



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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## Seminary Trustees Elect Culpepper, Launch Campaign

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a \$3,143,884 budget for 1979-80, elected Robert H. Culpepper as professor of theology and joined in a kick-off conference for the 28-year old school's \$3.5 million capital and endowment campaign.

Culpepper, professor of theology at Seinan Gakuin University in Fukuoka, Japan, since 1953, will join the Southeastern faculty late in the 1979-80 academic year. A Southern Baptist missionary, Culpepper is presently on furlough in the United States, but will return and complete his responsibilities in Japan before coming to Southeastern.

The Tifton, Ga., native is a graduate of Mercer University and holds the bachelor of divinity and master and doctor of theology degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as pastor of churches in the U. S. and was instrumental in the founding of two Japanese churches.

During their semi-annual meeting, the Southeastern trustees joined the seminary's Development Council, faculty, staff and friends in a kick-off leadership conference for the school's \$3.5 million campaign. The fund-raising effort will extend over three years and seeks gifts from Baptists and others.

Projects in the effort include \$1.5 million for endowment and \$2 million for new student apartments and renovation of several buildings in the recycling program of the seminary's campus, located on the former 145-year-old campus of Wake Forest College.

Trustees also heard a report that \$287,372 had been pledged to the campaign to endow a professorship in evangelism, heard a report on record gifts of \$52,788 for 1978 by Southeastern's alumni, and named a fall lecture series "The Page Lectures" in honor of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Page of Plainfield, Ind.

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Americans Committing  
Passive Suicide: Cooper

By Richard Dodge

Baptist Press  
3/30/79

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Americans today are committing suicide and do not even realize what they're doing, says Dr. Kenneth Cooper, head of the Dallas-based health screening operation known as the Aerobics Center.

Physical "unfitness" is running rampant throughout this country, reaching epidemic proportions, says the noted physician, and ministers and church staff members are just as guilty of allowing personal physical deterioration as are the rest of the millions of unfit Americans.

Dr. Cooper challenged ministers and faculty and administration members of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary recently to become more concerned for their physical health as they lead others to spiritual health. Dr. Cooper and his wife, Millie, were the featured speakers recently for the Tharpe Lecture Series at the seminary.

"It's not so much that we die, but that we are killing ourselves," Dr. Cooper said, pointing out the ways Americans today allow themselves to become grossly overweight, and fail to get sufficient exercise to maintain safe levels of muscle performance throughout the body. This lack of muscle performance and conditioning affects the heart and other vital organs, creating ideal conditions for heart failure or other serious medical problems.

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"It's also disturbing that too many people go into the ministry with deplorable body condition," Dr. Cooper said, warning that the service of God's Kingdom creates a great demand on the physical body as well as one's spiritual being. Ministers, Dr. Cooper said, should keep physically fit if they want to be fully prepared for Christian ministry responsibilities. "It's cheaper to maintain good physical health than to try to regain it later," he added.

Dr. Cooper cited statistics that say there will be more than two million coronaries in the United States alone in 1979, with 60,000 resulting in deaths. He said that 90 percent of all premature deaths (deaths of persons below 65 years of age) are "needless."

But there are more benefits to exercise than death prevention, including sharper mental awareness and a healthy, strong feeling in meeting daily activities.

Cooper was especially critical of smoking, which he called the number one risk factor in heart disease, and calling it one of the worst health hazards in America today.

He added that the U. S. Government is suffering from acute "tobacco schizophrenia." While one department of the federal government warns that smoking may be hazardous to health, another is pouring money into farm subsidies for tobacco growers.

Mrs. Cooper, who spoke in the seminary chapel, pointed out to ladies attending the lectures that exercise can be used for relaxation, for figure contouring, as well as for heart fitness.

"Too many people exist to 90 and haven't lived past 20," she said. "The body is the most important gift God has given us, other than salvation. Keep it in good shape."

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Dodge is news director at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Radio-TV Commission  
Seeks Nominations

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COSBY, Tenn. (BP)--The chairman of the search committee has issued a request for nominations for president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to succeed Paul M. Stevens.

Anyone wishing to nominate a person for this office should write to Fred W. Isaacs, Box 666, Cosby, Tenn. 37722. Isaacs said all nominations should be in writing. He will not accept telephone suggestions.

