

February 26, 1952

127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

PETITIONS TO SENATORS
DRAW FAVORABLE REPLIES

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- "I cannot conceive of the establishment of diplomatic relations with any church...I will oppose the nomination of anyone to go as ambassador to the Vatican," writes Senator John Sparkman of Alabama in reply to the recent petition concerning the Vatican appointment issued to the members of Congress by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Typical of the stand taken by nearly half of the senators replying to the petition, Senator Lister Hill of Alabama reveals the basis for such a stand in saying: "I have felt that to send an ambassador to any church state would violate our fundamental American principle and belief in the complete separation of church and state."

Most of the replies to the petition came before General Mark Clark requested the withdrawal of his name for the nomination but the general attitude of the Senators was that no personalities were involved in the issue but rather the principle of violation of the spirit of the constitution's first amendment.

Others assuring Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Executive Committee, of their stand against the President's appointment wrote:

"I am not at all favorably inclined to the idea that the United States should send an ambassador to Vatican City." -- Wayne Morse, Oregon.

"I assure you that I am against the appointment...and shall do what I can to defeat any such movement." -- Clyde R. Hoey, North Carolina.

"I am opposed to any formal diplomatic relations to the Vatican State." -- Walter F. George, Georgia.

"I hope that the proposal will not materialize. I have very great admiration for the President, but I differ with him in this instance." -- Robert S. Kerr, Oklahoma.

"I feel strongly that we should take no action which would in any way tend to whittle away or undermine that principle (separation of church and state)." -- Harley M. Kilgore, West Virginia.

"I do not believe that it was necessary for the President to appoint an Ambassador to the Vatican...I am inclined to look with disfavor upon it..." -- Andrew F. Schoepel, Kansas.

"I found that probably technically it would not violate the first amendment... but if it is not a technical violation, it certainly violates the spirit of that provision." -- Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee.

"I disapprove of the President's action in appointing an ambassador to the Vatican." -- John L. McClellan, Arkansas.

"It is my intention to vote against the confirmation of any such Ambassador."
-- Harry F. Byrd, Virginia.

"I have felt all the time that an ambassador is purely a political representative of the government, and therefore an ambassador should be appointed only to a state which is primarily a political state." -- John C. Stennis, Mississippi.

"I am fundamentally opposed to the mixing of affairs of church and state. I have stated on previous occasions that I did not think we should have an Ambassador to any church, no matter what the denomination might be." -- Estes Kefauver, Tennessee.

"I could not bring myself to vote for the confirmation of any such Ambassador however well qualified he may be for the assignment." -- A. Willis Robertson, Virginia.

Over twenty of the replies were non-committal, many of them promising "close consideration" of the petition's plea. Administrative assistants answering for several senators assured the Executive Committee of their stand against the nomination. Among them were Senators Wallace F. Bennett of Utah, James O. Eastland of Mississippi and Spessard L. Holland of Florida.

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SEMINARY MUSICIAN TO BE MIAMI CONVENTION ORGANIST

BERKELEY, Calif. --(BP)-- Wilbur F. Martin, head of the department of sacred music at Golden Gate Seminary, has been selected as organist for the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Miami in May. The announcement was made by Dr. Loren R. Williams, minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who will be music director at the Convention.

Mr. Martin was organist at the San Francisco convention last June.

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BIBLE CONFERENCE THEME

BERKELEY, Calif. --(BP)-- "Seven Outstanding Events in the Life of Our Lord" is the theme of Golden Gate Baptist Seminary's eighth annual Bible Conference the last of February. Dr. J.W. Storer, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma, will deliver seven addresses on the theme during the four-day conference.

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TREADWAY JOINS WORKERS
IN EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- New member of the editorial division of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville is Dr. Charles F. Treadway who comes from Columbia, Mississippi.

A graduate of Mississippi College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Treadway is to be with the editorial staff in connection with Vacation Bible school work and will assume responsibility for editorial VBS materials when Dr. Homer Grice retires in the near future.

Dr. Treadway held pastorates at Cleveland and Columbia, Mississippi, in addition to student pastorates while in the seminary. He was a fellow to Dr. G.S. Dobbins in religious education while doing graduate work at Louisville.

Beginning his duties February 1, he will be closely associated with Dr. Grice in the Vacation Bible school work of the Sunday School Department.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS GIVE
PREACHING MISSION REPORTS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Reports from Southern Baptist pastors and evangelists participating in the Armed Forces Preaching Missions on military installations throughout the United States reveal thorough preparation, co-operation from officials and keen interest from the general military personnel.

Preaching at Fort Hood, Texas, Dr. E.L. Carnett of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, said that in the camp of thirty to forty thousand, "I was greatly impressed by the emphasis put on the preaching services by the Commanding General and those associated with him."

Likewise, Dr. K. Owen White of First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, speaking at Fort Benning, Georgia, writes: "I met some high ranking officers who are outstanding Christian gentlemen."

"The Commanding General and some members of his staff were present at every service," writes B. Locke Davis of the Parker Memorial Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama. He was one of six local ministers invited to Fort McClellan near Anniston.

James P. Wesberry, Morningside Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, writing of his week at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, says: "I have held many revival meetings across the years, but never have I been in one where finer preparation was made. On Monday it was my privilege to visit on the field with eight or ten battalions... there were many women and children in our services, most of whom live on the post."

Herschel H. Hobbs, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, described his mission to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, as an opportunity to "preach to men...whose hearts were open and ready to receive. I suspect that I preached to more unsaved men last week than I will preach to in six months of my normal ministry," he wrote.

The Armed Forces Preaching Mission is continuing through February and many Southern Baptists are participating in various camps.

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