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High Court to Face
Parochial Aid Again

74-64

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court refused to restrain Ohio from providing aid to nonpublic schools under a state law pending the outcome of a suit challenging the statute.

In a separate action, the high court agreed to hear a similar Pennsylvania case challenging the constitutionality of that state's provision of "auxiliary services" to students enrolled in nonpublic schools.

The two rulings, which appeared in the court's first orders of its new term, indicate that the nation's highest tribunal will face head-on the sticky constitutional questions raised in several state laws which call for spending public funds in private elementary and secondary schools, most of which are sectarian.

The Ohio law being challenged in the courts provides public funds for nonpublic schools for so-called "auxiliary services," including guidance, testing and counseling programs, programs for the deaf, blind, emotionally disturbed, crippled and physically handicapped children, audiovisual aids, speech and hearing services, remedial reading programs, educational television services and programs for the improvement of the "educational and cultural status" of disadvantaged pupils.

Opponents of Ohio's law, which has been in effect since 1967, have petitioned the Supreme Court to hear the case on its merits, but the court has yet to decide whether it will do so. The new ruling permits Ohio to continue providing the aid until the case is settled.

The high court's action upholds a ruling this summer of a U.S. district court in Ohio denying an injunction against enforcement of the state law until the courts decide its fate.

Justice William O. Douglas, who has consistently opposed parochial aid programs on the grounds that they violate the First Amendment's prohibition of an establishment of religion, dissented from the majority position, stating that he would have granted the injunction.

Three other justices, William J. Brennan Jr., Thurgood Marshall and Harry A. Blackmun, said they would have accepted the application for a hearing on the injunction presented to the court by the opponents of the Ohio statute.

The Pennsylvania case, *Meek v. Pittenger*, will be heard during the court's new term. The state law being challenged in the case provides auxiliary services similar to those in Ohio, as well as textbooks and instructional equipment, to nonpublic schools.

Because of the similarity of the Ohio and Pennsylvania cases, the court's decision in the latter may affect the Ohio law, even if the Ohio case is not argued before the high tribunal.

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Honduran Agony Dims
Memory of African Anguish

10/17/74

By Bonita Sparrow

FORT WORTH (BP)--The sudden agony of the Honduras hurricane survivors and their immediate needs may have dimmed, somewhat, memory of the continuing human tragedy of the drouth-stricken Sahel area of Africa.

"They've had almost normal rainfall this year (in the Sahel area) and the five to six year drouth has been broken," said Rosser McDonald, television producer for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth.

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McDonald has just returned from a two-week filming session in three countries--Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta--and said urgent needs still exist in the stricken countries of the Sahel, an area between the sands of the Sahara Desert and the African rain forests.

The Honduras agony is recent. The African anguish has continued over a five or six year period "and it may rank as one of the largest disasters in human history, in the number of lives lost," says McDonald.

He reports conservative estimates indicate that "an absolute minimum of 100,000 people, probably closer to a minimum of a quarter-million people, have died as a result of the drought."

Final figures are difficult to total because of the lack of communications and the few census rolls in the villages of the countries involved.

McDonald was in the Sahel to produce a film that the Agriculture Missions Foundation (AMF) and the Universal Concerns Foundation (UCF) will use to help raise money to aid reconstruction and recovery efforts in the area.

The two organizations are composed of concerned people--including immediate past SBC president Owen Cooper--interested in fostering self-help projects through missionaries.

"Some of the money raised will be used for direct relief, but the AMF and the UCF interest is more along the lines of rehabilitation and development projects," McDonald said.

He said he found this year's rainy season in the Sahel to be normal and "unless something unexpected occurs, there should be almost normal crops this year."

The worst cases of starvation have been stopped, he said, thanks to huge amounts of food shipped into the area from many nations. (More than one-third of the food reportedly came from the United States.)

McDonald reported that this year's crop will prevent starvation "for the immediate future" but said people "will probably run out of grain before the next crop, because it takes two or three good years of rain to put you back just to where you were before the drought began."

Some of the things that could be done to help the 25 million people in the six drought-stricken countries of the Sahel include irrigation methods, a study of the most productive and practical crops, new techniques in agriculture and animal husbandry--as well as stock and seed--and a re-forestation program to provide trees that also help hold moisture in the ground.

McDonald said he discovered "a great need for deeper and larger wells in the areas, for supplies and technical assistance to build permanent reservoirs which would result in raising the water table of the land and increase the lifetime of the wells."

The re-forestation program is needed because "trees in the area not only suffered from the drought but from the damage done by herdsman who stripped them of their foliage to feed the cattle."

Even though the rains have been good this year, the situation is still desperate, Southern Baptist missionary, Farrell Runyan, told McDonald. Runyan and his family live and work in Dakar, Senegal.

