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**Senate Panel Closer  
To Abortion Decision**

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--After 16 days and more than 100 hours of public hearings over an 18-month period, a Senate subcommittee is preparing to decide whether to recommend to the full Senate a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion.

The Senate panel must decide the fate of three proposed amendments to the Constitution designed to overturn the Supreme Court's historic 1973 ruling that the states have no compelling interest in banning abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy and only limited interest during the second trimester.

Two of the proposals were introduced by Sen. James L. Buckley (Cons.-R.-N.Y.) and call for prohibiting abortion except in an emergency situation when the life of the woman is in immediate danger. Sen. Jess Helms (R.-N.C.), author of the third proposed amendment, wants an absolute ban on abortion regardless of the circumstances.

At the most recent hearing of the subcommittee on constitutional amendments, Sen. Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.), who chairs the panel, announced that the committee's deliberations would begin "in the very near future."

Bayh's announcement came before the subcommittee heard from four more witnesses, two favoring and two opposing a constitutional amendment.

"We have tried to give both sides equal time," the three-term Indiana senator said. He indicated that the panel's public hearings could go on indefinitely if everyone who wishes to speak to the proposals were invited to testify.

"We are kidding ourselves," Bayh said of his subcommittee, to think the issue can be settled "to the satisfaction of everybody."

Bayh said that in his 13 years in the Senate, he has never encountered so complex an issue which has provoked more passionate views on both sides. He also indicated that no other single question has commanded more extensive public debate in the form of committee hearings during his tenure as a senator.

Appearing before the panel at its latest hearing was Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D.-Mo.), University of California (Berkeley) Law School Professor David W. Louisell, Betty Friedan of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and Audrey Colom, who chairs the National Women's Political Caucus. The two men favor a constitutional amendment, while the two women oppose it.

Eagleton said that it is his "profound moral conviction that life is a continuum, from first beginnings in the womb to the final gasp of the dying" and that the "primary responsibility" of government is the protection of life.

The Missouri senator did not endorse any of the three constitutional amendments which have been proposed.

Instead, Eagleton proposed a new alternative to the subcommittee, one which he said would "protect the sanctity of life throughout its full spectrum from womb to tomb." Specifically, Eagleton's proposal would ban not only abortion, but also infanticide, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

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Friedan, who heads the 40,000-member NOW organization, argued that the abortion question is essentially one of women's civil rights. She said that any effort by the subcommittee to report out favorably a proposed amendment outlawing abortion would amount to "imposing upon all women anew that same old feeling of powerlessness and complete frustration that accompanies state oppression of individuals with regard to such highly personal life decisions as whether to bear or beget a child."

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Editorial Urges Combining SBC  
Mission Boards, Magazines

Baptist Press  
7/9/75

MEMPHIS (BP)--A missions magazine, published here by the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission, is editorially urging combining of the denomination's mission boards and mission publications.

In its July issue, World Mission Journal, edited by Jim Newton, urged a 21-member, SBC-appointed committee studying the SBC's world missions advance for the remainder of the 20th Century to consider merging the Home and Foreign Mission Boards into one World Mission Board.

The August issue of the magazine will urge the same committee to consider merging three missions magazines of the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination, which has nearly 5,000 missionaries throughout the U.S. and 82 foreign countries.

The magazine merger proposal, called by World Mission Journal a "logical extension" of the mission board proposal, suggests merging The Commission, published by the Foreign Mission Board; Home Missions, published by the Home Mission Board; and World Mission Journal.

Newton said copies of the editorials will be sent to committee members, made up of seven trustees each from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and seven members-at-large.

"I haven't discussed this point of view with the Brotherhood Commission, which gives me the freedom to express editorial opinion," Newton told Baptist Press. "The editorials represent my own opinion as editor.

"I'm the first to recognize the inherent problems in this proposal and the probability that the committee will be unable to resist pressures to keep things the way they are. Realistically, these proposals may never be accepted, but they need to be looked at anyway. Someone has to look creatively at denominational structures and ask if they are the right structures. This committee is the one to do that in the area of missions," he said.

In the editorial, he said, "It is our hope that this committee will think big, that it will not be hampered by present structures and political pressures that might prevent effective changes."

The editorial commended the "gigantic strides in missions advance" made by Southern Baptists but noted: "Southern Baptists have also been hindered by a concept of world missions that sees missions more in terms of geography than in terms of the (great) commission (of Jesus Christ) to go into all the world."

"We Baptists have fragmented missions by segmenting it into associational missions, state missions, home missions and foreign missions. We intensify this fragmented concept of missions with missions offerings that benefit only part of the whole.

"Indeed, it is fear of what might happen to the Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions that is the most powerful argument against the unification of the two mission boards into one World Mission Board," the Journal continued.

"There is no reason, however, why these two great mission offerings that mean so much to world missions could not continue even if the funds were to go to one World Mission Board instead of two separate boards.

