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SBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2356
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

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Fourth of Four Parts

Election 1976--Focus on
Responsible Government

By C. Welton Gaddy
for Baptist Press

"Big government," "integrity in government," "government reorganization," and "government accountability" are major issues in the 1976 political campaigns. A recent Harris poll revealed that 72 percent of the United States public "no longer feel they get good value from their tax dollars."

Candidates and voters alike are interested in government leaders representative of and honest with their constituencies, government agencies service-oriented in philosophy and efficient in performance, and government policies realistic in expectations and just in application.

Christians should be interested and involved in government. Ideally, God's people support leaders who demonstrate justice and righteousness (Ps. 72:1-2). Biblically, a person's prayers for the government (1 Tim. 2:1-2) are to be supplemented by activities which exalt the nation (Prov. 14:34) and glorify God (Mic. 6:8). This is the way it should be in this election year.

Many matters related to responsible government are fraught with moral implications. For example, government meeting the needs of the citizenry, agencies using tax money responsibly, and officials speaking honestly are ethical concerns. Votes from Christian citizens ought to reflect an awareness of various candidates' views on these very issues.

Here is a summary of the positions of Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, the two leading candidates for the office of President of the United States, regarding four important dimensions of responsible government.

1. Government Reorganization. Carter and Ford agree that government reorganization must be a high priority for the President. Ford has said, "We must not continue drifting in the direction of bigger and bigger government." Carter has stated, "Tight business-like management and planning techniques must be instituted and maintained, utilizing the full authority and personal involvement of the President himself." Carter has announced plans to reduce approximately 1,900 federal agencies to 200 while Ford has proposed consolidation of 59 federal programs in the areas of health, education, child nutrition, and social services.

2. Federal Spending. Ford favors a cutback in federal spending to move more money into the private sector. Carter speaks of controlling government spending by comprehensive planning and carefully prepared budgets.

Both candidates support the concept of federal revenue sharing, though they disagree in their judgments of the present system. Ford has demonstrated support for the current program. Specifically, regarding aid to cities, he has proposed a \$446 million increase for community development in fiscal year 1977. Carter has stated that money in the present program "was stolen from the poor people, and too much of it...used to build dance halls, or golf courses, or jail-houses." He suggests that increases in revenue sharing funds not be accompanied by decreases in categorical grants for social programs.

3. Integrity in Government. Louis Harris has reported that, according to his surveys, citizens' confidence in officials of the Executive Branch has dropped from 43 percent to 13 percent over the past 10 years. The candidates' positions related to integrity in government are very important.

Ford authorized the creation of a new Public Integrity section within the Criminal Division of the Justice Department to handle all federal offenses involving official or institutional corruption. Carter has offered a different approach. If elected, he plans to remove the Office of Attorney General from the Cabinet and make it an independent office with a term of five to seven years to remove the Justice Department and particularly the FBI from political influence.

Carter advocates an open-meetings law applicable to all "federal boards, commissions, and regulatory agencies" as well as congressional committees. "The only exception should involve narrowly defined national security issues, unproven legal accusations, or knowledge that might

cause serious damage to the nation's economy," according to Carter. Ford has expressed basic agreement with such a "Sunshine Bill" but says, "There may be some meetings held by agencies or departments in the federal government where there would have to be confidentiality maintained."

Ford favors a full disclosure of finances by federal officials to prevent conflicts of interest. Carter agrees and has promised to release an annual audit of personal finances and require other policy makers in his administration to do the same.

Carter and Ford agree that presidential campaigns should be supported by public finances. However, Carter would extend public financing to congressional campaigns. Ford is opposed to such a plan.

4. Government Services. Public expectations regarding government services are too numerous to discuss. Here are the candidates' views on two programs.

Ford has proposed "a sweeping overhaul" of federal welfare services before the end of the decade. His aim is to develop one single welfare plan. Carter favors two plans. He would separate the 10 percent of the welfare recipients who can work from the others and recommend a guaranteed minimum payment to those qualified, with educational and job training for the unemployed.

Carter and Ford disagree on the nature and specifics of a federal energy program. Ford's goal is "energy independence." Carter doubts whether the nation "can or should become self-sufficient in energy" in this century.

Ford believes the nation's consumption of oil can best be reduced by decontrolled prices and permanently increased costs on it. Carter opposes price increases on oil and natural gas. As alternatives, he supports mandatory conservation measures, automobile efficiency, and a regulation that prohibits importing more than 40 percent of the nation's total consumption of oil.