"As Christians, we cannot turn our backs. Christian love and concern compels us to help these people--just because they need it so desperately.

"And, helping people in such great need offers a tremendous opportunity for us to witness to them and tell them about Jesus and his love for them," Runyan said.

Norman Coad, Southern Baptist missionary serving in Ouagadougou, Upper Volta, said "the governments have used the only money they had to study the problems and devise plans for developing their countries.

"But they have no means for implementing these plans and only 45 per cent of the help promised the people is ever supplied. The religious organizations who have promised to help have a 95 per cent fulfillment record," Coad said.

Any real programs would have to be funded by United States aid, and projections indicate it would be nearly 10 years before the government machinery could get everything underway and such things as the needed reservoirs built, McDonald feels.

"I left that portion of Africa with a great deal of hope for the situation, but I feel that the solution will rest in the hands of private and religious organizations--such as the AMF and the UCF," he said.

He expects to have the film completed and ready for the AMF to show by November. Present plans are to include portions of the film as a segment of The Human Dimension series, produced for television by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

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O'Brien Nominated for Top
New Mexico Executive Post

10/17/74

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)--Chester O'Brien, superintendent of missions for the Amarillo (Tex.) Baptist Association of Southern Baptist churches since 1967, will be nominated to succeed R.Y. Bradford as executive director of the New Mexico Baptist General Convention.

A search committee, after six months of meetings, voted unanimously to nominate O'Brien and will present his name for consideration at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Convention, Nov. 14. He would take office Jan 1, 1975, if elected.

Bradford will retire Dec. 31, 1974, but the committee announced it will ask him to remain through January 15.

O'Brien, 50, is a native of Fort Worth, Tex., and graduated from high school in Big Spring, Tex. He also holds a bachelor of arts degree from Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Tucumcari, N.M., and was pastor of Paramount Baptist Church, Amarillo, where he had served since 1958, when he joined the Amarillo associational staff.

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Love Lost in Printer's
Error in Quarterly

10/17/74

NASHVILLE (BP)--A lot of love was lost when the printer dropped eight words from the manuscript of the October 27 session in "Baptist Adults," a quarterly for Training Union, the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday evening program of church training.

A sentence on page 20 of the periodical, published by the SBC Sunday School Board, was supposed to read; "It is not always necessary to have complete agreement, but it is necessary to have love and respect for one another."

The printer left out eight words, making the sentence read, "It is not always necessary to have love and respect for one another." The resulting thought has to be disturbing to those who take seriously the teaching of Christ to "love one another," a Sunday School Board spokesman said.

"This quarterly," said Philip B. Harris, secretary of the board's church training department, "is one which is not seen from the time the manuscript leaves our hands until the finished product is delivered."

"The arrangement has been worked out for economy in the printing process. We expect errors wherever human efforts are involved, but we hope they will be minimized, and that future changes in meaning will not be as significant as this one."

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Florida Church Presents
Politicians in Special Service

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)--"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's" was the message at a unique Sunday evening worship service here which included 50 area political candidates.

James L. Pleitz, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church here, issued the invitation to all area political candidates to attend the special candidate recognition service, to be followed by an informal reception.

The worship service included a 130-voice choir singing patriotic music, a message by Pleitz and the introduction of the candidates. The reception gave those who attended an opportunity to get acquainted with each candidate.

Joe Oldmixon, superintendent of voter registration, said that "the interest in and attendance at the special service was greater than at any of the political rallies held."

"The Christian has a responsibility to his community," Pleitz remarked. "One of these responsibilities is to intelligently exercise the right to vote. I want our people to vote for capable leaders and then to support them with their prayers and interest."

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Husband and Wife Win
\$20,000 Medical Scholarships

10/17/74

GREENVILLE, S.C. (BP)--When 13 students applied for three \$20,000 scholarships to medical school this year, two of the scholarships were won by a husband and wife.

John and Frances Story, both 1974 graduates of Furman University, a Southern Baptist school here, will attend Bowman Gray, the medical school of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., another Southern Baptist school. Each will have a \$5,000 a year scholarship for four years from the Leroy Springs Foundation.

Springs Foundation's goal is to have three students in each year of medical school. The only obligation for recipients is to practice medicine one year for each year they receive Springs money in one of three locations of Springs Mills--Lancaster County or the Chester or Fort Mill Townships (in South Carolina). Thus, Springs Mills employees in these areas receive the medical attention they badly need.

At the completion of their four years of medical school, John and Frances plan to establish a joint family practice.

"We both came to medicine with a two-fold goal or purpose: we like people and personal relationships, and we like science because of its empirical nature. Medicine satisfies both these needs," John commented.

"We certainly aren't going into medicine because of the money. It has been impressed upon us that if people want to make money in life, medicine is not the way to do it. Looking to the future, we are both idealistic and hope we can in some way help mankind through our chosen field."

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