

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC Executive Committee
480 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) 741-1986**MEMPHIS** Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2000**RICHMOND** Robert L. Stanley, 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

September 28, 1977

77-172

Senators Announce Plan
To Aid Private Schools

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP)--Forty-three United States Senators are sponsoring a massive tax credit bill to aid private school education from the elementary grades through college at a loss to the U. S. Treasury of \$4.7 billion from the 1980 U. S. budget.

Announcement of the plan to try to break through the Constitutional bottleneck for public aid to private schools, including church related education, was made at a joint press conference by Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D.-N.Y.) and Bob Packwood (R.-Ore.).

This bi-partisan team, joined by 41 other co-sponsors, introduced the Tuition Tax Credit Act of 1977, in an attempt to bail out of financial trouble the 14,000 private grammar schools, 3,700 private high schools and 1,500 private colleges and universities. Hearings on the proposal have been promised for January 1978 by the Senate Finance Committee, 12 of whose 18 members are co-sponsors of the new bill. Sen. Russell B. Long (D.-La.) is chairman of the committee.

There are nine tax credit bills pending before the House Committee on Ways and Means, where tax legislation normally originates. Rep. Al Ullman (D.-Ore.) is chairman of this committee. A committee staff member reports that these bills may be up for discussion when President Carter's tax reform package reaches the committee on October 3.

The Moynihan-Packwood plan would provide 50 percent of tuition payments up to \$500 for an income tax credit for a taxpayer for each student for whom he pays private school tuition. For low income taxpayers the credit will be "refundable," that is, if he is entitled to a tax credit greater than the amount of his income tax bill, the difference will be refunded to him in cash.

In announcing the proposal, Moynihan vehemently attacked those who interpret the First Amendment as prohibiting tax aid to Catholic and other church-related schools. He also assailed the U. S. Supreme Court for its series of decisions since 1947 prohibiting as unconstitutional the use of tax funds for the support of church-related private education. He described this view of the Constitution as anti-Catholic bigotry.

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

Moynihan said, "There can be only one explanation of why it is thought that these words prevent public aid to nonpublic schools: It is only because most Americans no longer have the foggiest idea what an establishment of religion is that they can be persuaded that the words of the First Amendment mean more than they say."

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs of which James E. Wood, Jr., is executive director, and other defenders of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state have a different view from that expressed by Sen. Moynihan.

In 1972 John W. Baker, director of research services for the Baptist Joint Committee, testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means on tax credit proposals to aid private schools. He said that such proposals are "contrary to the traditional American principle of religious liberty and the constitutional separation of church and state."

"In effect," Baker continued, "such public aid to religious education would require that taxpayers of all religions--or of no religion--make up the deficit in federal income lost through these tax credits by paying higher taxes."

Later the Baptist Joint Committee itself sustained the view of its staff by saying that the use of public funds for religious education is a coerced participation of the taxpayer in a religious program. The committee explained, "Baptist beliefs in religious liberty have led them to oppose all forms of coercion in reference to religious belief and practice."

Moynihan refused to assert that the Supreme Court might now hold that the tax credit plan for aid to private church-related education is constitutional. He did say, however, that "The bill we are introducing today provides all three branches of government with a fresh opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the quality and well-being of all our schools, private as well as public."

In addition to Moynihan and Packwood, the co-sponsoring Senators are: James B. Allen (D.-Ala.), Wendell Anderson (D.-Minn.), Lloyd Bentsen (D.-Tex.), Howard Cannon (D.-Nev.), Carl T. Curtis (R.-Neb.), John Danforth (R.-Mo.), Dennis DeConcini (D.-Ariz.), Robert Dole (R.-Kan.), Pete V. Domenici (R.-N.M.), John A. Durkin (D.-N.H.), Jake Garn (R.-Utah), Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.), Mike Gravel (D.-Ak.), Robert Griffin (R.-Mich.), Clifford P. Hansen (R.-Wyo.), Orrin G. Hatch (R.-Utah), William Hathaway (D.-Me.), S. I. Hayakawa (R.-Cal.), H. John Heinz (R.-Pa.), Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.), Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.), J. Bennett Johnston (D.-La.), Paul Laxalt (R.-Nev.), Patrick Leahy (D.-Vt.), Richard Lugar (R.-Ind.), Charles Mathias (R.-Md.), James McClure (R.-Id.), John Melcher (D.-Mont.), Gaylord Nelson (D.-Wis.), James Pearson (R.-Kan.), Jennings Randolph (D.-W.V.), Abraham Ribicoff (D.-Conn.), Harrison Schmitt (R.-N.M.), Richard Schweiker (R.-Pa.), John Sparkman (D.-Ala.), Ted Stevens (R.-Ak.), Strom Thurmond (R.-S.C.), John Tower (R.-Tex.), Malcolm Wallop (R.-Wyo.), Milton Young (R.-N.D.), Edward Zorinsky (D.-Neb.).

771 Korean Soldiers Baptized;
3,068 Prisoners Won To Christ

-30-

Baptist Press
9/28/77

SEOUL, Korea (BP)--Pastors and laymen from the Seoul (Korea) Baptist Association are preaching and witnessing to both Korean soldiers and prisoners and watching hundreds of them accept Christ. A total of 771 soldiers were baptized in three services.

Although the association has a continuing ministry in six prisons in the Seoul area, in June laymen and pastors had the opportunity to witness in 17 other Korean prisons. They spoke to a total of 12,680 men and saw 3,068 make professions of faith, according to Southern Baptist missionary O. K. Bozeman Jr., president of the Korea Baptist Church Development Board.

