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Committee Recommends
 SBC Ballot Disclosure

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Executive Committee's public relations advisory committee recommended unanimously here that all vote totals on ballots taken at Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meetings be made public.

The recommendation grew out of a motion at the 1976 SBC sessions in Norfolk by Jim Newton of Memphis. He asked for the full disclosure of ballot vote totals, which have not previously been released at SBC sessions.

The advisory committee's recommendation will be referred to the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee for consideration at the Executive Committee's February meeting in Nashville.

In other action, the public relations advisory committee appointed a special subcommittee to study a motion made in Norfolk by Ray Hodge, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kinston, N. C. He called for development of a special logo or art symbol which could be used to identify Southern Baptist churches. The Executive Committee asked the advisory group to look into the matter.

James M. Sapp of the SBC Home Mission Board, Atlanta, will chair the special subcommittee.

The public relations advisory committee elected Robert Duck of the Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery, as chairperson; Jennifer Bryon of the SBC Sunday School Board's book store division, Nashville, as vice chairperson; and William H. Boatwright of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, Raleigh, as secretary.

The committee's next meeting is set for February 21, 1977, at the Southern Baptist Convention Building, Nashville.

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Japan Baptist Convention
 Nears Goal; Sets Others

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RICHMOND (BP)--With the goal of becoming self-supporting almost obtained, the Japan Baptist Convention is now looking toward other major objectives.

Shuichi Matsumura, a former vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and chairman-elect of the Japan Convention, said the convention set a goal five years ago to become self-supporting by January 1977. Except for the convention's seminary, that goal will soon be achieved, according to George H. Hays, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for East Asia.

Now Japanese Baptists are looking in other areas of their work. One goal is to strengthen present churches. Radicalism and the student movements weakened the churches during the late 60's and early 70's, Matsumura said during a visit to the Foreign Mission Board headquarters here. He noted that the average attendance for Baptist churches throughout Japan is 40.

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Another main concern involves strengthening the seminary. Yoshikazu Nakajima, executive secretary of the Japan Convention, said during the visit that he fears a shortage of pastors in his country.

With Hays serving as an interpreter, Nakajima estimated that half of Japan's pastors are 40 years old or older and will be retiring before new ones will be trained. At the end of his term as executive secretary, Nakajima will return to the church he served in Osaka for 12 years before he became a convention official.

Another goal--part of the reason for the Japanese leaders' Richmond visit--is to build a closer relationship with Southern Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board.

As the convention nears self-support, the Japan Convention will not break its relationship with Southern Baptists but confirm "a new working relationship," Matsumura said. The relationship is no longer as much financial as it is two groups of Christians continuing to work together to spread the gospel, he explained.

The Japanese leaders came to emphasize their convention's willingness to work together and to thank Southern Baptists for their support and assistance in the past. Nakajima said he thought personal representation from his convention was the only way to truly express gratitude.

"I came to express appreciation for your support and assistance with finances and personnel in the postwar period," he said. "We (the Japan Convention) have been working very hard to become adults," Nakajima continued. While children are growing up, he explained, their parents seem to be constantly giving but receiving very little. Then, when the children are grown, they begin to give just as they have been given to.

"Japanese churches have been receiving and American churches have been giving," he said. Now, as the Japan Convention becomes self-supporting, its role will change. It will be able to do more giving.

Matsumura expressed his appreciation to the board during its September meeting here.

Both Nakajima and Matsumura said that Christianity had brought more than a savior to Japan. They said it had had an impact on the way of life, especially in areas of equality for men and women and in education. Matsumura said it had brought an overall freeing spirit, and Nakajima added that it had caused an international consciousness and a breakdown of provincialism.

As a pastor for 38 years, Matsumura thinks secularism and indifference are the greatest barriers to the gospel in Japan. He said there is a lack of interest in spiritual things. The people are very realistic-thinking people and it is hard for them to think and grasp spiritual concepts, he said.

The old religions--Buddhism and Shintoism--are the greatest barriers to Christianity, according to Nakajima. He said there is something in Japanese consciousness that makes it hard for the gospel to penetrate.

The Japan Baptist Convention was formed in 1947 with 16 churches and more than 1,000 members, according to "Japan Advances," written by W. Maxfield Garrott, deceased Southern Baptist missionary to Japan, (Convention Press, 1956).

The convention today has 175 churches and more than 23,628 church members, according to Hays.

