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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 12, 1975

75-39

**Congressmen Propose
National Food Day**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A bipartisan group of U. S. Congressmen called here for the designation of April 17 as National Food Day.

The proposal won the immediate approval of James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here. At its semiannual meeting in early March, the Joint Committee adopted a statement calling on government to extend its efforts in making food available to the needy overseas.

Senator Dick Clark (D., Iowa) and Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D., N. Y.) introduced into both houses of Congress legislation designed "to mobilize public concern over the need for a national food policy which will promote better quality, lower-priced food supplies, ensure the livelihood of the family farmer, and allow increased U. S. assistance to needy nations."

Clark and Rosenthal were joined by 59 other lawmakers in making their proposal.

According to a press release issued by his office, Rosenthal said numerous Food Day activities are being planned in local communities throughout the nation. Among these will be teach-ins, citizen action projects, and individual actions.

Plans for implementing the food day are being made by the center for science in the public interest.

The statement approved by the Baptist Joint Committee, a body composed of representatives of nine Baptist conventions and conferences in the United States and Canada, expressed approval of recent actions by both the Canadian and U. S. governments calling for additional foodstuffs to the hungry abroad. It went on, however, to urge the two nations to "extend their leadership" and make additional food allocations.

Rosenthal said government action is "urgently needed" because of dwindling domestic food reserves, increasing food prices, the deteriorating situation on the nation's farms, the nutritional needs of children and the elderly, and the "chronic threat of starvation and famine" overseas.

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**Baptists Ask Voting Rights
For Foreign Missionaries****Baptist Press
3/12/75**

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--Baptist bodies submitted testimony through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to a Congressional committee here urging that U.S. citizens residing overseas be granted their right to vote in federal elections.

Baptist support for a bill now being considered by the subcommittee on elections of the Committee on House Administration was expressed in testimony by James E. Wood, Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs at the request of six Baptist foreign mission boards.

The mission boards of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Baptist General Conference, North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and Southern Baptist Convention are seeking passage of the measure which would permit nearly three thousand of their missionaries to vote in presidential elections.

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A total of more than 750,000 U.S. citizens residing overseas would be affected by the proposed law.

Only half of the states presently make provision for citizens who are legally domiciled in those states but are living abroad to vote in federal elections. Even in those states, however, the procedures for gaining access to a ballot are often so complicated as to discourage citizens residing overseas from voting.

Wood's statement to the subcommittee in support of the bill, H.R. 3211, said that Baptist support for the measure is based on three arguments: (1) the right of all citizens to vote in federal elections is a basic right of U.S. citizenship; (2) the right of suffrage should be compatible with basic American concepts of equity and justice as applied to all citizens without discrimination between private citizens and those associated with government and military service; and (3) the right of a private citizen to movement and travel, including the maintenance of a permanent residence overseas for legitimate purposes, should not be the basis of a citizen's disfranchisement.

The Baptist Joint Committee first sought passage of such a measure in September 1973 when the same six foreign mission boards spoke through the Washington-based body to a Senate committee. The Senate eventually voted favorably on the measure, but it later died when the 93rd Congress adjourned before the bill reached the floor of the House of Representatives.

Since the 94th Congress convened in January, the Senate subcommittee on privileges and elections has already voted to urge passage of the companion Senate Bill, S. 95. Their recommendation was made despite the fact that new hearings were not held.

The next step in the Senate is action by the full Committee on Rules and Administration. If that body votes favorably on the measure, as expected, it will then go to the Senate floor for final action.

If both houses of Congress pass similar bills on overseas voting rights, a joint conference committee would then iron out any differences between the two proposals. Only after each house again voted favorably on the final version would the measure be sent to the President for his signature, thereby making it public law.

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Senate Panel Resumes
Abortion Hearings

Baptist Press
3/12/75

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Senate subcommittee resumed hearings on proposed amendments to the U. S. Constitution which would overturn the Supreme Court's controversial 1973 abortion decisions.

Those decisions declared, in effect, that a woman's right to privacy overrides any interest the state may have in forbidding abortions during the first six months of pregnancy.

The subcommittee on constitutional amendments, chaired by Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), heard testimony from Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons. R., N. Y.) and Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N. C.), the authors of three such proposals.

In addition, the subcommittee heard from opponents of the measure, including Sen. Bob Packwood (R., Ore.) and Harriet F. Pilpel, an attorney from New York City.

