



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

May 14, 1976

76-83

Religious Groups Declare
Neutrality on Conable Bill

By Stan L. Haste

WASHINGTON (BP)--Major religious groups joined here in protesting the use by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of its so-called "substantiality" test in limiting lobbying activities by the churches.

They indicated, however, that they do not oppose a bill currently being considered which would set dollar guidelines for lobbying by nonreligious charities.

The church groups, filing statements with the House Committee on Ways and Means, included the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the National Council of Churches, and the U. S. Catholic Conference. All three statements indicate neutrality in the debate over passage of H. R. 13500, a bill designed to specify how much money nonprofit groups may spend in influencing legislation before Congress.

The bill exempts churches from the dollar limitations placed on other charitable groups.

Most nonreligious charitable groups favor the measure, introduced on May 3 by U. S. Rep. Barber B. Conable (R.-N.Y.). Conable has been seeking passage of such a bill for the last five years.

It is designed to clear up confusion over the application by IRS of what constitutes "substantial" lobbying activities. The IRS Code states that for a charitable group to preserve its tax-exempt status, it must not engage in "substantial" lobbying. Until now, however, no one has known precisely what the term means.

On several occasions in recent years, IRS has launched what many church officials consider harassing investigations because their public policies disagreed with those of the administration.

In a statement submitted by James E. Wood, Jr., the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs insisted that the IRS substantiality test amounts to an invasion by the state into church affairs.

"Religious liberty," Wood stated, "denies to the state the authority to define for the churches the nature and scope of their religious missions." He went on to say that "because some churches define their religious missions as including an obligation to speak out on and attempt to influence public affairs," IRS violates religious liberty when it attempts to set the boundaries of such efforts.

Because of opposition to the IRS policy, a number of religious groups worked with Conable to exclude churches from the bill's provisions. While they do not oppose the idea of setting dollar limitations for nonreligious charities, the churches have nevertheless expressed their ongoing opposition to the IRS policy.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) statement reiterated the organization's long-held opposition to the substantiality test but also indicated the group would not oppose the bill as currently worded. The NCC represents 30 Protestant and Orthodox denominations with a combined membership of more than 40 million.

In addition, a legislative specialist for the U. S. Catholic Conference told Baptist Press that his organization has taken essentially the same position.

In testimony heard publicly on May, 12, 80 nonreligious charities went on record as favoring the Conable measure. Elvis J. Stahr, a former president of West Virginia University and Indiana University, said that the legislation is needed so that such groups may know to what extent they may engage in lobbying activities without fear of losing their tax-exempt status. Stahr is chairman of a Coalition of Charities which has been working for the past seven years to enact such a measure into law.

Similar testimony was presented by Russell E. Train, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Appearing as a private citizen, Train said the legislation is needed because the present law is "difficult to administer, difficult to comply with, and is discriminatory."

Prospects for passage of the measure are uncertain. It must receive final action before the end of the year, when Congress adjourns, and some observers question whether it will emerge from the Ways and Means Committee in time to reach the House floor. Others point out, however, that the committee may well report the bill quickly and in plenty of time for final action.

-30-

Home Board Names
37 Mission Personnel

Baptist Press
5/14/76

ATLANTA (BP)--Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, meeting here, approved appointment of 37 mission personnel, including 9 career missionaries, 14 missionary associates, 1 US-2 short term missionary, and 13 mission pastors to receive church pastoral aid.

Career missionary appointments include:

Priscilla Ann Brodie of Franklinton, N. C., will serve as director of education for the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina (National Baptist) and will teach at Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh.

A graduate of Shaw University, Miss Brodie earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministries degrees from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. She formerly taught school in Franklinton.

David and Chris Coleman of Fort Worth, Tex., will serve as urban training director for Christian social ministries in Texas.

A graduate of Wake Forest University in North Carolina, Coleman earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

He has been pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Rockingham, N. C., and from 1975-76 was minister of community missions for Polytechnic Baptist Church, Fort Worth. Mrs. Coleman is the former Christine Canady of Jacksonville, Fla.

Nolen and Eliza Dunaway of Fort Worth will serve as catalytic language missionaries in Lancaster, Pa.

A graduate of California Baptist College, Riverside, Dunaway earned the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

He has been a teacher of English as a second language and was associate director of the Baptist Center of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Mrs. Dunaway, a nurse, is the former Eliza Gonzalez of Albuquerque, N. M. He is a native of Merced, Calif.

David and Joy Holden of Clinton, Iowa, will serve as associational director of missions in Iowa.

-more-

A native of Chicago, Ill., Holden is a graduate of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri and Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kans. He earned both the bachelor and master of divinity degrees from Central.

He has been pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Clinton since 1968. Prior to that, he served churches in Illinois and Missouri. Mrs. Holden is the former Joy Huff of St. Louis, Mo.

Wade and Bettye Thomas of Klamath Falls, Ore., will serve as director of associational missions for Harmony Association, Ventura, Calif.

A graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and Southwestern Seminary, he has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Klamath Falls, since 1968.

Thomas has also served pastorates in Salem, Ore.; Pasco, Wash.; Cheneyville, La., and Port Barre, La.; and Franklin, Tex. Mrs. Thomas is the former Audrey Wade of Corsicana, Tex.