Ford wants to "expedite clean and safe nuclear power production." He has said, "Greater utilization must be made of nuclear energy." Carter, a former nuclear engineer, has expressed a fear of current safety standards and stated, "Our dependence on nuclear power should be kept to an absolute minimum." He favors "a major shift to coal" and a substantial increase in the use of solar energy.

Christian citizens can exert a significant influence in support of responsible government. This should not be done through official endorsements of candidates either from the pulpit or the congregation. Such action violates the purpose of the pulpit in the life of the church in the first instance and the open fellowship characteristic of the body of Christ in the second instance. This should be done as Christian citizens--pastors and their congregations--frankly discuss the moral dimensions of all campaign issues, responsible government included.

Discover the answers which candidates for local, state, and national offices give to questions such as: Will you assume full responsibility for the conduct of the government office of which you are the head? Will you make public a statement of your personal finances? Will you hold press conferences regularly and be accessible to the media? How will you make your office responsive and accountable to the public?

A recent survey indicated that as many as 70 million voters may not vote this year. By 87 or 88 percent, these people agreed that "what this country needs most, more than laws and political programs, is a few courageous, tireless, devoted leaders in whom the people can put their trust." Every Christian citizen should cast informed votes on November 2 and offer continued support for the kind of leaders who make government responsible! (BP)

C. Welton Gaddy is director of Christian citizenship development for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. His four-part series on moral issues in the 1976 elections has focused on informed voting, civil and religious liberties, economic issues and responsible government.



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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

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Ministers' Wives Call For Better Understanding

NASHVILLE (BP)--A group of ministers' wives meeting here has issued a plea for a re-education of Southern Baptists concerning the unique role of the pastor's wife, particularly in such areas as individuality, time management, conflicting expectations and finances.

Fifteen women from 13 different states participated in the special Pastors' Wives Consultation, sponsored by the church administration department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The conference focused on the needs of the pastor's wife and possible denominational resources to help meet those needs.

After three days of discussion, the participants drafted a summary statement directed toward Southern Baptist church members.

In the statement, the pastors' wives emphasized that they were not attempting to speak for all ministers' wives, noting that one of the most significant needs of the minister's wife today is to be recognized and treated as an individual.

"We are Christians just like you are--sometimes struggling, hopefully always growing and needing very much to be allowed to be less than 'perfect' at all times," the statement reads. "We do not want to be confused with all the other minister's wives you have known or expected to be like them. We really are not appendages to our husbands.

"We like for you to introduce us and refer to us, at least some of the time, by our own names and not by our relationship to our husbands or to the church. Do not necessarily expect us to be our husband's assistant unless we see this as our own particular avenue of service. Be assured that as we seek our own obedience to Christ we are trying to find that special place of service that is uniquely ours. Help us exercise our own gifts rather than feeling that we must automatically adjust to fill some immediate need of the church."

Another concern expressed in the consensus statement is the need for time for pastors' wives to give to their husbands and to their families.

"Let us love you," the statement says to the church member, "and you will make that more likely if you will make non-emergency calls to our husbands at the office during stated office hours rather than waiting until evenings or Saturdays, which just might be the only time that they have with their families.

"Realize that our husbands are married to us and not to the church," the statement continues. "The ministry is their calling, but they can fulfill this call more effectively if the workload at the church allows us time together and church members encourage us to nurture our relationship."

The statement also includes a suggestion related to church members' often unrealistic expectations of the pastor's children.

"Treat our children as children and not as some special kind of beings who are expected either to be as perfect as little angels or as mean as little imps," the statement reads. "If you will help us to have a rich family life by expecting us to have adequate time together, they might be just as ordinary or as special as your own children."

The statement also adds a comment about financial needs and a need for friendships.

"Please know that you do not necessarily improve our characters by keeping us poor," the conference participants stated. "Our husbands may have done as much formal study as other professional men in the community but may not be compensated as well. Also, they must necessarily be in the public eye, which requires a reasonable income. Mostly we would be happy with the median income of our church members.

"If you see that certain people are our special friends, please realize that they may have reached out to us in helpfulness or because of their own needfulness."

The statement concludes by stressing that the friendship of church members is vitally important to the pastor's wife.

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50 Baptist Colleges
Agree to National Study

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Fifty of the 53 Southern Baptist-related senior and junior colleges have signed up for a major national study of Southern Baptist colleges made possible by a recent \$100,000 grant.

The study will be conducted by the Program of Liberal (Arts) Studies, currently based at the University of Arizona, Tucson, and funded by the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis.

