



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-8855
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Features Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1330 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

July 22, 1974

TV Magnification System
Cost Set at \$42,386

74-17

NASHVILLE (BP)--Final cost of the television image magnification system, used at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas in June, has been tabulated at \$42,386--under the previously anticipated ceiling cost of \$45,000.

Also, 19 SBC agencies and the SBC operating budget, which defrayed two thirds of the cost, have been reimbursed \$2,660 because offerings at the SBC in Dallas, taken to pay a third of the cost, exceeded the required third by that amount, according to John Williams director of financial planning and assistant treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee. The offerings totaled \$16,789, Williams said.

The \$2,660 was divided between the agencies and the convention operating budget in keeping with a prior agreement, Williams said. Half went to the operating budget and half was divided on a pro-rata basis between the agencies.

In a letter to SBC agency heads, Porter Routh, the Executive Committee's executive secretary-treasurer, has asked for reactions both to the use of the magnification equipment in Dallas and to its possible use in Miami Beach in 1975.

"We have had many favorable responses to the use of the equipment in Dallas and many requests that something comparable be used in Miami Beach," Routh said in the letter. "We feel that only one screen would be needed there, perhaps, (two were used in Dallas) and so the cost should be less."

Editorial reactions of state Southern Baptist papers and opinions of SBC messengers and convention leaders interviewed at random have indicated widespread approval of the image magnification system which projected convention speakers and audiovisual aids on two 24' x 32' screens in the huge Dallas Convention Center.

-30-

Character A Basic Concern,
Admissions Officers Told

7/22/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--The church-related college "must be concerned with character" to remain relevant to basic human problems, a Baptist educator told admissions officers of Southern Baptist schools at a national workshop sponsored here by the denomination's Education Commission.

The three-day third annual conference attracted about 100 admissions personnel from 44 Southern Baptist schools, colleges, universities and seminaries.

"We owe it to ourselves to ask rigorous questions about the appropriateness of admissions policies to the declared character and values of our institutions," said L. D. Johnson, professor of religion and chaplain at Furman University, Greenville, S. C.

"In the best interest of both the student and the college," Johnson said, "the kind of student recruited ought to reflect more than desperation to fill empty dormitory beds. Rather, one would like to believe that such recruitment may be the deliberate effort to find and enroll the kind of student who can respond to and profit from the specific educational experience of the college that recruited him."

To do that, the Furman professor noted, the school itself must "self-consciously do its homework of deciding what it is, what it can and cannot do and what it holds to be of value. I

-more-

suspect that many of us have not done our homework--at least not lately."

A school's declaration of its values to the general public, as Furman University recently did after an in-depth study, "seems to me a more honorable intention than either wandering around in a miasma of unclarified principles trying to be all things to all people or else traipsing off in eager imitation of educational fashions that reflect no higher aim than a 'me-too' stance," Johnson said.

He said Furman decided four things--that it was to be:

--A person centered institution which would express "sincere interest in the spiritual, emotional, physical and financial needs of all persons in the Furman community;"

-- Committed to academic excellence and freedom of inquiry and "stand on the ground that the World of God revealed in Jesus Christ is a valid point of reference for the academic enterprise;"

-- An institution which seeks to develop mature students, encourage them in political and social concerns and enforce regulations that reflect the college's commitment to Christian morality, history and present situation and also the reality that it is a community of persons reflecting different views and lifestyles" and;

-- Unashamedly a college which acknowledges its denominational and regional heritage.

On the last point, Johnson elaborated: "The more straightforwardly we say who we are and what we are about, the greater respect and influence we shall have both with our own constituency and with the wider community of faith in which we aspire to move.

"The great institutions did not become great by trying to be all things to all people. We can neither financially afford to try nor morally justify such an effort."

Admissions personnel of the Baptist schools also participated in group discussions and heard speakers and panel discussions during the three days, outlining ways of improving admissions and recruitment procedures in a time of rising costs, decline in birthrates and increased competition for students.

The group, at the suggestion of Ben C. Fisher, the Education Commission's executive director-treasurer, elected a committee to help plan next year's program, which is one of the commission's functions in carrying out its efforts to relate to 71 Southern Baptist schools.

-30-

Senate Passes Absentee
Voting Bill; House May Stall

7/22/74

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Senate passed a bill which would allow citizens living abroad to vote in federal elections by absentee ballot.

The bill, which passed the Senate by a voice vote, now goes to the House of Representatives, where prospects for passage appear questionable.

The legislation would affect some 750,000 citizens living abroad, including missionaries, and would go into effect January 1, 1975 provided the House of Representatives acts favorably.

A staff member of the Senate Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections, where the bill originated, told Baptist Press that the bill is one of five Senate-passed measures dealing with election reform which are awaiting action in the committee on House Administration chaired by Congressman Wayne L. Hays (D.-Ohio). The staff member observed that the House committee has so far shown little enthusiasm for any of the bills and that prospects for passage of the bill guaranteeing U.S. citizens overseas the right to vote are dim.

Last September, when hearings on the measure were held before the Senate subcommittee, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs presented testimony favoring the bill.

-more-

In a speech delivered on the floor of the Senate the day the bill passed that body, Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) declared that the legislation "removes the stigma of second-class citizenship from these citizens. It makes them first-class citizens having an appropriate voice in the conduct of their government."

Pell indicated further that the legislation is intended to underscore every citizen's "inherent constitutional right to vote." He added that such a right "should not be denied simply because those citizens cannot claim a residence in any state."

The primary provision of the Senate-passed measure allows citizens living abroad to register and vote by absentee ballot in that state where they last resided, or were domiciled, or where they were last registered to vote.

During the hearings on the bill last fall, Senator Pell, who chairs the Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections, pointed out that "most citizens cannot afford to maintain homes in two or more places" and consequently "lose a physical residence in the United States when they travel abroad for their employers, or as missionaries, or for any other purpose."

Just the same, Pell declared that "they are all citizens. They are interested in what goes on at home. They want to express their opinions and, most urgently, they want to vote."

-30-

**Historic Georgia Church
Destroyed By Lightning**

7/22/74

MILNER, Ga. (BP)--Milner Baptist Church was struck by lightning following a Wednesday night prayer service and burned to the ground. Interim pastor Carey T. Vinzant said that members had left the church only 10-15 minutes before lightning struck.

Totally destroyed was the historic 102-year-old, 150-seat sanctuary and a newer educational addition. Members and neighbors were able to save the church's organ, piano, safe and pastor's desk but all other equipment and furnishings were lost.

Insurance in the amount of \$50,000 was carried by the congregation but will not begin to cover replacement costs, according to a church spokesman.

-30-