The letter of nomination should give the candidate's history and present position. Anyone wishing to apply should follow the same procedure.

"In our effort to have input from all Southern Baptists we will consider every name that comes before us," Isaacs said.

Other committee members are George Miller, Oklahoma City; Jess Odom, Little Rock, Ark.; Franklin Perry, Laurel, Md.; and John Hughes, Independence, Mo.

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Broadcast Deregulation  
Bill Draws Sharp Protest

By Carol Franklin

Baptist Press  
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WASHINGTON (BP)--Radio and television broadcasting would be deregulated and the "public interest" standard replaced if a bill introduced in the House of Representatives becomes law.

Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, D-Cal., chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee on Communications, has introduced a bill, H.R. 3333, which would

immediately deregulate radio stations and eliminate regulation of television after 10 years. It would also exempt cable TV from federal and state regulation.

The proposed bill drew a sharp protest from Harry N. Hollis, associate executive secretary and director of family concerns for the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"It seems clear that this proposal is a sellout to the marketplace forces," said Hollis, whose agency has actively involved itself in working for responsible television programming. "The bill is a clear message to the American people that special economic interests will be protected and the public interest neglected."

He urged concerned citizens "to get a copy of the bill, read it and get involved to fight vigorously to protect the public interest and television broadcasting...Let's send a message right back," he said: "'Change this bill to protect the public interest or answer to the grassroots of this country.'"

Hearings on the proposals Deerin proposal and other broadcast bills are scheduled to begin in both the House and the Senate in late April.

At present, broadcasters must get input from community groups to determine programming content. These "ascertainment rules" of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would be eliminated under the proposed measure.

The bill would abolish the FCC and replace it with the Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC). The CRC would have far less power over broadcasters than the FCC presently does.

Radio broadcasters' licenses could be revoked only for violation of technical standards under the proposed bill. Television broadcasters would be allowed two five-year licenses and then indefinite terms.

Limited regulation would be allowed under the measure only when "marketplace forces fail to protect the public interest." The bill would cover telephone, satellite, and other communications technology, as well as radio and television.

Deerin said that he expects new technology to overcome limits any local broadcaster might put on what is available to the public. Rep. James M. Collins, R-Tex., said that "competition will adjust the market."

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., has also introduced a bill, S.611, to update the Communications Act of 1934. His proposal would also substitute marketplace competition for federal regulation of many aspects of the telephone, telegraph and cable television industries. Radio broadcasting would be substantially deregulated but television would still be highly regulated.

A bill, S.622, introduced by Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., would also deregulate much of the communications industry.

Legislation which would have completely revised the 1934 law currently regulating the communications industry died in the House in the last Congress.

When asked when he expected passage of his bill this year, Deerin replied, "How does Thanksgiving grab you?" Hollings, chairman of the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Communications expects to have his measure ready for floor action by the end of the summer.

## Many Churches Provide Inadequate Retirement

DALLAS (BP)--Although overall participation in Annuity Board programs continues to grow, many churches and agencies in the Southern Baptist Convention still provide either inadequate or no retirement planning for their ministers or employees, an SBC Annuity Board spokesman said.

Darold H. Morgan, board president, says the board continues to recommend that churches and agencies enroll their ministers or employees in a plan on the basis of contributions equalling at least 10 percent of the employee's total compensation if they want to provide an adequate retirement.

About 22,000 Southern Baptist churches out of 35,404 are now providing protection for their ministers or employees through the Southern Baptist Retirement Programs, he said.

Statistics also show that 21,989 churches send contributions to the board for their ministers or employees.

Currently, the majority of members participate in Plan A, the Family Benefit Section. This plan was closed to new members January 1, 1978, the same date the new Southern Baptist Retirement Program opened.

In the Family Benefit Section, the Board counts 21,731 members. For ministers and church employees, the Age Security Section (Plan B), including those in the Fixed Funds, is second with 20,388 participants. A total of 1,812 members are in the Variable Benefit Section (Plan C).

The new Southern Baptist Retirement Program shows a total of 6,066 participants.

The board reports about 200 Southern Baptist agencies and state conventions have some 26,000 employees in board-administered plans.

Most of the agency employees participate in the Age Security Section, a program which includes 23,936 accounts. There are 2,255 members in the Family Benefit Section and 2,405 in the Variable Fund.