During July the Seoul Baptist pastors baptized 616 Korean soldiers in two services, and in August 155 more were baptized at a third service.

Association leaders anticipate three more baptismal services before cold weather. During the winter months they plan to have several services in public baths for the hundreds of soldiers who have accepted Christ, been instructed in basic Christian doctrines, and are now awaiting baptism.

This work is in addition to the ongoing work conducted by the Korean military evangelism department of which Southern Baptist missionary Rolla M. Bradley is director. Bradley and his staff assisted the Seoul association in this project.

-30-

(BP) Photos mailed to Baptist state papers by the Foreign Mission Board.

Hospital Ministry Opens
Way For Indian Witness

#

Baptist Press
9/28/77

BANGALORE, India (BP)--Southern Baptist missionaries report increasing response to the gospel, especially in village work that has been started through contacts with the Baptist hospital here.

In the first six months of this year, 73 people were baptized, compared to 84 for the entire year of 1976. During the past year, all of the missionaries have been emphasizing the strategy of establishing home Bible reading groups, according to Dr. Rebekah A. Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary physician and press representative.

-more-

"Family members and neighbors are asked to read the Bible aloud each day, and as leaders evolve in these groups, the pastor will teach and train these leaders," Dr. Naylor said.

In the past year more than 2,000 definite contacts were made through the hospital evangelistic program and there were 244 professions of faith. "Many of these are now preparing for baptism," Dr. Naylor continued.

As an example of the witnessing opportunities which the hospital provides, Dr. Naylor told of a critically ill baby brought to the hospital staff. The newborn was given the best possible care and the parents came to see the baby each day.

"As they came, they heard the good news of Jesus Christ," Dr. Naylor said. "When the child was ready to go home, the father said that Jesus was going to their home with that baby. He felt that God had saved his baby's life."

Dr. Naylor told another story of a patient, Yellamma, who had been admitted to the hospital. Yellamma needed a major operation, but refused for a long time to have it. Finally she did agree to the surgery.

During her recuperation she regularly attended the Sunday service for patients, and various pastors and staff members witnessed to her. Then, because of some complications, a second operation became necessary. Dr. Naylor said she dreaded having to convince her of the need for surgery, but this time she found that Yellamma consented immediately.

"I am not afraid; I have Jesus with me now," the woman said.

As she was released from the hospital, Yellamma took a Bible home with her and would not leave until two Christian staff members of the hospital could go with her to her home for prayer.

During their annual meeting in July, missionaries pointed out that older, existing churches are being led to greater involvement in witnessing and to a more active role in their own support.

As an example of some of the greater involvement in witnessing by these older churches Dr. Naylor pointed to their participation in a ministry begun in the Karnataka area about 18 months ago. This central area of India is about 100 miles from the hospital in Bangalore and new work is primarily in the camps of Telugu people.

In July a new church fellowship was formed in the Karnataka area with 11 new believers being baptized.

"After the baptismal and worship services were over, two of the men just baptized went to the pastor and expressed their desire to go out and tell what had happened in their lives," Dr. Naylor said.

"So they went to a settlement where the pastor had not preached before. The new Christians told what Christ had done for them," Dr. Naylor said. "That evening three others came to know Jesus Christ.

"All of these things are cause for rejoicing and thanksgiving," she said. "Yet, this responsiveness also increases our awareness of opportunity and need."

-30-

Wood Hits 'Demagoguery'
Of Senator Moynihan

Baptist Press
9/28/77

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist spokesman here defended traditional American separation of church and state and religious liberty against charges of anti-Catholic bigotry by a United States senator.

James E. Wood, Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, charged Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D.-N.Y.) with "demagoguery of the worst kind" for his statements about the defenders of the First Amendment which prohibits tax support of religious education.

-more-

Wood said, "To suggest, as Senator Moynihan has done, that all who oppose tax funds for church schools do so as a result of 'anti-Catholic bigotry' or from not having 'the foggiest idea of what an establishment of religion is' is to indict the integrity and intelligence of millions of Americans and the U. S. Supreme Court.

"It is demagoguery of the worst kind," he continued in response to Moynihan's charges, "since it is a deliberate attempt to obscure the real issues of constitutionality, religious liberty, the separation of church institutions from public control, and the fundamental principles of U. S. public policy. "

Senator Moynihan made his charges against those who oppose public tax aid to private and church-related education, when he introduced a bill that would provide annually \$4.7 billion dollars worth of income tax credit for those paying tuition in private elementary-secondary schools and in colleges and universities.

Moynihan, along with Sen. Bob Packwood (R.-Ore.) and 41 other senatorial co-sponsors, introduced the comprehensive tax credit bill following a press conference on Capitol Hill. The bill provides a tax credit, subtracted directly from the amount of income taxes owed, for tuition expenses paid by an individual for himself, his spouse, or his dependents. The amount of this credit would be 50 percent of his tuition payments up to a total of \$500 per student.

Wood further charged that providing annually \$4.7 billion of federal funds for private education "constitutes a serious threat to the American tradition of separation of church and state and the Constitution of the United States.

"The Baptist Joint Committee is unalterably opposed to tax funds in support of church schools as incompatible with the guarantees of the First Amendment," he continued, "and favors a public policy which requires public accountability and control of the use of public funds."

Wood pointed out that the Carter administration had earlier opposed tax credit proposals which were pending in Congress. However, Moynihan, in his statement, expressed the hope that the department of Health, Education and Welfare would change its mind and support the Packwood-Moynihan bill.