The three proposed amendments are similar to two such measures introduced by Helms and Buckley during the last congress which were also the subjects of intense hearings before Bayh's panel but died in the committee with the adjournment of the 93rd Congress.

Helms's new amendment, S. J. Res. 6, states that "with respect to the right to life guaranteed in this constitution, every human being . . . shall be deemed, from the moment of fertilization, to be a person and entitled to the right to life." One of the frequent criticisms of Helms's proposal is that it makes no provision for protecting even the life of the mother when she is endangered during pregnancy or childbirth.

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Buckley introduced two amendments, S. J. Res. 10 and 11, which would prohibit abortions except when the life of the mother is at stake.

Last year, Buckley's measure was criticized by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia and other Catholic spokesmen as not going far enough to protect the unborn fetus.

Sen. Packwood and Pilpel denounced the proposed amendments, saying that the Supreme Court's 1973 actions were proper and that no one religious group within American society should be permitted to impose its ethical and moral views on the whole populace when the issues are in dispute.

Packwood concluded his testimony by saying, "Let all be free to oppose abortion fervently, or accept it, as conscience dictates, but the Constitution of the United States would be grievously wounded by attempting to impose one viewpoint at a terrible cost upon those who believe otherwise."

A number of Baptist bodies, including the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, are on record as opposing any attempt to overturn the Supreme Court's decisions by constitutional amendment. The SBC position was first taken in 1971 at the St. Louis Convention and was reaffirmed by an overwhelming vote in 1974 at Dallas.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which is composed of representatives from nine Baptist bodies in the U. S. and Canada, including the SBC, authorized its staff in 1973 to oppose all efforts to amend the Constitution to prohibit abortion.

The hearings before Sen. Bayh's subcommittee are expected to extend over the next several months. Last year, the panel held 11 days of hearings on the subject, at approximately one-month intervals. April 9 has been tentatively set for the second day of hearings in the present round.

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FMB Approves \$225,194
For Bangladesh Relief

Baptist Press
3/12/75

RICHMOND (BP)--The largest single relief appropriation made by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board since the special post-World War II relief offering in 1946 and the appointment of nine missionaries highlighted the board's March meeting here.

The appropriation of \$225,194 is for relief and rehabilitation needs in Bangladesh.

"This large sum is made possible by the greatly increased gifts for world hunger and relief made by churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention," said Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary.

"The amount appropriated is one third of what the Bangladesh Mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) has recommended," Cauthen continued. "As other funds become available, further steps will be taken in Bangladesh and in other lands where suffering is also severe."

Of the \$225,194 appropriated, \$73,194 will be used for food distribution and \$62,000 for food production projects. Irrigation wells will be dug. Fertilizer seed and insecticides will be supplied, and food will be provided in exchange for work on farm plots.

One specific project calls for cultivation of 50 acres in order to help 300 families of 1,500 to 1,800 people.

In addition, \$80,000 will help rebuild and develop villages that were destroyed in war or floods, and \$10,000 will provide medical assistance.

The board also heard Joseph B. Underwood, consultant on evangelism and church development, present a plan now being formulated for evangelizing major cities of the world.

Phase one of the plan, "preparation," calls for teaching and training national Christians for effective witnessing and church leadership. The objective of phase two would be to penetrate every cultural and vocational segment of society with a Christian witness.

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Phase three would include a week-long central city-wide campaign involving all Baptist churches, followed by a week of simultaneous evangelistic campaigns in each church. Supervised, directed follow-up of decisions made would be phase four.

In other action, the board paused to remember and honor James D. Belote, missionary and area secretary, who died March 4. A resolution was passed expressing gratitude for Belote's service as a missionary to Hawaii, China and Hong Kong and his work as secretary for East Asia since 1968. Sympathy was expressed to the family.

Appointed as missionaries were Mr. and Mrs. Ron D. Bodenhamer of Missouri, to Ethiopia; Mr. and Mrs. Fred T. Debenport of Texas, to Taiwan; Miss Shirley Gunn of North Carolina, to Nigeria; Mr. and Mrs. Craig A. Steele of North Carolina, to Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. B. Herbert Stephens of Texas, to Ethiopia.

Reappointed were Mr. and Mrs. Hubert L. Hardy, former missionaries to Chile who resigned in 1973, to Chile.

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Watergate Lessons Must
Be Remembered, Ervin Says

Baptist Press
3/12/75

LOUISVILLE (BP)--Former U. S. Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina, who presided over the nation-shaking Watergate hearings, declared "that America will imperil her existence as a free society if she ever forgets the tragic truth Watergate teaches in respect to the need for integrity in the political process.

