



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Orville Scott, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Gomer Lesch, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 254-5461
RICHMOND Richard M. Styles, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

March 4, 1976

76-41

SBC Aging Home Executives
Vote To Expand Organization

DALLAS (BP)--The Southern Baptist Association of Executives of Homes for the Aging voted here to expand its organization to be more effective in meeting the needs of growing numbers of older persons.

The group instructed its incoming officers to recommend needed changes in its organizational structure and constitution that would open the organization to all Southern Baptists who have fulltime responsibilities in any ministry to the aging.

The move for expansion comes in conjunction with a new emphasis on aging services generated by the Southern Baptist Conference on Aging, which met in 1974. One of the major thrusts of the conference was to initiate the involvement of churches, associations, and state conventions in providing programs and care for the aging at a local level.

The aging home executives felt that bringing together all interested persons in one organization can greatly strengthen efforts for better care of Baptist older persons.

Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary and director of program planning for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, keynoted the two-day meeting.

McClellan, who directed planning for the 1974 aging conference, reported on positive results of the meeting.

He cited an increased awareness by Baptists at all levels of the needs of older people; the establishment of a department of family ministries by the Sunday School Board, which has in its plans a magazine for senior adults; the addition of courses on gerontology in Southern Baptist seminaries; more articles in Baptist publications on the needs of older persons; and the establishment of a group from the SBC Inter-Agency Council to help coordinate efforts of institutions and agencies involved in ministries to the aging.

"But even though a lot is being done," McClellan told the group, "we aren't where we want to be."

He outlined some goals that Southern Baptists, under the leadership of such groups as aging home executives, should be striving for: to be mutually supportive with other community groups in caring for the aging; to increase our sensitivity to the aging as individuals with specific needs; to dispel the theory that the aging are obsolescent; and to hold more church-related conferences and seminars to help the aging face what it means to be retired.

The executive group, which met in the facilities of Buckner Baptist Benevolences' Trew-Ryburn Aging Complex in Dallas, elected Furman Kenney, administrator of the Virginia Baptist Home for the Aging, Newport News, Va., as president.

Other officers are: first vice president, R. L. Herring, administrator, Buckner Trew-Ryburn Homes for the Aging, Dallas; second vice president, Arnold Cadell, administrator, Baptist Convalescent Center, Newport, Ky.; and secretary-treasurer, James L. Barber, assistant director, department of Christian social ministries, SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

W. L. Howse III, the director of the Hurt Gerontology Center, Virginia Baptist Homes, Culpeper, Va., was asked to serve as a consultant to the officers for proposed changes in the organization and for future programming and activities.

Court to Decide Case on
Required Sabbath Work

By Stan L. Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U. S. Supreme Court will decide whether a Kentucky company violated the law by firing a man who refused to work on Saturdays because of religious convictions.

At issue is the case of a member of the World Wide Church of God in Berea, Ky., who for 14 months was allowed to observe his church's prohibition against working on the sabbath before being abruptly discharged after fellow employees complained.

The high court's decision, expected this spring, will presumably affect members of other sabbath-observing religious groups, including Seventh-day Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Jews.

The case was brought by Paul Cummins, who worked for the Parker Seal Company in Berea from 1958 to 1971, when he was fired. For more than a year prior to his dismissal, Cummins was permitted to observe his church's sabbath, even though other employees were expected to work on Saturdays.

Beginning in 1965, Cummins worked as a supervisor at a Parker plant, but, when fellow supervisors complained that the company was showing him favoritism, the company decided to let him go. Although all Parker supervisors were paid a set wage, some of Cummins' colleagues were allegedly working up to 72 hours a week while he worked only 40. The discrepancy was caused, the company claimed, because other supervisors had to cover for Cummins because of his Saturday absences.

Cummins appealed the firing to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, a watchdog group which looks after the interests of individuals claiming discrimination. The commission agreed with the company, however, and Cummins took his case to a U. S. district court.

That court also held for the company, but when Cummins appealed that decision to the Sixth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, it found in his favor.

The controversy centers around a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which states that "it shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer . . . to . . . discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, because of such individual's . . . religion."

An official guideline of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a federal agency charged with interpreting the law, specifies further that the Civil Rights Act "includes an obligation on the part of the employer to make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of employees and prospective employees where such accommodations can be made without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business."