Missionary associates include:

Jose and Nancy Amaya will serve as pastor of Calvary Baptist Mission, Karnes City, Tex., while he is a student at Mexican Baptist Bible Institute, San Antonio.

Hiram and Beatrice Duffer will serve as catalytic language missionaries in Puerto Rico.

Eloy and Lucia Felan will serve as pastor of Spanish Baptist Temple, Emporia, Kans.

Salome Gusman will serve as pastor of East Coleman (Spanish) Chapel, Coleman, Tex., while a student at Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Tex.

Cindy Hall will serve as a student intern in Christian social ministries while a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

John Mark Hastey will assist Spanish churches in Sullivan City and Los Ebanos, Tex., while a student at Pan American University, Edinburg.

Rodney Lee Kissinger will serve as student intern while a student at Southwestern Seminary.

David and Eden Liu will serve as pastor of Chinese Mission in Atlanta, Ga.

Ernest and Nancy Rodriguez will serve as pastor of Mission Mensajera, Itasca, Tex., while a student at Criswell Bible Institute, Dallas.

The US-2 appointee is Diane Mackenzie of Wilmington, Del., who will serve in the First Spanish Baptist Church, Atlanta. A graduate of Georgetown College, Miss Mackenzie will serve a two-year term in missions.

-30-

Southern Baptist Women
Set Flag Day Celebration

Baptist Press
5/14/76

NORFOLK (BP)--The Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will celebrate Flag Day, June 14, with a public call to prayer here during activities preceding the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting, and with prayer sessions in churches across the nation.

WMU, the SBC auxiliary, has proclaimed June 14 as a "Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Humiliation" in observance of the nation's Bicentennial celebration.

The Norfolk observance will be part of the WMU national annual meeting, June 13-14, in Chrysler Hall, Norfolk Scope Convention Center. The SBC meets, June 15-17, at the Scope.

-more-

The WMU audience, an estimated 2,500, will move to Scope Plaza at noon to be joined by other convention goers, for the Flag Day ceremony.

Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., will lead the 12 noon commeration. The WMU processional will travel from Chrysler Hall to the Scope Plaza area.

Major Ronald Carl will lead the Tactical Air Command Band of nearby Langley Air Force Base in patriotic celebration. Carmela Scott, soloist, Fourth Baptist Church, Portsmouth, Va., will sing the Star Spangled Banner as U. S. flags are raised.

Chafin will direct the call to prayer and the congregational reading of a responsive prayer.

Meanwhile, WMU organizations in churches across the nation will be having smaller scale prayer sessions as part of WMU's salute to the U. S. Bicentennial.

Local organizations and churches may rely on a printed program available through WMU office, Birmingham, for the "Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Humiliation" observance.

The pamphlet, written by Robert E. Burks, chairman of the department of religion, Anderson (S. C.) College, contains scriptural references for the special day, suggested prayers, hymns, and devotionals.

"Litany of Confession and Forgiveness," found in the pamphlet, is a guideline for a responsive reading similar to the Scope Plaza observance's responsive prayer, a WMU spokeswoman said.

The special emphasis of the "Day of Prayer, Fasting, and Humiliation" attempts to activate participants to minister to the needs and concerns of other people, she said.

-30-

Board Elects Dan Martin
As Editor of News Service

Baptist Press
5/14/76

ATLANTA (BP)--Dan Martin of Dallas, Tex., was approved by directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board here to join the board's staff, June 1, as editor of the news service.

Directors also accepted the resignation of another staffer, Paul Stewart of the department of survey and special studies, who accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Dumas, Ark.

Martin, 37, will work in the department of editorial services. He has been press director in the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since 1973.

A reporter since 1957, Martin has served Texas newspapers in Wichita Falls, Dallas, Midland, Odessa, Quanah, and Fort Worth. He also worked for a time in Colorado on the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, and Greely Daily Tribune.

A graduate of Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Tex., Martin began his newspaper career as a reporter for the Wichita Falls Times while a student. He has attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

His most recent newspaper job was with the Dallas Times Herald from 1971-73. He has worked variously as editor, city editor, photographer, beat reporter, feature writer and rewrite man.

While a full time newspaperman, Martin formerly served as pastor of three Texas churches, including churches in Dundee and Quanah.

Martin is married to the former Colleen Taylor of Electra, Tex. They have four children.

-30-

(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

#

McGregor Named Editor
Of Mississippi Paper

Baptist Press
5/14/76

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Donald T. McGregor was elected here to succeed Joe Odle, who will retire as editor of the Baptist Record, news publication of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, effective Sept. 1.

McGregor, 52, a veteran of Southern Baptist journalism, joined the paper in September, 1974, as associate editor, after spending about one year as editor and publisher of a weekly newspaper in Kemp, Tex., a Dallas suburb.

Before that, McGregor was editor of the California Southern Baptist state newspaper for two years and associate editor of the Baptist Standard, newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, where he spent 15 years. He has served also as an editor and reporter for the Midland (Texas) Reporter-Telegram and Dallas Times-Herald, and part-time or interim as a music director and educational director for a number of Baptist churches.

A native Texan, he is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.