

January 29, 1952

STILL TIME TO ACT --  
EDITORS SAY ON UMT BILL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Strong words from two Baptist editors again admonish American people to "wake up and think the issue through" and do something about the Universal Military Training bill that hangs in the balance of congressional vote within the next few days.

It isn't too late yet to "let our voices be heard against UMT or any other plan which would lead to a military domination of our youth and ultimately our economy and society," says W.G. Stracener, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

Editor Stracener dubs the UMT bill as the result of a "strange concept for the United States."

"Does any earnest Christian seriously think that the armed services provide the best place for the physical, moral and spiritual training of our American young people?" he asks. "The idea was tried in Italy where Mussolini said universal military training would give Italian youth the stamp of nobility and in Germany where Hitler said it would give every man ground for pride in his citizenship. Could we today envy the youth of either of these nations?"

Right behind Editor Stracener in his stand is B.J. Murrie, editor of the Illinois Baptist, who titled a two-column editorial on the dangers of the bill: "Help Save Your Boy Now."

He points up the after-math of the six-month required training -- seven and a half more years in the reserves, with the army having the right to select qualified men to receive dental, medical and scientific training, granting them deferment from the reserves until professional training is completed.

"This means that the army would select the future medical and technical men of this nation," Murrie writes. "They would not be able to start about their public careers until after they were thirty-three. Civilians would get what doctors that were left who could become such despite military service."

He continued by citing the economical waste the bill would involve and the illogical status of the trainees in being "in and out of the army at the same time."

A trainee would be covered by a \$10,000 insurance policy while in training and for 120 days after but would not be eligible for Veterans Administration benefits; he would be paid only \$30 monthly compared to the \$75 payment of a regular draftee, even though benefits for both would be figured on a \$150 basis; if he died in training, he could have a government-financed funeral but could not be buried in a national cemetery; if

more UMT bill --

he got in trouble, he might or might not be given a jury trial -- the law doesn't provide for it.

Murrie continued to cite that the bill provides for no moral protection for the eighteen-year-olds. It only suggests that cities and towns near the camps should "do something about" moral conditions of the men.

The six-billion-dollar tax bill that the UMT bill would incur for its first two years "is in no comparison to what it will cost this nation," Murrie says. "Perhaps its very existence."

--30--

#### FOUR STATES GIVE ADDED HELP TO DISABLED MINISTERS

DALLAS, Tex. --(BP)-- "Something extra" means more than just a little bit to the disabled ministers of the four state conventions paying supplementary disability annuities to members of the Ministers Retirement Plan.

The Ministers Retirement Plan provides for \$500 annual maximum return in event of complete disability. Four state conventions are supplementing the annuity with \$400 additional paid out of special state relief funds.

According to Dr. Walter R. Alexander, secretary of the Relief and Annuity Board in Dallas, other states are expected to soon follow the action of Texas, Maryland, Virginia, and Oklahoma in the \$400 yearly supplement. Several will begin as of July 1, he believes.

"You have done a great thing in a big way at the right time," writes one disabled minister.

Another writes: "You can never know how happy we were to get the supplement check. Thanks to the churches and good people of Texas for this extra help."

"We would like to say a personal 'thank you' to every church and individual...we must depend upon you to do it for us," writes one young preacher.

And from another: "What a timely and valuable remembrance of me is the supplement check most gratefully received. I long to preach but cannot because of my physical disability."

Dr. Alexander emphasizes that in the states now using the supplement plan, the program applies only to members of the Ministers Retirement Plan and has not been made available for those under the (Old) Annuity Plan and Educational Plan.

--30--

COMMITTEE PLANS SURVEY STUDY  
OF KENTUCKY BAPTIST SCHOOLS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. --(BP)-- A four-member committee, headed by Dr. R. Orin Cornett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Education Commission in Nashville, will make a survey of Kentucky's six Baptist educational institutions in late March, announces Dr. W.C. Boone, general secretary of the Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

Included in the investigations of the committee will be the study of financial, curricular, public relations and general problems of each institution with the view of projecting a program of improvement and increased co-operation for the state's Baptist schools, Dr. Boone said.

The committee, invited by the Association's Executive Committee and named by Dr. Cornett, will include Dr. R.J. McKnight, financial vice-president of Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Dr. P.P. Burns, dean of Howard College, Birmingham, Alabama; and Dr. Claude F. Gaddy, executive secretary of the Baptist Council on Christian Education of North Carolina.

--30--

BIBLE INSTITUTE OPENS  
FOR ALASKA BAPTISTS

KETCHIKAN, Alaska --(BP)-- The Alaska Baptist Bible Institute in Ketchikan was started last year with thirty-six pupils enrolled in the four classes, according to Rev. B.I. Carpenter, missionary and editor of the Alaska Baptist Messenger.

Courses taught include English grammar and composition, speech, Old Testament and the Life and Letters of Paul.

--30--

ARIZONA WORKER GUIDES  
NORTHWARD ADVANCE

DENVER, Colo. --(BP)-- Supervising work in northern Colorado and in Wyoming is a new duty of L.A. Watson, field worker of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona and the Home Mission Board.

With his headquarters in Denver, he will soon begin a survey in the territory with the plan in view of establishing new churches and missions this summer, Dr. Willis J. Ray, secretary of the Arizona convention, said.

Two Colorado churches now cooperate with the Arizona convention and several others in southern Colorado are affiliated with the New Mexico Baptist Convention. Wyoming has one Southern Baptist church at Casper.

Information about residents of the area who are prospective Southern Baptist workers and members would be appreciated. Address to L.A. Watson, P.O. Box 3245, East Colfax Station, Denver 18, Colorado.

--30--