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Nashville, Tennessee

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LEADERS URGE ACTION
ON U.M.T. BILL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Southern Baptists are being alerted to immediate action on another national crisis hanging only in the balances of congressional action as a survey of denominational leaders forecasts danger ahead in the Universal Military Training bill.

Urgency of the crisis -- Congress must vote before February 20 -- was awakened recently by Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University, DeLand, Florida, when he dubbed the bill as "morally, politically and financially unwise" and warned that "the greatest danger is that the bill will pass before its viciousness has become known."

"The logical antithesis of all we must strive to achieve in the field of human relations" is Dr. R. Orin Cornett's definition of the UMT bill. "To admit that UMT is necessary would be to renounce, before the world, all hope of achieving a brotherhood of nations.

"If we must have military training, let us have it as it is forced upon us by the greed of others and by our own mistakes, not as a cowardly surrender to the idea of perpetual conflict among nations," the educator said. Dr. Cornett is executive secretary of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"No military camp can take the place of a Christian college," asserts Dr. Harold W. Tribble, president of Wake Forest College, North Carolina. "UMT is not in harmony with the American tradition and spirit," he continued. "To take eighteen-year-old boys from their homes and schools for a prolonged period of military training is unwise from the standpoint of moral and spiritual development, and unsound procedure in the business of training leaders for our country."

Re-emphasizing the educational harm of the plan, Dr. John W. Raley, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, pointed out that "such training as proposed would not prepare a man for combat and would take away his opportunity to secure needed orientation found in college environment. Military life is no substitute for college life in educating young Americans in the ways and traditions of our country," Raley said.

"We well may fear and fight against the disastrous financial, moral, educational and national results which are inevitable if the proposed UMT bill is adopted as it is now written," says Dr. Roland Q. Leavell, president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Both Dr. Tribble and Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs turned to history in warning against such peace-time mobilization. "History is eloquent in warning against imposing upon our nation the pattern of military control," Dr. Tribble said.

more UMT bill --

"The present and the future can be properly evaluated only in the light of the past," Dr. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist church of Oklahoma City, declared. "By this standard UMT stands condemned before the tribunal of the ages. History reveals that every nation in the past which became a military state, eventually -- and many times, soon -- fell amid the debris of its own economic, political, military, moral and spiritual collapse."

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BAPTIST EDUCATOR AFFIRMS
STAND AGAINST UMT BILL

WAKE FOREST, N.C. --(BP)-- "I shall stand as straight and tall and strong as I can against Universal Military Training (UMT)," asserts Dr. Sydnor L. Stealey, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a leading Southern Baptist educator here.

Expressing reasons much akin to those of other denominational leaders represented in a recent survey, Dr. Stealey brought forth the following stand on five issues involved in the UMT bill which must be decided in Congress by February 20:

(1) "I am unalterably opposed to having the military mind imposed upon my country, as this bill would allow it to be imposed. My fundamental philosophy of life is radically opposed to the philosophy of the Pentagon.

(2) "I believe that it would greatly increase the moral decay of America.

(3) "I distrust the kind of men who so shrewdly veil their motives in the way the bill is presented.

(4) "I stoutly resent, as a taxpayer, the wastefulness it encourages.

(5) "I believe that it moves us toward the grave of Napoleonic France and Hitler Germany."

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BENNETT FUNERAL HELD
RECENTLY IN OKLAHOMA

STILLWATER, Okla. --(BP)-- Funeral services for Dr. and Mrs. Henry G. Bennett, victims of a plane crash near Tehran, Iran, December 22, were conducted in Stillwater at the First Baptist church, Thursday, January 10, at 2 p.m.

Services were conducted by Dr. J.W. Storer, pastor of the First Baptist church, Tulsa, and Dr. Bennett's fellow-member of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Dr. Bennett was president of the Oklahoma A. & M. College in Stillwater.

Assisting in the services were Senator Robert S. Kerr, Oklahoma Baptist layman and a former executive committee member; Dr. John W. Raley, president of Oklahoma Baptist University; and Rev. Sidney M. Maddox, Dr. Bennett's pastor at First Baptist church, Stillwater.

Interment was in the family plot of Mrs. Bennett in Durant, Oklahoma.

