

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 3, 1977

77-40

**Officials Face Problems
Of Sex, Violence on TV**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Witnesses before the House Commerce Subcommittee on Communications agreed that too much sex and violence on television is a serious problem.

Agreement ended at that point.

Wilson C. Wearn, chairman of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), stated, "I personally believe that there are too many violent acts and offensive displays of sex on television." He then described the process he follows when complaints are received at the station he is licensed to operate in Greenville, S. C.

"We make note of them and make sure that our program people are aware of them. If the complaint is about a network presentation, then we notify the network and find that they usually contact the complaining individual," Wearn continued.

A written statement by two staffers of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention declared that one day of hearings is not enough "given the widespread concern of the American people about television programming and the documentable need for improvement.

"More hearings are in order and should be held soon," declared the statement by C. Welton Gaddy and Harry N. Hollis Jr., read into the record by U. S. Rep. Albert Gore Jr. (D.-Tenn.)

"In addition to listening to network officials and personnel from television-related public agencies, we believe you need to hear from other segments of the American public," the statement said.

It added that the Christian Life Commission will make the results of hearings and other television research it has conducted available to the subcommittee.

George Gerbner, dean of the University of Pennsylvania's school of communications, testified that a study he recently completed showed "television violence increased sharply in all categories . . . on all three networks" from 1975 to 1976. He said NBC had the highest content, with ABC second and CBS third in overall programming.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Richard Wiley, who admitted portrayal of violence on television is a problem but said it should be handled without government censorship, called Gerbner's findings "disheartening and disturbing."

Vincent T. Wasilewski, NAB president, also acknowledged pressure from the public over violence on television and "its possible effect on the youth of this nation. We recognize it as a problem now, as we have in the past, but the difficulty arises when we talk about how to define it, and then what to do about it once we do agree that it is objectionable to some segments of the public."

Robert Stubblefield, speaking for the American Medical Association, reported to the subcommittee the AMA's action in June of 1976 adopting a "policy that television violence is an environmental hazard threatening the health and welfare of young Americans and indeed our future society."

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U. S. Rep. John M. Murphy (D.-N.Y.) reminded the subcommittee of the results of the study conducted by the Surgeon General's Scientific Advisory Committee on Television and Social Behavior, released in 1972. The surgeon general reported at that time, "It is clear that the causal relationship between televised violence and antisocial behavior is sufficient to warrant appropriate and immediate remedial action."

Murphy cited several other medical studies supporting the surgeon general's view and then noted, "Despite the accumulation of definitive evidence that there is a causal relationship between televised violence and resultant aggressive behavior, such violence in all its forms is still very much with us. An evening in front of a television set most decidedly tells us that."

Frederick S. Pierce, president of ABC Television, told the subcommittee that ABC now has less violence in its programming than previously. "The facts are that programs which may include incidents of violence represent a diminishing percentage of ABC's overall prime time schedule," he said.

Industry representatives justified the continuing use of violence in various ways. Pierce noted, "Throughout history, the essence of some drama has been conflict, and in such works violence has always been one means to resolve conflict."

Wearn stated that violence is a part of our society which television mirrors. "We will (do something about offensive programming) even though we have no real hard evidence that television violence is the sole cause of any actual violence in this nation. We will act although we believe the reduction of violence on television will be just a drop in the bucket, when one considers all the other models of violent conduct that will continue to be available in our society," Wearn said.

Wasilewski expressed fear of governmental control of broadcasting as a result of the problem of violence on television. "When a problem does exist, such as violence on television, we know it will be up to us to deal with it through self-regulation and self-discipline," he said.

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Memorials Started
To Missionaries' Son

By Joe W. Bruce

Baptist Press
3/3/77

LAKE YOJOA, Honduras (BP)--Five-year-old Robby Williams died in an automobile accident in Georgia while his missionary parents were on furlough from Honduras in 1975. But his memory will continue here through the Robert A. Williams III Memorial Chapel, financed and built by Baptists from the United States.

The chapel, being built at the Honduras Baptist Camp here, will seat 300 and will be used for worship services and special events held at the camp. Robby's parents, Southern Baptist Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Williams Jr., took part in the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new chapel in February.

