



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
SBC Executive Committee
480 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
Norman Jameson, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Richard T. McCartney, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Tex. 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
MEMPHIS Roy Jennings, Chief, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104, Telephone (901) 272-2461
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) L. Bracey Campbell III, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2798
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

May 23, 1979

79-83

Broadcast Deregulation
Aired Before House Panel

WASHINGTON (BP)--Witnesses differed on broadcast deregulation in testimony before the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee on Communications.

Ralph M. Jennings, deputy director of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, strongly opposed abandoning the present public interest standard or the Fairness Doctrine of the 1934 communications law which governs broadcasting.

"Prudence suggests that we await the millenium before abandoning the protections offered in the Communications Act of 1934," Jennings told the subcommittee. He further stated that "we are fools indeed if we believe the combined actions of self-serving men and women, devouring one another in the market place of economic gain, can afford us superiority in the market place of ideas."

Daniel D. Villanueva, president of KMEX-TV, Hollywood, Calif., however, urged the subcommittee to deregulate television immediately. The proposal before the subcommittee, H. R. 3333, would deregulate television over a 10-year period and radio immediately.

Villanueva argued that broadcasters would meet the needs of their community simply "because it makes good business sense."

Grace Baisinger, president of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, charged that the bill "strips away those provisions of law and regulatory mechanisms by which the public interest could be perceived or enforced. What it leaves in their place are a passing nod to the 'public interest,' and the raw forces of the marketplace to work their will."

Speaking for the Society of Professional Journalists, Betsy Ashton, television newswoman in Washington, "applauded" the possibility of the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine and the equal time clause of the 1934 law because "both interfere with the First Amendment rights of broadcast journalists."

"Why is it necessary to have the government continue to second-guess the judgments of television news reporters and editors to determine if all sides of a particular issue have been given a 'reasonable opportunity' to air their views?" Ashton asked. "The potential effect of this requirement... is to allow special interest groups, rather than professional journalists, to dictate coverage of controversial issues."

Hearings on H. R. 3333 before the communications subcommittee will conclude on June 5. Hearings in the Senate on similar measures, S. 611 and S. 622, will begin that same day.

-30-

Congress Seeking To Lift
Ban On U.S. Aid to Uganda

Baptist Press
5/23/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Measures which would lift prohibitions on U.S. aid to Uganda are expected to go to conference soon to resolve the differences between the Senate and House of Representatives versions.

-more-

During the last Congress, both houses voted to exclude Uganda from all foreign aid in 1979 because of the human rights violations of former president Idi Amin, and impose a trade embargo. Since the fall of Amin's regime earlier this year and the installation of a new government, Congress has voted to restore aid to Uganda in 1980.

The prohibitions on aid for 1979 still exist, however, and the need for emergency, humanitarian aid seems acute. On May 16, President Carter lifted the trade embargo with Uganda but congressional action is necessary to renew direct financial aid.

Rep. Donald J. Pease, D-Ohio, said that inflation in Uganda is 700 percent over last year. "Consumer prices are nearly beyond comprehension," he said. "Milk costs three dollars for a quart and a gallon of gas goes for \$120."

Rep. Stephen J. Solarz, D-N. Y., said the economy of the country "is in a state of virtual collapse." The measure, which he sponsored, would redirect about \$5 million from other countries to Uganda immediately.

Rep. Edward J. Derwinski, R-Ill., expressed the hope that much of the aid could be distributed through church agencies. "Christian missionaries...have been a traditionally strong element in Ugandan society," he said. "Religious and charitable organizations... have long experiences and excellent records for success in emergency humanitarian relief programs such as are now needed in Uganda."

-30-

Congress Asks West Germany To Pursue Nazi Criminals

Baptist Press
5/23/79

WASHINGTON (BP)--Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed resolutions urging the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) either to abolish the statute of limitations on war crimes or extend such limitations so that Nazi war criminals may still be prosecuted.

The present law governing the prosecution of war criminals will expire Dec. 31. The German government extended the statute of limitations in 1965 and 1969. If it does not do so again, people who committed war crimes before May 8, 1945 will be immune from prosecution unless cases have already been initiated against them.

The congressional resolutions cannot force action from another government but a spokesman for the House Foreign Affairs Committee said they might influence the German government. According to Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, D-Ind., West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt supports legislation to abolish the statute of limitations.

Sen. William S. Cohen, R-Maine, quoted Simon Wiesenthal, who has hunted Nazi criminals throughout the world, as saying that there are approximately 15,000 to 20,000 war criminals still living free.

-30-

Carter: Family is 'Bedrock' Despite Changing Sex Roles

WASHINGTON (BP)--While acknowledging that "we live in a time of transition for the American family," President Carter declared in his 1979 Father's Day proclamation that "the strength and stability of a healthy, loving family life continues to remain the bedrock on which our society is organized."

The President's message, designating the traditional third Sunday in June as Father's Day, declares that "the evolving roles of men and women have posed new challenges and opened new opportunities, for fathers as well as mothers."

-more-

"To the degree that mothers are assuming a more active role in the nation's workforce, fathers are being asked to play an even greater role in the upbringing of their children. "At the same time, they continue to carry out their traditional duties of helping to support their families financially, emotionally and spiritually."

Father's Day is an occasion "to reflect on the sacrifices our fathers have made on our behalf" and a time for fathers "to receive that most precious gift, the love and gratitude of those they have nurtured and protected for so many years," the president concluded.

-30-

SBC Seminary Presidents
Support Reliability of Bible

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
5/23/79

DALLAS (BP)--Presidents of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries held a joint press conference in Dallas in an effort to put to rest charges of "liberal" teachings levied by a group which says it is contending for biblical inerrancy.