Tolbert Assures America
Of African Revolution

By Carol Franklin

WASHINGTON (BP)--Violence and economic inequity in Southern Africa may precipitate revolution, an African leader said in a speech here.

William R. Tolbert, president of Liberia and former president of the Baptist World Alliance, told a National Press Club audience, "Today, in the southern part of the African continent, the knell of death is resounding . . . the African revolution ensues. Nothing can any longer deter the restlessly determined will and resolute spirit of all Africans to secure for the peoples of Southern Africa now their God-given dignity and inherent rights."

Tolbert's appearance in the United States was the first visit by an African head of state during the American Bicentennial and the second time he had addressed the National Press Club in three years. Earlier in the day he was received at the White House by President Gerald R. Ford.

In response to questioning, Tolbert affirmed that churches and all religious organizations "have a definite role to play in making our one world what it ought to be. This is a quickening of conscience to control people to act as they should. Mankind is the instrument to perpetuate the force of good or of evil."

Tolbert sprinkled his prepared address with frequent references to his religious faith and his belief that God will aid in Africa's economic and political crisis.

At the same time the Liberian president, who also serves as pastor of a Baptist church in Liberia, extolled America for its role "in building the new structures of global cooperation and in mending the wounded sinews of deepening strife and hatred.

"We can applaud the unrelenting actions of America's commitment to the jubilant prize of liberty and justice for all," he said.

Asked about U. S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's mission to South Africa, Tolbert responded, "I've made it a subject of prayer. Having faith, I believe it will be successful. May God grant that. If the situation escalates, no one can control the consequences."

Tolbert stressed the economic basis of the present situation in South Africa. He said that a world half rich and half exploited menaces rational interactions between nations. "A continent half free and half enslaved can become a deadly threat to international peace, security and prosperity," he continued.

The Liberian leader noted that trade decline, mounting deficits and debts, as well as substandard housing and disease, contribute to Liberia's position in the world economic order. German economists placed Liberia at the bottom of 59 developing countries in a recent study.

He sees signs of hope both in Liberia's natural resources (iron ore, rubber, diamonds, gold and other minerals, fishing and her people) and in U. S. initiatives in economic aid and diplomacy.

Tolbert drew warm applause from a mixed audience for his response to questioning about the place of whites in Africa. "Who are white people and who are black people? I don't believe in color. There is room for all people everywhere to live in harmony."

However, when asked about the possibility of violence in South Africa, Tolbert explained, "I don't subscribe to the shedding of blood . . . but I'll fight as vigorously as I believe in not fighting."

Tolbert demonstrated a gentle sense of humor in response to many questions. He had no advice for that "other Baptist"--Jimmy Carter--running for office in the United States. He refused to speculate on possible changes in U. S. policy toward Africa following the election, saying, "I am not a prophet nor do I profess to be the son of a prophet."

Later in the day Tolbert and his party attended a reception in his honor by the staff and friends of the Baptist World Alliance at the First Baptist Church of Washington. The next day he addressed a joint session of Congress in the U. S. Capitol, again stressing the vital role of the United States in ensuring the freedom of all peoples of the world.

In 1965, Tolbert was elected the first black president of the Baptist World Alliance. He is presently pastor of the Zion Praise Baptist Church in Bentol, Liberia.

He is thought to be the only foreign chief of state to preach in an American church. In 1973, he preached at the First Baptist Church in Dallas. He was scheduled to preach Sunday morning, September 26, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where Martin Luther King Jr., served as pastor.

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College Caught Between
HEW and S. C. Baptists

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CHARLESTON, S. C. (BP)--A South Carolina Baptist committee has charged that changes made by the Baptist College at Charleston to comply with federal guidelines against sectarian teaching and worship have made it "impossible to carry out the purposes of the college as it relates to the South Carolina Baptist Convention."

The convention's Government Funds Evaluation Committee, according to a report by John Roberts, editor of the Baptist Courier, said "continual monitoring of college activities" by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) "creates an intolerable atmosphere for the operation of a Christian college."

It declared that "none of our educational institutions should accept any further funds for acquisition or construction of buildings," which it said is the root of the problem at Baptist College at Charleston.

After an investigation last March of charges by a Baptist pastor that the college was in violation of guidelines, HEW gave John A. Hamrick, the president, 30 days in which to correct what it called violations of use of college buildings constructed with federal funds, the Courier reported.

