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January 4, 1977

77-1

16-Person Committee Named To Coordinate Seminary Campaign

NASHVILLE (BP)--A 16-person committee, with former Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Owen Cooper as chairman, has been named by SBC President James L. Sullivan to follow through on implementation of a joint national fund raising campaign of the six SBC theological seminaries.

The SBC Executive Committee, which approved the joint campaign last September, also called for the committee to determine ground rules, secure necessary consultation, and initiate and coordinate the campaign in keeping with Article VI of the SBC's business and financial plan. The seminaries will share expenses of the campaign, which would not interfere with individual campaigns already approved for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Besides Cooper, other committee members include Ben R. Murphy of Dallas; C. C. Hope of Charlotte, N. C.; R. Paul Henry of Tulsa; Mrs. F. Tyler Easley of Bluefield, W. Va.; and Mrs. Doyle E. Carlton Jr. of Wauchula, Fla., all laypersons.

Also, George E. Bagley, executive secretary, Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery; R. Eugene Puckett, editor, Maryland Baptist, Lutherville, Md.; W. O. Vaught, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock; Charles E. Harvey, pastor, Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport; and the six seminary presidents.

The six presidents are Duke K. McCall, Southern Seminary, Louisville; Robert E. Naylor, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth; Landrum P. Leavell II, New Orleans Seminary; W. Randall Lolley, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.; Harold K. Graves, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; and Milton Ferguson, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City.

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Minister Urges A 'Turn
The Television Off Week'

Baptist Press
1/4/77

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (BP)--A United Methodist minister in this Memphis suburb has called on his members and all concerned people to observe a national "Turn The Television Off Week" (TTTOW), Feb. 27-March 5, in protest to violence and general low moral quality of programming on television.

Donald E. Wildmon, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Southaven, Miss., urged the observance in a letter to his members and has also asked for wide support in promoting TTTOW through the media.

In Nashville, Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, which has been conducting a series of hearings across the country on television sex and violence, said he wished Wildmon well in his project.

"Sex and violence have increased alarmingly in television," said Valentine. "I, for one, wish television sets across the country had been turned off on Wednesday, Dec. 29, when the night court judge on the TV series, Sirota's Court, performed a marriage between two homosexuals. That show, which was aired on NBC, 8 p.m.- 8:30 p.m., Central Standard Time, is just one example of the low moral quality of much television programming," Valentine declared.

In his letter, Wildmon cited a Better Homes and Gardens magazine report, which said that a typical child will witness 13,000 people die on television. CONVENTION BUILDING
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He said the report also pointed out that if a person watched every show on network prime time, he would witness murders, beatings, rapes, muggings and robberies at the rate of eight an hour, with three out of four programs featuring violence.

Wildmon called many of the programs on television "insulting to anyone with normal mentality and decent morality . . . It is indeed a shame that we must continually be insulted and embarrassed when, as a family, we chose to watch television," he said.

Television, he continued, can be a "very enjoyable and helpful medium. It could be one of the most beneficial mediums of all time. But the quality of many programs now offered serve no decent purpose at all," he said.

"It is time that people with normal mentality and decent morality speak out. It is time we were heard. The television industry's self-imposed 'Family Viewing Time' is a sham and a farce," Wildmon charged. "We may not be able to tell the networks what to show, but we can certainly tell them that if they do not improve the quality of their programs they will be showing them to an ever increasing number of viewers."

Wildmon sent letters noting the TTTOW observance to all three national networks.

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Mosteller, Seminary Prof,
Dies in New Orleans

Baptist Press
1/4/77

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--James D. Mosteller, 61, professor of church history at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary here, died suddenly at his home here in the early hours of January 1, 1977.

A memorial service was held on January 3 in New Orleans, with burial in Thomson, Ga.

A native of Adairsville, Ga., Mosteller was reared in the central Florida community of Mount Dora and was ordained to the ministry by the First Baptist Church of Mount Dora.

Mosteller joined the faculty of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary September 1, 1967, after 20 years as professor of church history at the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary of Chicago, Ill., at which he served also as dean for nine years.

From September to December 1969, Mosteller served as Chief Administrative Officer of New Orleans Seminary while then President Leo Eddleman was on sabbatical leave. Upon the resignation of Eddleman in March of 1970, the Board of Trustees elected Mosteller acting president of the New Orleans Seminary.

Mosteller served as pastor and interim pastor in churches in Florida and Georgia and in the Chicago area and authored several books.

He is survived by his wife Iris Edmunds Mosteller of Thomson, Ga.; a son James D. Mosteller, Jr. of Hartsfield, S. C.; a daughter, Mrs. Lynn Parra of Austin, Tex.; and four grand children.

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