Initial funds for the construction came from an offering at an Alabama Baptist camp for Girls in Action (mission education organization of Woman's Missionary Union) and other sources.

But then two Baptist laymen, who heard of plans for the chapel, began raising funds for it. The two, Grover Parham of Bonita Springs, Fla., and Robert Duggins of Elizabethtown, Ky., previously served in Honduras helping in reconstruction efforts after Hurricane Fifi in 1975.

Besides helping raise funds for the building, the two men also organized three work crews of interested laymen from Florida and Kentucky to help with the construction. The laymen overseas department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the organization of Baptist missionaries in Honduras has coordinated the project.

A Robert A. Williams III Memorial Fund also has been established through the Georgia Baptist Foundation to provide financial aid to missionaries' children studying in boarding schools away from their homes.

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Joe W. Bruce is a missionary to Honduras

(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers



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SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTORS' CONFERENCE

Kansas City Municipal Auditorium Arena

Kansas City, Mo.

June 12-13, 1977

Sunday Night, June 12

- 7:00 Musical Concert--
- 7:25 Welcome and Presentation of Program--Jerry Vines, SBC Pastors' Conference president and pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
- 7:30 Bible Study--Warren Wiersbe, pastor, The Moody Church, Chicago, Ill.
- 8:30 Message--Stephen Olford, Encounter Ministries, Holmes Beach, Fla.

Monday Morning, June 13

- 9:00 Musical Concert--
- 9:20 Bible Study--Warren Wiersbe
- 10:00 Message--John T. Tippet Jr., pastor, Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.
- 10:40 Message--Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 11:20 Message--Carliss Odom, lay speaker, North Little Rock, Ark.

Monday Afternoon, June 13

- 2:00 Musical Concert--
- 2:15 Bible Study--Warren Wiersbe
- 3:10 Message--Clyde Narramore, Christian psychologist, Narramore Christian Foundation, Rosemead, Calif.
- 3:40 Election of Officers--
- 4:00 Message--Sam Cathey, evangelist, Owasso, Okla.

Monday Night, June 13

- 6:45 Musical Concert--
- 7:00 Message--R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
- 8:10 Message--W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.
- 9:00 Message--Stephen Olford

Music will be provided in the sessions by: R. O. Stone, minister of music, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., director; accompanists, Mrs. R. O. Stone, pianist, Mobile, Ala., and Mr. John Bos, organist, of the E. J. Daniels evangelistic team, Orlando, Fla.; singers, the Murk Family, Wheaton, Ill., Steve Boalt, evangelistic singer, Boca Raton, Fla., Jerry Wayne Bernard, evangelistic singer, Houston, Tex., the Stone Family, Mobile, Ala., and Pam Moore and Janet Vines of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile.

Pastors' Conference Officers

Jerry Vines, Mobile, Ala., president
Bailey Smith, Del City, Okla., vice president
Mike Todd, Birmingham, Ala., secretary-treasurer

SBC Pastors' Conference
Features Bible Teaching

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference here June 12-13 will emphasize speakers especially equipped in the area of Bible teaching, according to conference president, Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

The Pastors' Conference will meet in the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium Arena prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), June 14-16, in Roe Bartle Convention Center.

A number of speakers will be heard during the two-day annual Pastors' Conference, beginning at 7 p.m., Sunday, June 12. Monday sessions are scheduled at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Vines emphasizes that conference participants should bring their Bibles to be able to take part fully in the program.

Warren Wiersbe, pastor of the Moody Church, Chicago, will conduct Bible studies at the first three sessions, and Stephen Olford, well known Bible expositor of Encounter Ministries, Holmes Beach, Fla., will speak Sunday night and Monday night.

Other speakers are Clyde Narramore, well known Christian psychologist of the Narramore Christian Foundation, Rosemead, Calif.; John Tippet Jr., pastor, Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah, Ga.; Homer Lindsay Jr., pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Carliss Odom, lay speaker, North Little Rock, Ark.; Sam Cathey, evangelist, Owasso, Okla.; and two former SBC presidents, R. G. Lee, pastor emeritus, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and W. A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas.

