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July 10, 1978

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Short Misses Arizona Election By 11 Votes

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)--In what local observers called "a stunning action," a special called session of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention failed by 11 votes to elect Mark Short Jr. of Houston as executive director-treasurer.

Short, 50, associate pastor and business administrator of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, previously had been unanimously recommended by a search committee chaired by Richard A. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, and unanimously elected by the convention's executive board.

But, because of a constitutional amendment passed at the convention's regular annual meeting in November, the executive director-treasurer nominee also needed a two-thirds vote of the convention. The vote was 443 in favor of Short and 240 against, 11 short of the 454 he needed.

Observers said those expressing opposition after Short was nominated and seconded at the special called meeting on July 7, said they had nothing against Short as a person but opposed him because he doesn't have Arizona ties, has not been a pastor and had not completed seminary. Before joining South Main Church, Short spent seven years as manager of Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and previously was minister of education at churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Oklahoma.

After the vote, Jackson told the convention that the search committee would continue its search to replace Roy F. Sutton, who retires, Dec. 31, if they had the understanding that they would not be limited to just Arizona but could look wherever led for the new executive. No opposition was expressed to Jackson's stipulation.

Observers were shocked because Short was well received when he spoke to the messengers before the election at First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix. Registration was announced as 705, of which 683 cast ballots.

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Texas Choir Members
Rescue Hiking Couple

By Stanley D. Stamps

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP)--Members of a Texas choir group rescued a Los Angeles couple who had been assaulted, dumped into a ravine and left for dead in the mountains near Managua July 7.

Doug Holtzinger, 24, and his wife Betsy were on a backpacking trip through Central America when they missed a bus connection to Managua. They arranged transportation in what they thought was a taxi but learned later was a private car.

The driver and two other passengers, taking longer than the usual hour and a half trip requires, apparently bypassed Managua. When the Holtzingers expressed concern, the driver reportedly feigned car trouble.

When he stopped the car, the three men got out, opened the door and shot Holtzinger twice in the head and once in a hand. He was also injured by a camping knife the attackers pulled from his wife who was trying to defend him.

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They pulled the couple from the car, robbed them, threw them into a ravine and fled.

Mrs. Holtzinger, who was apparently not wounded, later climbed from the ravine and ran, screaming and stumbling, into the Mt. Olive Baptist encampment where members of the North Richland Hills Baptist Church choir from Fort Worth, Texas, were staying during a mission trip.

Several men returned to the ravine and pulled Holtzinger to safety. A nurse accompanying the choir administered first aid and arranged to transport the couple to Baptist Hospital, Managua aboard the choir's chartered bus.

Holtzinger was listed in critical condition and was flown by air ambulance to the United States. Nicaraguan police are investigating the incident.

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Stamps is a Southern Baptist Missionary press representative in Managua.

Bivocational Music Leaders
Are Two-Thirds of SBC Total

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GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--More than 24,000 of the 35,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have part-time paid or volunteer persons leading their music program and making significant contributions, according to William M. Anderson Jr., editor in the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

In a conference for part-time and volunteer music leaders at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Anderson worked with approximately 60 of the bivocational music ministers to discover their needs and determine what can be done to support them in their ministries.

"These part-time and volunteer leaders feel their work is definitely a ministry, and they are doing what God has called them to do," Anderson said. "In many cases bivocational music ministers lack musical training in comparison to full-time directors, but they feel the responsibility to take care of the church's music."

Problems surfaced by the bivocational music ministers included congregational participation, poor attendance at choir rehearsals, beginning and maintaining graded choir programs and inability to communicate the potential significance of the music program on the worship service.

Many of the bivocational music ministers asked for help in basic conducting techniques for a choir and congregation, rehearsal techniques, use of taped accompaniment and budget planning.

Anderson said many of the part-time and volunteer leaders buy music for the church out of their own pockets.

"The needs would not be met if they didn't do it," he said. "The convention benefits greatly from these who serve with little or no remuneration."