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BIG CHURCHES, BIG BUDGETS
IN SBC CHURCHES THIS YEAR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- In the current trend of large churches in the United States with mounting memberships and overwhelming budgets, Southern Baptists have their share when sixteen of the largest churches -- all with a membership of over 5,000 -- have subscribed combined 1952 budgets of \$4,167,577.

Nearly half of the sixteen churches, all but two of which finance their church budgets through the Sunday School, over-pledged their budgets for the new year in a one-day campaign during November or December.

The First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, whose 9,200 members make it probably the world's largest Baptist church, will operate on a \$459,500 budget this year with more than half (\$233,000) going for missions. The budget was over-subscribed in one day by \$107,000, reports Dr. W.A. Criswell, pastor.

Oklahoma City's First Baptist church, with more than 7,000 members, over-subscribed a \$375,000 budget in one day. More than 1,100 tithers help to explain the successful pledging of the second largest church budget in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Dr. Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor.

Other churches with a budget of over \$300,000 for 1952 include: First, San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Perry F. Webb, pastor, second largest church in the Convention with 8,500 members, \$313,189; Bellevue, Memphis, Tennessee, whose 8,300 members will support a \$327,844 budget, Dr. R.G. Lee, pastor; and Third, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. C. Oscar Johnson, pastor, with over 6,300 members and a \$330,000 budget.

The \$298,555 budget of First, Amarillo, Texas, Dr. Carl E. Bates, pastor, was over-subscribed in one day by nearly \$78,000. The membership of over 5,500 included 1,697 tithers signing the first day.

A hundred more tithers than non-tithers was the report of First, Lubbock, Texas, at the close of its one-day campaign when a \$214,000 budget was over-pledge by \$41,000. Dr. J. Ralph Grant reported 1,489 tithers among the 2,878 signing pledges. The Lubbock church, with 6,500 members, is the seventh largest in the Convention.

Other large churches and their budgets for 1952 include: Cliff Temple, Dallas, Texas, Dr. Wallace Bassett, pastor, \$250,000; Travis Avenue, Ft. Worth, Texas, Dr. E. L. Carnett, pastor, \$190,000; First, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Dr. J. Norris Palmer, pastor, \$220,775; First, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. J.W. Storer, pastor, \$190,280; First, Houston, Texas, Dr. W. Boyd Hunt, pastor, \$218,434.

Others above the \$200,000 mark in their budgets include: First, Beaumont, Texas, Dr. T.A. Patterson, pastor, \$218,000; First, Wichita Falls, Texas, Dr. J.H. Landes, pastor, \$227,100; Walnut Street, Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. W.R. Pettigrew, pastor, \$225,000; and First, Charlotte, North Carolina, Dr. C. U. Warren, pastor, \$201,420.

more church budgets --

Representing the larger churches east of the Mississippi are: Dauphin Way, Mobile, Alabama, Dr. Harold W. Seever, pastor, \$170,000; First, Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. W. Douglas Hudgins, pastor, \$165,000; First Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. J.W. Middleton, pastor, \$164,000; Southside, Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. John H. Buchanan, pastor, \$171,998; First, Richmond, ^Virginia, Dr. T.F. Adams, pastor, \$177,000; and First, Tallahassee, Florida, Dr. Harold G. Sanders, pastor, \$150,000.

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD LOOKS TOWARD 100 NEW MISSIONARIES

RICHMOND, Va. --(BP)-- "Not less than 100 new missionaries must be appointed in 1952," reports Dr. Frank K. Means of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as he recently previewed plans for the coming year.

The Board's objectives for the year will be three-fold: (1) enlarging present work, (2) establishing new work, and (3) reassigning the many missionaries recently forced out of China.

"Enlarging our present work involves both an increase in personnel and in financial support," Dr. Means said. A minimum of \$4,000 per year is required to promote the work of each appointee.

While plans are being made to start work in a few new fields, many of the appointees will strengthen staffs in areas where one or two couples now serve a million or more in population. Many will be assigned to Japan and others to the Philippines, Siam, Formosa, Korea, the Gold Coast, Southern Rhodesia and several Latin American countries.

Efforts are being made to reassign the China missionaries to locations where their knowledge of the Chinese language will be put to use, Dr. Means said. But it will not be possible for all and many will face the study of a new language.

"As the Foreign Mission Board looks toward 1952, it also looks toward the people in our Southern Baptist churches," Dr. Means said. "Their gifts will determine just how much of the Board's planning is 'wishful thinking.'"

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