Conference music will be directed by R. O. Stone, minister of music at Dauphin Way Baptist Church. Performers are the Murk Family, Wheaton, Ill.; the Stone Family, Mobile, Ala.; Steve Boalt, evangelistic singer, Boca Raton, Fla.; Jerry Wayne Bernard, evangelistic singer, Houston, Tex.; Pam Moore and Janet Vines, singers, Dauphin Way Baptist Church; accompanists, Mrs. R. O. Stone, pianist, Dauphin Way Church, and John Bos, organist, of the E. J. Daniels evangelistic team, Orlando, Fla.

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SBC Rooms Going
At A Fast Rate

Baptist Press
3/3/77

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Hotel rooms set aside for persons attending the Southern Baptist Convention meeting here in June are going at a rapid rate, according to an SBC Executive Committee spokesman.

Some 5,150 of 6,268 rooms available were assigned as of March 1, reports Billy D. Malesovas, assistant to the treasurer of the Executive Committee and manager of the annual convention.

"We're working now to try to get more rooms for messengers to the convention," Malesovas said. "But persons who want reservations should make them quickly."

Application forms are available from state Baptist executive secretaries or the SBC Housing Bureau, 1221 Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo. 64105. The housing bureau must receive an application in the mail before reserving accommodations, Malesovas said. Because of logistics problems, no reservations may be made by phone.

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Jews Lose, Widowers Win
In Civil Rights Cases

Baptist Press
3/3/77

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)--In separate civil rights actions, the Supreme Court ruled here that states may change voting district boundaries to achieve racial balance and held that widowers are entitled to substantially the same Social Security benefits as are widows.

A group of Jewish organizations, representing 30,000 Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn, N. Y., challenged a plan approved by the state attorney general to rearrange state senate and more-

assembly districts for racial purposes. The reapportionment resulted in splitting the Hasidic community between two districts, thereby decreasing their concentrated voting strength.

Jewish organizations challenged the plan in two lower federal courts but lost. They claimed that the plan "would dilute the value of (their) franchise by halving its effectiveness," solely on racial grounds.

The state of New York argued that the Federal Voting Rights Act mandated the state to seek reasonable racial balance in drawing legislative boundaries. Because the purpose of the federal law was to insure the voting rights of minorities, particularly blacks, racial considerations were essential, New York argued further.

The high court's 7-1 ruling, with only Chief Justice Warren E. Burger dissenting, upholds New York's plan and rejects the Hasidic Jews' claim of discrimination. Justice Thurgood Marshall abstained.

The court's action was weakened, however, because of a majority of five could not agree on reasons for the decision. Four justices said the states may validly use racial considerations in implementing the voting rights act. That law, originally enacted in 1965 to insure voting rights to blacks in the south, was made applicable to northern states as well in 1970.

Three of the justices went a step further to say that as long as whites were not discriminated against as a racial group in the redistricting plan, smaller sub-groups of whites, such as the Hasidic community, could not validly argue on grounds of racial discrimination.

In its Social Security ruling, the court held 5-4 that widowers whose wives worked are entitled to the same benefits as are widows whose husbands worked. The action upheld a previous ruling by a U. S. District Court in New York.

Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., writing for the slim majority, said that the Social Security Act's gender-based distinction between widows and widowers was based on "archaic and overbroad" generalizations and on "old notions" such as the view that husbands are not generally dependent on their wives' income.

Justice William H. Rehnquist, supported by three other justices, issued a dissenting opinion expressing the view that "to make it easier for widows to obtain benefits than it is for widowers . . . in no way perpetuates or exacerbates . . . economic disadvantage."

The effect of the court's decision is to make some 300,000 widowers eligible for benefits previously denied them.

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CBS Will Televis Easter
Service at Carters' Church

Baptist Press
3/3/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--The nation will have an opportunity to worship with President Jimmy Carter and his family--unless they are in Plains, Ga. for Easter--when CBS News airs the Easter worship services live from Washington's First Baptist Church, April 10.

Charles Trentham, pastor of the church where the Carters are active members, will preach the sermon for the service which will be aired on CBS from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Eastern Standard Time.

It will be produced by CBS News, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth. Pamela Ilott, vice president of religious and cultural broadcasts, CBS News, New York, is in charge of the production. Truett Myers, senior vice president of production services for the Radio and Television Commission, is consultant.

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