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Concentrate on Children, Not
Buildings McCullough Says

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)--Southern Baptists attending the Bold Mission Leadership Conference were urged to build character in their children and youth, instead of walls and roofs.

"We are building in vain if we build walls and roofs and neglect to build character among our children and youth," declared Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, conference co-sponsor with Woman's Missionary Union.

More than 1,900, up 25 percent from a year ago, registered by the second day of the week-long conference for Brotherhood and WMU leaders at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Following a program designed to appeal to families, registrants received leadership training in the morning, took mission tours in the afternoon, and attended inspirational missions convocations at night.

Children, ages 6 to 11, attended day camps with Indian themes while Pioneer Royal Ambassadors boys and Acteens girls, ages 11 to 17, participated together in missions education activities.

McCullough told the Sunday morning audience they need to concentrate as Brotherhood and WMU leaders on the children and youth in their community.

While other non-church related youth organizations may have some value, McCullough said churches need to concentrate on such youth organizations as Royal Ambassadors and Acteens to build missions concern about Southern Baptist youth.

McCullough also called for more aggressive missions education programs "if Southern Baptists expect to share the gospel with the world by the year 2000" through the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust. "We (WMU and Brotherhood) intend to use every means at our disposal to tell Southern Baptists what missions is all about and to get them involved," he said.

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Hollis Opposes Rewrite
of Communications Act

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
7/10/78

RIDGECAST, N.C. (BP)--A speaker at a conference on "Television and Morality" called upon the nation's Christian community to voice "united" and "vigorous" opposition to the proposed rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934.

Harry N. Hollis of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission criticized the bill as "a piece of legislation that turns its back on the public interest."

"A powerful group of television executives has virtually stolen the airwaves from the American people, and now it seems that there are those in Congress who want to make the crime legal," Hollis declared.

Hollis, who denounced television as a "moral wasteland" in a major address at the Southern Baptist Convention in June, told a group at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center that the proposed legislation, titled the Communications Act of 1978, provides for deregulation of television at a time when increased regulation is needed.

"The television industry already possesses enormous power to shape our lives," Hollis said. "While portions of this bill are good, if passed by Congress in its present form, the rewrite would give the industry too much power for the good of the country."

The 217-page bill, introduced recently by the House subcommittee on communications, would make sweeping changes in the broadcasting and telephone industries. It would eliminate the Federal Communications Commission in favor of a smaller, more limited Communications Regulatory Commission.

Regulation of TV broadcasters would be significantly curtailed. The Fairness Doctrine established by the FCC, which requires station owners to air conflicting viewpoints on important

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public issues, would be replaced by a less stringent "equity principle." The public's opportunity to challenge the renewal of TV license holders also would be greatly diminished.

The bill would end all government regulation of cable-TV and all regulation of radio broadcasters, except for frequency assignments and technical standards.

Pointing out that public hearings on the bill are scheduled to begin in August, Hollis urged Southern Baptists to consider carefully the impact the legislation would have on the future of broadcasting and to communicate their views to congressional representatives as soon as possible.

"While we're sitting at home in front of our TV sets," Hollis said, "the television industry's powerful and successful lobby is hard at work in Washington. What is needed to check TV's further consolidation of power is a people's lobby which will labor energetically to see that the industry acts in the public interest."

"We are looking to Congress for help in getting television to live up to its potential for good in our society. I do not believe the American people will tolerate any legislation that turns the broadcasting industry into a virtually unregulated monopoly."

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Adams President
Of Adult Educators

Baptist Press
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ASHEVILLE, N. C. (BP)--Billy H. Adams of Atlanta was elected president of the Southern Baptist Adult Education Association at the association's annual meeting in Asheville, N.C.

Adams, director of the Education Extension Program of the Georgia Baptist Convention, succeeds Walter Draughon, dean of Baptist Bible Institute at Graceville, Fla.

James Beasley of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., was named vice-president, and Bob Johnson of the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department, Nashville, Tenn., secretary-treasurer.

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