of every man, man is the head of woman, children are in subjection to their parents and that "man was not made for the woman but the woman for the man."

Debate raged almost as fiercely on the issues of abortion and peace as they did on women's role in the church.

On abortion, the convention overwhelmingly reaffirmed a 1971 resolution approving of abortion in cases of "rape, incest, clear evidence of likelihood of damage to the emotional, mental and physical health of the mother," in spite of emotional pleas on both sides of the issues.

Heated debate also generated over a resolution on "peace" which took the same basic stance as previous convention statements. Convention President Owen Cooper ruled that the resolution was defeated after criticism of a clause that one messenger claimed might be a first step toward approval of amnesty for draft-dodgers.

Later, the messengers reconsidered the action after two well-known pastors lamented that the SBC could not go on record as turning down a resolution on peace. Instead, the messengers rewrote the resolution from the floor, deleting the statements that recognized that each individual should determine "God's will concerning participation in war."

Though the convention rejected the Christian Life Commission's recommendations on women's role in the church, it approved strongly-worded recommendations on race relations, economic life of the nation and integrity in government.

Though it made no mention of Watergate, the recommendation asked Baptists to pray for government leaders "that we may be delivered from the current malignancy of deceit, distrust and discord;" and urged commitment to "the exposure of evil at every level of government...and to bring to justice any and all who have used government for criminal purposes."

On race relations, the commission urged Baptist agencies to promote programs and establish employment practices that show "that racism is theologically untenable, politically destructive and fatally dehumanizing." It also urged all Baptist churches to resist the temptation to practice racially selective evangelism, missions and ministry and "to accept the obligation to share Christ's love and Christian fellowship regardless of race."

The convention refused, however, to adopt an amendment to the recommendation which lashed out at "inverted racism," by requiring quotas of racial representation on SBC boards.

Earlier, the convention had soundly defeated a constitutional amendment which proposed that 10 percent of all trustees for Baptist agencies be representatives of ethnic minorities.

Later in the convention, the messengers elected the first black in history as an officer of the 12.3 million-member convention.

Named as second vice president was Charles King, 78-year-old pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., a black church jointly affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Elected first vice president was Stewart Simms, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greer, S.C. Re-elected were Clifton J. Allen of Winston-Salem, N.C., recording secretary; W. Fred Kendall of Nashville, registration secretary; and Porter W. Routh of Nashville, treasurer.

The messengers approved without debate a \$40 million budget goal for 1974-75, which includes \$36 million for operating needs, \$1 million for capital needs and \$3 million as a "challenge goal" to be divided among SBC agencies according to their operating budget allocations.

The convention authorized appointment of a special seven-member committee to make a comprehensive study of the work of the SBC Executive Committee, and later in the convention gave the same committee another major assignment.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the 18,000-member First Baptist Church of Dallas, had presented a motion asking the convention officers to name a seven-member committee to study the possibility of changing the name of the 129-year-old convention. Criswell's motion, adopted overwhelmingly, was referred to the seven-member committee asked to study the work of the Executive Committee.

Another motion suggesting creation of a Commission on Evangelism as a new agency of the convention was tabled by vote of the messengers, after the SBC Home Mission Board president reported its directors had named a blue-ribbon committee to study the status and role of its Evangelism Division. The committee may also consider changing the name of the board to "National Missions and Evangelism Board."

In other actions, the convention approved almost 20 recommendations from its Executive Committee, most of them dealing with routine convention operations such as charter changes, program statements and bylaw revisions.

The recommendations included two suggestions emphasizing the observance of the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the denomination's unified budget plan that supports the total mission program of the convention.

Another recommendation called for creation of a special 21-member committee to make a study of world mission strategy coordinating the efforts of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards.

During an inspirational session on foreign missions, Southern Baptists were challenged to respond to the overwhelming world need of starving children who are dying in West Africa and millions who have never heard the name of Jesus. Baptists were asked to "pray for boldness to confront these and other missions problems with love, compassion and conviction."

During an emphasis on home missions, the messengers were urged to cross cultural barriers in the United States with the gospel and minister to ethnics in the name of Christ. The board's first black department head, Emmanuel McCall, told the convention there are approximately 70,000 blacks already in Southern Baptist churches.

The SBC paid tribute to three retiring executives, James L. Sullivan of the Sunday School Board, Alma Hunt of the Woman's Missionary Union and Olin T. Binkley of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The messengers were also introduced to their successors: Grady C. Cothen of the Sunday School Board, Carolyn Weatherford of the WMU, and Randall Lolley of the seminary.

Although no official statements came from the convention on Watergate, two new convention officers and a major speaker made strong comments on Watergate-related matters during news conferences held at the huge Convention Hall where the 18,000 messengers were meeting.

Weber, new president of the convention, said that although Christians everywhere had been shocked and embarrassed at the apparent language used by President Nixon, even worse was the apparent way the President has manipulated people. Weber said he did not feel the President should step down, but rather that due process should be followed.

King, the SBC's first black officer, said he personally would like to see Nixon resign.

"I think Nixon has done more damage to this country than any other president in my lifetime." He added that he would rather see Alabama Governor George Wallace as president than Nixon. "At least black people know where Wallace stands," he said.

Governor Jimmy Carter, who spoke as a part of the report of the SBC Brotherhood Commission, said in a news conference that Watergate is a "national tragedy and an embarrassment," and rapped Christian people for their lack of involvement in the political process.

Outgoing President Owen Cooper, retired industrialist from Yazoo City, Miss., drew laughter from the crowd when the microphones cut off unexpectedly. "Let the record show," Cooper quipped, "that there were no expletives to be deleted."

The three-day convention closed with an impassioned message by Evangelist Billy Graham, who also touched on Watergate in his sermon.

"People ask me what caused Watergate: 'I'll tell you,' he declared. "Sin caused Watergate. But don't go around so self-righteously. There is a little of Watergate in all of us."

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Joggers Jubilee'ers
Jubilant in Dallas

6/14/74

DALLAS (BP)--Sixty-seven people ran during the Southern Baptist Convention--not for office, though. They were running for their health.

The group turned out for the first Southern Baptist "Joggers Jubilee" on June 11 from 6:30-7:30 a.m., the opening morning of the convention.

Three were not present in Dallas though. Southern Baptist missionaries William H. Ichter, William D. Moseley and Edgar F. Hallock Jr. did their jogging in Brazil at the same time those in Dallas did but it was 8:30-9:30 a.m. Brazilian time.

Sponsored jointly by the church recreation department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the special services division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the purpose was to celebrate the abundant life in Christ.

Collectively the 58 men and 9 women representing 13 states ran (and some walked) 149.25 miles.

Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper, a Southern Baptist physician who founded the U.S. Air Force Aerobics program of physical fitness, set the pace. Dr. Cooper, now a civilian, operates the Aerobics Center here where the joggers ran.

Another joggers event is tentatively planned for the Southern Baptist Convention in 1975 in Miami.

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