The guideline also requires the employer to prove that an "undue hardship" exists.

The Court of Appeals held that the company failed to prove such hardship by noting that for the 14-month period after Cummins joined the World Wide Church of God it had accommodated his religious needs.

In a written brief to the Supreme Court, the company argued that the law and guideline in question require employers "to accord preferential treatment" to employees solely on religious grounds. That requirement, the company went on, amounts to governmental establishment of religion in violation of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Nevertheless, Cummins argued that the reason for the law is to provide employees with the free exercise of religion, a right likewise guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Court Refuses to Hear Hospital Abortion Case

WASHINGTON (BP)--Although several lower courts have divided sharply on the issue, the U. S. Supreme Court announced here it will not decide whether individual hospitals may legally forbid abortions and sterilization procedures.

Justice Byron R. White, along with Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, dissented from the majority action, saying that the high court should not "permit such conflicts on important points of federal law to remain unresolved."

The court declined to hear a case which challenged a Roman Catholic hospital in Billings, Mont., for refusing to perform a tubal ligation for a woman who was delivering her second child by caesarean section.

Gloria and James Taylor sought and obtained a court injunction ordering St. Vincent's Hospital to perform the sterilization procedure. Shortly after the procedure, the court reversed itself on the basic question of whether the hospital could legally refuse to perform similar operations in the future.

The reversal came about due to a measure passed by Congress exempting sectarian hospitals from making facilities available for abortion or sterilization procedures.

That provision, known as the Church Amendment to the Medical Facilities Construction and Modernization Amendments of 1970, provides that a federally funded hospital may refuse to perform such operations by majority vote of its board of directors.

The Taylors challenged that provision in a legal brief to the Supreme Court. They argued that two lower federal courts were wrong in upholding the Church Amendment, named for Senator Frank Church (D.-Idaho). They stated further that the provision violated the right to privacy and amounts to an establishment of religion in violation of the U. S. Constitution.

Their brief also noted that St. Vincent's is the only hospital in Billings with maternity facilities. They pointed out that the hospital has received more than \$390,000 in federal funds under the Hill-Burton Act of 1947.

The high court's refusal to hear the case has the effect of letting stand the lower courts' rulings in the Taylor case.

White and Burger objected, however, noting that while one circuit court of appeals has upheld the Church Amendment, at least four others have ruled it unconstitutional.

-30-

Wrapup

Baptist Agency Acts on
Current Public Issues

Baptist Press
3/4/76

By Stan L. Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--At its semi-annual meeting here, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs adopted a statement on the advocacy role of the agency, protested the use of some American missionaries overseas by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and honored its late executive director, C. Emanuel Carlson.

In other actions, the governing board of the Washington-based agency adopted a record budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year, instructed its nominating committee to propose more women as officers, and asked its staff to undertake studies of transcendental meditation (TM), the Unification Church, and the institutional chaplaincy.

The committee also heard Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D.-Minn.) deplore "the lies and misrepresentations" that are being circulated about the Child and Family Services Act as well as the Youth Camp Safety Act. He appealed to the committee, not for endorsement of these bills, but for help toward an honest dialogue in discussing them. Earlier the Joint Committee had alerted its constituency to avoid being misled by the misrepresentations.

-more-

Mondale said misrepresentations of the Child and Family Services Act, for example, include groundless charges that it will substitute government for parents in rearing children, will take children away from parents not doing a good job, will prevent parents from teaching children about God, will include a charter of children's rights, and will remove parents' rights to form their children's characters.

The Baptist Joint Committee is supported cooperatively by nine Baptist conventions and conferences in the U. S. and Canada and is charged with relating to governmental affairs as these affect the churches and their agencies and institutions. James E. Wood Jr. is the executive director.

On its role as an advocate before government, the Joint Committee adopted a policy statement which resulted from a year-long study by its executive committee and staff. The statement quotes from the agency's constitution in noting that the Joint Committee is mandated "to act in the field of public affairs whenever the interests or rights of the cooperating conventions which constitute the committee call for conference or negotiation with the government of the United States . . . or whenever Baptist principles are involved in, or are jeopardized through, governmental action."

In addition, the statement noted that the staff of the agency is obligated to act when asked to do so by any one of the cooperating groups or by any of their agencies and institutions.