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"Indeed, the offerings would be strengthened because there would be more coordination and less possibility of competition between the two offerings if the funds went to one mission board.

World Mission Journal cited the Vietnamese refugee situation as an example of how one overall mission board could be "more effective."

"When Vietnam fell as a mission field overseas, 39 Vietnamese-speaking SBC foreign missionaries were left without a country in which to serve. Most of them decided they wanted to serve in some other Southeast Asia country, such as Thailand or Indonesia. To do so requires them to learn another language.

"Meanwhile, almost 150,000 Vietnamese refugees suddenly flooded the United States, where the Home Mission Board is responsible for coordinating mission efforts. Vietnam missionaries, who were in America on furlough or who returned from furlough, . . . valiantly served in the temporary Vietnamese refugee relocation camps in the USA, working in close cooperation with the Home Mission Board.

"Their efforts would have been much more effective if other foreign missionaries could have joined them, serving under one World Mission Board which could transfer the missionaries from Vietnam to America without any hangups." (Between the time the editorial was written and press time, the board did bring some other personnel from overseas to help.)

"Although we Baptists tend to glorify foreign missions and imply that to be called as a foreign missionary is the greatest sacrifice that a Christian can make," World Mission Journal said, "there is no difference theologically between the call of the home missionary and that of the foreign missionary. God's call does not depend on geographical limitations that man superimposes on missions. The call, always, is to go into all the world."

The Journal noted that the executive secretaries of the two mission boards have not announced retirement dates but are nearing retirement age. "Now is the ideal time to consider such a proposal, before new executive secretaries are named for the separate boards," it declared.

On the magazine merger, Journal cited fragmented circulation of each publication, the cost factor and proliferation of publications. The denomination, it said, needs "one top-quality publication that effectively communicates world missions to millions of Southern Baptists.

"For a long time, we have felt that most Southern Baptists are confused by the proliferation of publications in the SBC. The Southern Baptist Convention Annual lists 47 different monthly and quarterly magazines published by SBC agencies.

"Thirteen of these," the World Mission Journal continued, "are considered 'missions' magazines, including one published by each of the two mission boards, four published by the Brotherhood Commission and seven published by the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Most of those published by the Brotherhood and WMU are targeted at specific age groups."

The editorial admitted there would be some "dangers and pitfalls" to avoid. "A major one would be to guarantee editorial freedom for the publication. The administration of the parent World Mission Board (assuming that would exist) would have to demonstrate the kind of openness that would allow its publication to deal with controversial issues on world-wide basis without editorial control or suppression of information."

Advantages, the editorial said, would include pooling of staffs, combining of financial resources and greater opportunities for circulation.

"None of the present publications have a large enough staff to cover the whole world effectively; nor does any one publication have adequate financial resources and budget to do so. But by combining staffs and resources, it would be possible.

"In terms of circulation, none of the three missions magazines is reaching millions. . . . The Baptist state papers, with a combined circulation of 1.7 million, are the only publications which really reach the masses of Southern Baptists."

The editorial said the three publications have some overlap in circulation but that The Commission and Home Missions go primarily to leadership and World Mission Journal goes primarily to laymen.

"The way for the proposed world missions magazine to really reach millions of people is to ~~find~~ joint subscriptions and send the magazine to the combined mailing list of all state paper subscribers," the editorial said.

"One way to do this would be to publish the magazine in a format similar to that of the state papers and insert the mission magazine monthly as a special supplement to the state papers. Another way is to mail publications separately to the same mailing list through a joint subscription program to churches with an every member plan. "Neither plan would be simple to set up, but the results would be worth it in terms of providing comprehensive world missions information to Southern Baptists."

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Retired SBC Leader,  
Frank Tripp, Dies at 81

Baptist Press  
7/9/75

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)--Frank Tripp, 81, a retired Southern Baptist Convention agency head, hospital builder, fund raiser and pastor, died here, July 8, after a lengthy illness.

Tripp, who originated and promoted the Hundred Thousand Club which raised \$7 million to pay off indebtedness of SBC agencies in the Great Depression, served for 12 years as executive secretary and general superintendent of the Southern Baptist Hospitals agency in New Orleans.

In 1959, he retired from the leadership of the hospital agency, which has since separated from the convention and operates independent of SBC control.

A native of Arkansas, he attended public schools in Indian Territory, which later became the state of Oklahoma, and was educated at Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia, Ark., and Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

Tripp served as pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri and Alabama and played a major role in Southern Baptist affairs.

He served as president of both the Louisiana and Alabama Baptist Conventions and the SBC's Executive Committee, and, in 1935, was first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He led in the establishment of a number of Baptist hospitals and children's homes, served as consultant and fund raiser for institutions, and held many community leadership responsibilities.

He is survived by four daughters. Funeral services were to be held July 10 at Memory Chapel Funeral Home, Montgomery, with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

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