Earl J. McGrath, executive director for the Program of Liberal Studies, will administer the grant, and the office of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Nashville will coordinate the study.

McGrath, senior advisor for education for the Lilly Endowment and former secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, will make a team of nationally recognized educational consultants available to assist with the study, which will focus on a number of areas of institutional life.

Each Baptist college, which will contribute up to \$1,000 to help with the study, will be led in a self analysis of institutional goals, leadership and management, financial health, curriculum, campus environment, admissions and recruiting, and the perceptions of the laity about Southern Baptist higher education.

Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Education Commission, said it would cost the Baptist colleges an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 each to do such a study on their own without the benefit of the \$100,000 grant.

Fisher said McGrath reported that he recommended the study to the Lilly Endowment because Southern Baptist colleges are financially sound, concerned about the transmission of values and willing to wear their church-related label proudly, and are increasing in enrollments when many other private institutions show declines.

"The study itself, which grew out of the exposure our Baptist colleges received at our National Colloquium on Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools last June in Williamsburg, Va., involves a recognition of Baptist schools as a national asset," said George C. Capps of the Education Commission.

"For the first time," said Capps, the commission's associate executive director, "some of our colleges will be able to afford a self-study of this type."

"I view the study as a strong vote of confidence in Southern Baptist higher education and believe it can be of inestimable value in the three-year follow-up to the National Colloquium," Fisher added. The colloquium and its follow-up are designed to be an intensive study of priorities and purposes of Baptist schools.

The McGrath study is expected to be completed by December and to be evaluated and released by June of 1977.

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**FMB Sets \$55 Million Budget;
Elects Staff; Appoints 24**

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in its major meeting of the year, voted a record \$55,340,918 budget, named three new staff members, and appointed 24 missionaries.

John E. Mills, currently the board's field representative for West Africa and a missionary since 1947, was named area secretary for West Africa. Mills will begin his new duties Jan. 1, 1977. He succeeds H. Cornell Goerner, who retires at the end of the year after 19 years with the Foreign Mission Board.

Elected as secretary of the board's newly created department of communications was Thomas W. Hill, missionary director of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House, El Paso, Tex. A missionary since 1956, Hill will assume the new position Jan. 1, 1977.

Harold D. Richardson, controller and assistant treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was elected as senior assistant treasurer. He will replace Ralph A. Magee, who retires in December.

In other action, the board authorized that steps be taken toward the inauguration of mission programs in Rwanda and Burundi, and appropriated \$124,800 for world relief. Relief appropriations during 1976 now total \$1,055,973.

The newly-adopted 1977 budget exceeds that of 1976 by \$4,304,494, an increase of about 8.4 percent over last year.

Announcing the record total, Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the board, raised the rhetorical question, "Where does that money come from?"

Answering his own question, Cauthen said, "It comes week by week as 34,902 Southern Baptist churches contribute through the Cooperative Program (Southern Baptist unified budget).

The Cooperative Program gifts provide almost a half of the budget and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions accounts for about one half.

In spite of inflation and the demands of their local programs, Cauthen took note of the fact that the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) increased Cooperative Program giving by 13.45 percent during the convention's fiscal year.

Referring to the other major source of the board's budget, Cauthen pointed out that the \$29 million goal for the 1976 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is probably the largest goal for a special offering ever attempted by any Christian group in history.

Of the \$124,800 in relief appropriations, \$50,000 will provide housing for earthquake victims in Guatemala, \$42,300 will assist victims of Mexico's recent hurricane and floods, \$22,500 will assist emergency needs following a recent earthquake in Ecuador, \$5,000 will purchase basic food supplies and seed for emergency relief in Nicaragua due to recent drought, and \$5,000 will construct a silo for grain storage in Ghana.

An additional \$13,900.00 was transferred from funds appropriated for relief in Vietnam to undesignated relief funds.

The board also expressed gratitude for 1975 missions challenge funds totaling \$2,320,537 received through the Cooperative Program at the close of the SBC's fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Of the challenge funds, \$397,126 was appropriated for a new addition to the headquarters building in Richmond. The board had appropriated \$1.25 million for the addition in earlier meetings. Anticipated cost of the new wing is in excess of \$1.5 million.

The appointment of 24 missionaries to 12 countries brings the total additions to the missionary force in 1976 to 220 and the overall total to 2,694 missionaries in 84 countries.