Nevertheless, the statement also emphasized that the Joint Committee may not initiate actions on any public issue if they are "inconsistent with the officially stated positions of its . . . member bodies."

On the matter of CIA use of missionaries, the committee hammered out a resolution marked by a full airing of varying viewpoints. As it emerged from debate, the statement noted that CIA involvement with missionaries "may represent a violation of the First Amendment."

The resolution further called on Congress to pass legislation "that would prohibit the CIA's solicitation or recruitment of American missionaries in its activities.

A companion resolution urged Baptist mission boards and societies to "take action to prohibit this type of involvement" on the part of missionaries themselves.

The action honoring Carlson included official reception of a portrait and adoption of a statement commending his leadership as executive director during his 17-year tenure in the position, from 1954 to 1971. He died suddenly after a heart attack on February 23, in Dundee, Fla., where he and Mrs. Carlson were living in retirement.

The statement noted that "both religious and government officials found in Dr. Carlson a man of knowledge, insight, fairness, justice, and integrity whom they could consult with profit." Carlson was also described as "intellectual, scholar, thinker, analyst, seer, prophet . . . (but) above all a teacher who avoided partisanship and bigotry or self-seeking benefits for himself or for Baptists."

In other actions, the committee adopted a budget of \$250,500, the largest in the agency's 36-year history, and instructed its nominating committee to propose more women for its four offices. The current slate includes no women, although women have served as officers before. The Joint Committee is composed of 47 members, only five of them women.

The committee also requested its Washington staff to study transcendental meditation and to report back its view as to whether the popular phenomenon "is a religion within the meaning of the First Amendment." TM has drawn fire on a number of fronts as being a "thinly disguised form of Hinduism," passing itself off as non-religious. An ad hoc coalition--the Coalition for Religious Integrity--has filed suit in federal court in New Jersey seeking removal of TM from public school systems throughout the U. S.

The staff was also asked to identify possible church-state issues in allegations that members of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church are being harassed and even kidnapped by their parents.

Regarding the chaplaincy, the committee heard a report from Earl Trent, house counsel of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., that an American Baptist chaplain in Iowa is among those affected by a state court decision to prohibit the use of state funds for chaplaincy programs in prisons there. The committee asked its staff to remain alert to the problem and to offer assistance to groups seeking solutions to the church-state problems involved.

Senator Deplores Falsehoods
About Family Services Act

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D.-Minn.) sharply attacked the falsehoods being fed to the churches by opponents of the proposed Child and Family Services Act of 1975 (S.626) during a session with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

"I am pleading for an honest dialogue," the senator declared. "Those peddling these falsehoods should be confronted with the truth."

Mondale, the son of a minister and married to the daughter of a minister, is a member of the Presbyterian Church. He quoted the ninth of the Ten Commandments as he appealed for honesty from the opponents of the Child and Family Services Act. The commandment says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

The Child and Family Services Act was passed by Congress in 1971 but vetoed by President Nixon. Since then, due to the economic recession, Watergate, and other developments, the sponsors have been unable to get it through Congress again, Mondale said.

The bill is designed to help both children and parents--particularly those parents who are working or cannot, for a variety of reasons, care for their children during working hours. It provides for full-time or part-time child care programs, and a wide variety of food, education and health programs.

One falsehood being circulated about the bill is that it will substitute government for parents to rear children. Other misrepresentations are that parents who are not doing a good job will have their children taken away from them, that parents cannot teach their children about God, that a charter of children's rights is being added to the act, and that parents would lose the right to form their children's characters.

Earlier, the Baptist Joint Committee had alerted its constituency to avoid being misled by the misrepresentations.

Mondale was at a loss to explain the dishonesty and the intensity of these misrepresentations of the Child and Family Services Act. He said that one day in the week before his appearance at the Baptist Joint Committee semi-annual meeting he had received 7,000 letters of opposition and that his staff is behind 20,000 letters in sending out answers. Four employees are working full time to try to answer these letters.

"This is an interesting study of our times," the senator observed. The opposition to the bill does not appear to be paid, he pointed out, but it has grown to the proportions of a movement. "When it hits a community, it hits like an epidemic, and the mail pours in like an epidemic," he said.