"Candor compels the confession, however, that law alone will not suffice to prevent future Watergates," said Ervin, echoing a recurring seminar theme of the necessity for internal motivation.

Integrity in race relations, economics, family relationships, preaching, the mass media and the political process came under the probing scrutiny of a battery of speakers here during the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's three-day seminar on integrity.

Speaking at a press conference, before another speaker lashed out in the same direction, Ervin said he was disappointed that the people who solicited and received illegal campaign contributions have not been prosecuted.

"We had some prosecution of some corporate executives and corporations who made illegal contributions, but so far as I can remember there has been no prosecution of anybody who solicited illegal contributions," Ervin said.

"I think there ought to be some further investigation to see if somebody ought to be prosecuted in that connection. Otherwise, I'm fairly well satisfied with the outcome of Watergate."

The publisher of the Nashville Tennessean, John L. Seigenthaler, struck hard at corporation executives who "stepped in to buy" the government, which, he said, "had a For Sale sign on it."

"I perceive a spiritual sickness in the corporate establishment that afflicts its leadership and endangers the most basic and sacred precepts which have built this free, open and heretofore healthy society," said Seigenthaler.

Citing corporations by name whom he said bought political clout from the Nixon administration, Seigenthaler noted that activities in corporate board rooms are known because of the dedication of some in government such as Sam Ervin.

These people, Seigenthaler said, acted "to take the For Sale sign off the front gate of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

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Seigenthaler related documented incidents involving hundreds of thousands of dollars of influence-buying by both big labor and big business and commented: "When big business and big labor vie to buy big business, where does that leave the people--the true stock holders--of America?"

The answer to our current situation, he said, lies in the synoptic gospel books of the New Testament. The press, he said, in its examination of the scene has not spelled out the answers found here.

But the homes, schools and churches could have done a little better in teaching these truths, declared Seigenthaler, a Roman Catholic layman.

Walter Fauntroy, black U. S. congressman from the District of Columbia and Baptist pastor, examining integrity in race relations, said race relations problems result because "we still hate one another because we fear one another.

"We fear one another because we do not understand one another. And we do not understand one another because while we have mastered communications of time and space, we have not yet mastered communications of race," Fauntroy said.

"For too long in our society, blacks and whites have been conditioned to view each other from opposing poles of white superiority and black inferiority. Blacks have been robbed of their sense of somebodiness and whites have a misled sense of superiority," declared Fauntroy, coordinator of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march and former director of the Washington bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The racial disturbance in Boston "was not brought about by a yellow school bus but by black us," he charged.

"The shocking and appalling reaction of some Boston citizens to the busing of black children is a disquieting reminder that integrity in race relations is banned in Boston.

"The Boston busing situation is a living laboratory where the germs of distrust, fear, hatred and misunderstanding have infected the cradle of American democracy."

David and Vera Mace, well known husband-wife team of family relationship and marriage experts, noted; "If you can't make the Christian message work in your own home how can you ever hope that warring nations will beat their swords into plowshares."

Challenging the concept that the individual is the center of human society, Mrs. Mace, an author and lecturer, said, "we think the basic unit of society is the 'dyad' --two persons in relationship, interacting with each other."

Her husband, professor of family sociology at Bowman-Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N. C., added that integrity in marriage is the true starting point for the achievement of integrity in human society."

George A. Buttrick, dealing with integrity in preaching, spoke against the policy of preachers who limit themselves mainly to the "don'ts" of private morality: don't swear, don't drink, don't steal, don't cheat.

He also took to task the legalistic approach of biblical literalism, because the "Bible is the inspired Word of God" and because, he said, "it accuses God of using men as tape recorders."

The news editor of People, new national weekly magazine, Hal Wingo, echoing the sentiments of U. S. Senator George McGovern, a first-day speaker at the seminar, called on his fellow Southern Baptists to assert moral commitment to the victims of the war in Cambodia.

Wingo, a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., received thunderous applause from more than 700 seminar registrants when he said, "May God have mercy on us if we are more concerned about our image and about our reputation of reliability (in the support of Cambodia) than we are about the humanity which we are destroying with that continued arms assistance."

The longtime journalist said the American press must provide information to the public it needs "to make informed judgments and responses to the events of our lives."

Dealing with mass media integrity, Wingo said he favors the concept of councils for review "because I honestly believe that it is one way to see greater responsibility--integrity--in American journalism.