Appointed were Mr. and Mrs. James W. (Jim) Carter, from Texas and New York, assigned to Colombia; Mr. and Mrs. Ken R. Clayton, Tennessee, to Spain; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mixon Cowart, Florida and Missouri, to East Africa; R. Alice Creecy, Hawaii, to Hong Kong/Macao;

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. (Jack) Hebb Jr., West Virginia and Florida, to Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Holder, Tennessee and Texas, to Paraguay.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. E. Sherwood Moffett Jr., Louisiana and Texas, to Japan; Mr. and Mrs. Ken G. Tobertson, Arkansas, to Senegal; Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Vandiver, Texas and Alabama, to the Ivory Coast; Dr. and Mrs. Ray A. Verm, Texas, to Paraguay; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur R. Wyckoff, New Jersey and New York, to South Brazil; and Mr. and Mrs. Ted D. Wylie, Oklahoma and Kansas, to the Philippines.

Leona (Mrs. H. B.) Cooper from Louisiana, assigned to Yemen, was employed as a missionary associate. Her husband is deceased.

Joseph John Pfeifer, a student at the University of Saskatchewan (Canada) College of Medicine, was awarded a medical receptorship. The medical receptorship program, sponsored by the board, offers short-term overseas experience for qualified medical students.

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First Amendment Clauses
Clash at Supreme Court

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By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two constitutional provisions clashed here in a case argued before the U. S. Supreme Court. One party argued that his freedom of religion had been denied. The other stated that a provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 amounts to an establishment of religion.

The case, Parker Seal Co. v. Cummins, presents the high court with a classic example of two constitutional provisions in conflict. The company argues that a provision of the Civil Rights Act, as amended in 1972, was designed expressly for religious purposes and thus violates the "no establishment" clause of the First Amendment.

On the other side, Paul D. Cummins, a Kentuckian who was fired by the company for refusing to work on Saturdays because of religious beliefs, contends that he is being denied free exercise of religion, another First Amendment guarantee.

The First Amendment reads in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The 1972 amendment to the Civil Rights Act was introduced by the only Seventh Day Baptist serving in Congress, U. S. Senator Jennings Randolph.

Attorneys for Parker Seal Co. argued before the court that Senator Jennings' primary purpose in introducing the measure was the advancement of his type of religion.

Cummins' attorney countered by saying that Congress passed the law "to protect minority Sabbatarians."

An attorney from the U. S. solicitor general's office agreed with Cummins' position, arguing that the company's policy has a "grossly desperate impact" on Sabbatarians.

He also defended the 1972 amendment, saying that "it is an appropriate exercise of legislative power... to require individuals to adjust their conduct" so as to guarantee the free exercise of religion to other individuals.

Cummins originally appealed his firing to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, a watchdog group which responds to such complaints. In this case, however, the commission upheld the company.

A U. S. district court in Kentucky also ruled for the company, but when Cummins took his case to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, he won. It is that decision which the company has now appealed to the Supreme Court.

Cummins worked in Parker Seal's, Berea, Ky., plant from 1958 to 1971, when he was fired. During his last six years with the company, he was a supervisor at the plant.

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For more than a year before his dismissal, Cummins was permitted to observe the Sabbath as prescribed by his church, The World Wide Church of God, although other supervisors were expected to work on Saturdays.

Friction developed among the supervisors, however, over the special arrangement for Cummins. Despite the fact that supervisors were paid a set salary, some of the men were being asked to work longer hours than Cummins because of his inflexibility about working on Saturdays. Because of the unrest, the company decided to fire Cummins.

The 1972 amendment to the Civil Rights Act provides that "it shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer . . . to . . . discharge any individual, or otherwise to discriminate . . . with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment, because of such individual's . . . religion."

Also being argued in the case is an official guideline of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) stating 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."

In addition, the EEOC guideline places the burden on the employer to demonstrate that an "undue hardship" in fact exists.

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Tell Us, 'Jimmy Carter,' Do
Peanuts Grow in Colombia?

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RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has decided to transport "Jimmy Carter" to Colombia, South America, for a series of four-year terms, rather than one or two four-year terms in the White House.

In October, James W. (Jim) Carter, practically a namesake of the Southern Baptist running for President, and his wife Shirley were appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries to Colombia, where he will be a hospital business manager. Southern Baptist missionaries are appointed for a career, but generally serve four-year terms, separated by a year of furlough.

Carter, a Texan, is no relation to the former Georgia governor, James E. (Jimmy) Carter. But he does have a southern accent, a ready smile, and likes peanuts.

He declined to say who he supports in the race for President, but a vote was taken by the Foreign Mission Board. They unanimously selected Carter--as a missionary, that is.

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