Mondale's explanation was that "the people have been through so much in recent years--the Vietnam war, Watergate, the CIA and FBI controversies, multinational corruption, etc.--that they believe politicians lie most of the time." As a result, he said, the traditional means of communication is not valid in this case. "People simply will not accept the facts when we tell them," he pointed out.

During the question period, Mondale was asked to identify the sources of misinformation pouring into the churches. He said it has been difficult to trace but that among those he knows about are the John Birch Society and the Parent Alert Group. He also cited the Minneapolis Tribune, which identified Bob Jones University, the Wheaton Foundation and The Christian Crusade as among the opposition.

During the discussion it was brought out that at least one congressman, Rep. John Conlan (R.- Ariz.) had sent out letters of opposition to the Child and Family Services Act, urging churches to oppose it and that he was a speaker in many church and religious gatherings in opposition to the act.

In a like manner, Mondale pointed out, there is a rising opposition to the proposed Youth Camp Safety Act, most of which is based on misrepresentation and misinformation about the bill.

The senator explained that he was not appearing before the Baptist Joint Committee to ask for endorsement either for the Child and Family Services Act or the Youth Camp Safety Act. Rather, he said, Congress needs help to engage the country in an honest dialogue and to debate the issues in the bill on the basis of their merits rather than on falsehoods and misrepresentations.

-30-

27 State Conventions
Up Giving to SBC Causes

Baptist Press
3/4/76

NASHVILLE (BP)--In a five-month period which has included the two highest months for national Cooperative Program receipts in Southern Baptist Convention history, 27 of 33 state or regional SBC-related conventions have increased contributions to SBC causes.

During that period--the first five months of the SBC's 1975-76 fiscal year--34,902 churches across the 50 states have given \$19,935,025 in undesignated money through the denomination's national unified budget.

That figure, which doesn't include another \$20.7 million in designated gifts, represents about one-third the amount given by the churches to the state Cooperative Program budgets. The \$19.9 million includes two months--January and February--which set all-time, one-month national Cooperative Program records, with over \$4.8 million and over \$4.4 million respectively.

All but six of the state-level conventions showed increases, as the Cooperative Program ran 14.77 percent ahead of receipts of \$17,369,607 in the first five months of fiscal 1974-75.

While the overall Cooperative Program runs ahead, the six states showed small dollar declines in what they gave to national Cooperative Program causes. The declines range from \$226 in Utah-Idaho to \$16,281 in Missouri. The others are Alabama, \$10,138; Northwest (Oregon-Washington), \$8,944; Hawaii, \$4,637; and West Virginia, \$721. Except for Hawaii (27.84 percent) and Northwest (13.92 percent), percentage decreases were relatively small.

During the first five months of 1974-75, Cooperative Program contributions from the six states totaled \$2,219,600, compared to \$2,178,653 so far this fiscal year. That's a \$40,947 or 1.84 percent decline.

Meanwhile, 20 of the 27 remaining state conventions showed double-digit percentage increases in amounts they gave the national Cooperative Program, with 10 of those above 20 percent. They are Arizona, 75.24 percent; District of Columbia, 53.78 percent; Ohio, 41.87 percent; Pennsylvania-South Jersey, 34.48 percent; Kansas-Nebraska, 34.14 percent; Texas, 27.90 percent; Mississippi, 24.50 percent; Northern Plains, 22.81 percent; Louisiana, 21.50 percent; South Carolina, 20.30 percent.

Nine states topped \$1 million in giving--Texas, \$3,507,579; Georgia, \$1,823,399; North Carolina, \$1,625,160; Florida, \$1,480,016; Tennessee, \$1,248,079; Alabama, \$1,244,467; South Carolina, \$1,129,147; Virginia, \$1,106,181; and Oklahoma, \$1,048,442.

Eleven other state conventions topped six figures in giving, ranging from \$103,852 in Arizona to \$918,303 in Mississippi.

-30-

Mrs. C. R. Daley Sr.
Dies in Georgia

NEWINGTON, Ga. (BP)--Funeral services for Mrs. C. R. Daley Sr., 79, were held at Newington Baptist Church here, with burial in Newington.

She was the mother of C. R. Daley Jr., editor of the Western Recorder, state newspaper for Kentucky Baptists.

-30-