HEW charged the college with sectarian religious instruction in the Title Seven-funded buildings and asked the college to guard against sectarian worship services in such buildings. Both worship and sectarian teaching are forbidden in buildings funded in whole or in part by HEW loans or grants.

The committee said it sees "no completely satisfactory permanent solution" within the means of the South Carolina Convention. It said the only real answer would be for the college to have a building totally free from government loans or grants to house the department of religion, the Courier said.

That response pleases Hamrick and members of the college trustees, who have been trying to raise funds for several months for erection of a college chapel with classroom and office space to house the religion department.

In an editorial accompanying his report, Roberts said it would not be proper to criticize either HEW or the college for the dilemma. He said HEW is "operating under good laws designed to protect our rights"--laws "written at the insistence of Baptists . . . (who) do not want tax money used to promote sectarian teaching." And, he said, the college reported every loan to South Carolina Baptists, who approved them, although concern was voiced on each occasion about restrictions.

He urged convention action to give the college the facilities it needs for unhampered teaching and worship.

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During its investigation, HEW visited classrooms, student convocations, faculty offices. They studied course descriptions and the professors' lecture notes, examined the teachers' personal libraries, and listened to recordings of class lectures.

The courses of study in question were Old Testament Survey (Religion 111), New Testament Survey (Religion 112), Life of Paul (Religion 220), and Biblical Doctrine of Man (Religion 421).

The professors were J. Walter Carpenter, then department head; Rembert Truluck, associate professor; and Carlton Winberry, then associate professor.

The investigators found Carpenter's teaching sectarian in nature. They declared Truluck's teaching sectarian in influence because of his other activities and assignments at the college. He is coordinator of religious vocational training, which involves placement and supervision in area churches of ministerial students. They were not critical of Winberry's teaching.

HEW suggested minor changes in syllabi and catalog course descriptions. They asked, for example, that advanced religion courses be referred to as "major studies" rather than "professional studies" as previously.

The federal government representatives stated that the courses as presented by Carpenter and Truluck could no longer be taught in buildings encumbered by HEW Title Seven loans. They suggested also that Carpenter and Truluck should not have their offices in these buildings.

Carpenter was retired by action of the trustees in a meeting on May 20. Truluck's office was moved into temporary housing not restricted by HEW funds.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Region Four, Atlanta, followed its spring visit to Baptist College with a letter to Hamrick dated June 30. It cited the four violations mentioned previously: (1) Religion course descriptions and syllabi must be re-written to be acceptable, (2) Classroom teaching methods could not be sectarian in nature, (3) Faculty engaged in sectarian teaching could not have offices in HEW funded buildings, and (4) Convocations in these buildings could not be sectarian in nature. The college was given 30 days in which to comply.

Hamrick replied on July 29 that all suggested corrective measures had been made. Religion classes will continue to meet in Norris Hall as before. Convocation will continue to be held each Wednesday in the gymnasium. Course descriptions and syllabi have been re-written. The catalog is being revised in its description of religion courses.

"We are not restricted in our purposes as a Christian college," Hamrick insists. "We can teach the whole Bible, as freely and fully as it is possible to teach, with no restrictions, as long as it is taught as an academic subject. This is in line with our purpose, as stated in the catalog. This purpose has been published by us and reported to the South Carolina Baptist Convention from the beginning of the college.

"We believe this is the way Baptists want the Bible taught," Hamrick continued, "thoroughly and academically. This method and right have been substantiated by the HEW committee which investigated and found Winberry's teaching acceptable."

The Government Funds Evaluation Committee feels otherwise, however.

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Kresge Awards Samford Law
School Projects \$100,000

Baptist Press
9/24/76

BIRMINGHAM (BP)--The Kresge Foundation of Troy, Mich., has awarded a \$100,000 grant to Samford University to be used in expansion of the Baptist school's Robinson Hall and the Cordell Hull Law Library.

Memory Leake Robinson Hall houses Samford's Cumberland School of Law. A major addition to the facility is now under construction. When completed in 1977, the addition will double classroom, library, and office space in the badly-overcrowded law school. The \$100,000 grant is conditioned upon certification that the balance of funds required for the addition have been raised in full and that the project contract price is within available resources. Money for the law school project is being raised by the Phoenix Fund Campaign, a Samford fund-raising effort seeking \$3 million.

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