Recalling his three years as a correspondent in Southeast Asia, Wingo asserted that "the record of the American press in the coverage of the Vietnam war was, on balance, a positive force in influencing the American people to force the government out of that conflict."

On the subject of the television networks, Wingo said they deal at the lowest common denominator of programming "and are often arrogant in their disdain for those who question how they fulfill their public obligation."

He said that Baptists who seek to influence television programming by writing letters to advertising sponsors of network shows are wasting their time. A better method, he suggested, is to deal with the local station outlet on matters "which you feel are out of sync with the attitudes of your community."

The networks, he said, "will get the message."

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President Lindsey Resigns
At North Greenville College

Baptist Press
3/12/75

GREENVILLE, S. C. (BP)--The president of troubled North Greenville College, a Baptist school in the suburb of Tigerville, has resigned following several weeks of controversy centered around demands by a majority of the faculty that he resign.

The letter of resignation of President Harold E. Lindsey was read at a meeting of the school's board of trustees. Lindsey was not present as the trustees accepted the resignation, effective July 1, without comment, according to the Baptist Courier.

The school and Lindsey have been the centers of a controversy which has resulted in the dismissal of Dean Clarence Carder, students' boycotting of classes, the entire faculty placed on probation for one year (an action rescinded at the latest board meeting), and the trustees' insistence that students, faculty and administration desist from further protest.

In its latest meeting, the college board took six actions related to the school's administrative problems:

1. Accepted Lindsey's resignation effective July 1 and asked him to be available as needed by the board for business matters until that date.
2. Named Charles V. Bruce, administrative assistant to the president for 23 years, as coordinator of all matters relating to the faculty. Bruce had been named a week earlier to coordinate academic affairs following the dismissal of Carder as dean.
3. Asked Ryan Eklund, who resigned earlier in the midst of the controversy, to reconsider his resignation and remain as vice-president of development. Eklund accepted the board's request and said he will stay.
4. Reviewed the dismissal of Carder as dean. The trustees were told, however, that Carder preferred no further consideration and would not return, the Courier stated.
5. Removed the probationary status imposed on all faculty members a week earlier by the board's executive committee with exception of a "few" (three, according to reports) who were notified by the trustee academic committee that their status would be studied further.

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6. Emphasized that the trustees, president, faculty and students are still operating under a directive issued by the trustees earlier that all must desist from further protest and confrontation.

The trustees had special commendation for those students "who have exercised patience, restraint and a Christian attitude in these days," the Courier said.

The board would not identify the "few" faculty members still on probationary status, according to the Courier. Bruce, as acting administrator, was instructed to issue contracts for the 1975-76 school year to all other teachers as soon as possible.

Contracts for the coming year, however, will be without a tenure clause, the Courier said. Faculty members ordinarily teach four years before gaining permanent tenure or status. The coming year will not count toward tenure for those faculty members at North Greenville College who have not yet attained that status, according to the Courier.

Following the board meeting, A. Jack Blanton, trustee chairman, announced the appointment of a committee to seek and recommend an acting president and/or a president, with no time limit set for the search.

The committee, made up of laymen, is chaired by Dr. Boyce Tolleson, a physician from Easley, S. C.

Lindsey's resignation brings to a climax the conflict between him and 16 of 22 full time faculty and one part time instructor who signed a list of nine grievances against the college president demanding his resignation.

The faculty members had charged that Lindsey was "arrogant, dictatorial, self-serving, unChristian. . ." Other grievances concerned faculty salaries, the instructional schedule and "the high handed and dictatorial manner in which he did it without consulting us."

Also questioned was Lindsey's purchase in 1974 of 50 acres of college land for \$10,000, described as "a fair price at the time" set by the trustees. Lindsey has agreed to sell the land back to the trustees at his cost and they have accepted, a board spokesman said.

Lindsey was commended in an earlier meeting of the board for areas of progress made at the college during his administration.

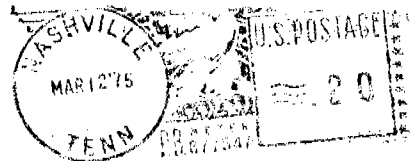
Lindsey, who previously worked in evangelism for the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was elected president of the college in April, 1970. Since that time, the school has built two new buildings and has received gifts of \$1.5 million, the Courier noted.

North Greenville College was founded in 1892 and is one of four colleges supported by South Carolina Baptists.

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