The presidents, in Dallas for the SBC Inter-agency Council meeting, said they were deeply concerned over a "blanket accusation" by some Baptists "regarding the view of the Bible by those who teach at the seminaries."

The Baptist Standard, news publication of Texas Baptists, reported in its May 9 issue that Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, and Houston appeals court judge Paul Pressler said alarm over "liberal" teaching in Southern Baptist seminaries had prompted meetings in at least 15 states to encourage messengers to elect a president committed to biblical inerrancy at the SBC annual meeting, June 12-14 in Houston.

During the interview with reporters from Baptist and secular media, the six seminary presidents said they know of no professors in Southern Baptist seminaries who fail to uphold the principles of the statement of Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in 1963.

The document says in part that "the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of himself to man... It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter..."

The seminary presidents said in a joint statement to the media that they are committed to helping Southern Baptists continue their tradition as "a Bible-centered people, firmly believing and striving to practice what the Bible teaches..."

They affirmed their "belief in the Bible and in what it says about itself, for example, that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Declaring that each seminary officially subscribes to the Baptist Faith and Message statement, the presidents said that "each person who teaches on the faculty or serves in the administration of a Southern Baptist seminary personally signs a statement affirming his belief in these principles and promising to teach or administrate in accordance with and not contrary to this or a similar guideline of faith."

Russell H. Dilday Jr. said that when he became president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, last year, he met with each faculty member and they had "an unquestioning and enthusiastic commitment" to the principles that the Bible is divinely inspired... They don't deserve this irresponsible blanket accusation," said Dilday.

Dilday said that if a member of his faculty were teaching anything contrary to the central doctrine of the New Testament, he would take immediate action.

-more-

"If I did not (do the same), our trustees would take action," echoed Landrum Leavell of New Orleans Seminary.

All the presidents denied having any faculty members who would call into question the creation accounts in Genesis or the bodily resurrection of Christ as reported in the New Testament. They challenged those who have made such claims to produce evidence.

Duke K. McCall, longtime president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., said much of the debate is over "the fallibility of human language."

"We are in agreement on the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures," he said, "We think the issue is over the fallibility of language."

The presidents were asked if there is a problem in the use of the word "inerrant."

McCall said, "Words have different force...The original manuscript, which we do not have, is inerrant...If you're talking of an existing manuscript, you can't say it's without error. If you're using inerrant to mean the message of God comes through by the Holy Spirit, it's inerrant."

McCall told reporters he holds to what he wrote in the Southern Seminary alumni magazine, *The Tie*: "If God had thought I needed an inerrant, infallible, verbally-inspired copy of the Bible, he would have preserved the original text on a golden tablet."

He had also written, "We may use all of the strong language we want about the original autographs of the Bible, but my faith can survive with the Holy Scripture available to me today."

In the Dallas interview he said, "The Bible doesn't depend on a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary to be able to find truth there, but anyone who can read " (can find truth).

Taking issue with the use of the word "inerrancy" by critics of the seminaries, Randall Lolley of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., said "inspired" is a stronger word. "We deal with inerrant documents every day that are not inspired," he said.

President Milton Ferguson said that at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., "We not only believe the Bible is dependable and reliable and has truth for its subject without any mixture of error, we believe the original manuscripts were inspired by God.

"The nature and authority of the Word of God is a mystery and supersedes the capacity of human reason fully to comprehend," he added.

Baptist Standard Editor Presnall Wood asked the presidents to respond to statements in a Dallas newspaper that "disillusionment with the seminaries is at a crescendo pitch."

Record enrollments at the seminaries, (about 20,000 total) seem to deny the charges, said William Pinson of Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. "Our own applications are up 34 percent," he added.

Dilday said he senses the opposite of disillusionment. "I don't believe we're seeing this drift as you describe...The majority of our budgets comes from Southern Baptist churches. They trust our seminaries to train the people who are going to be pastors of their churches."

Leavell said, "The bottom line for all six seminaries is our confidence and concern for Bold Mission Thrust (Southern Baptists' campaign to present the gospel of Christ to every person on earth by the end of the century). "We don't want anything to get in the way of Bold Mission Thrust," said Leavell. "It's the greatest thing God has given Southern Baptists."

Throughout the interview, the presidents deplored what they called "blanket accusations," "broad-based statements" and "stereotyping." "This is no time to be dividing our convention," said Dilday. "This manipulating, political kind of thing diverts us from our main purpose of evangelism and missions."

-30-

Bonner Named President
Of Baptist Foundation Group

Baptist Press
5/23/79

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (BP)--Harry Bonner, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention Foundation, has been elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives.

Other officers are vice president, Lynn Craft, executive director of the Texas Baptist Foundation; and secretary-treasurer, William Kersch, executive director, Oklahoma Baptist Convention Foundation.

-30-

Texas College Students
Discover Life in Uptown

By Vicki Dortch

CHICAGO (BP)--"4429 N. Broadway!" the cab driver exclaimed. "That's a bad neighborhood--mostly winos, Blacks, Mexicans, drunks..."

The cab driver sees Uptown Chicago as the inter-city ghetto: the melting pot for over 90 ethnic groups speaking 50 different languages with its filth and trashy streets, its overcrowded tenements and halfway houses, its burned-out, abandoned buildings and darkened alleys, its depressing sights of poverty and unconcern.

But East Texas Baptist College students have caught a different vision of Uptown Chicago--a vision of love and concern for people who are reaching, searching, crying out for someone to care about and love them.

Jim Queen, pastor of Uptown Baptist Church, began his ministry in January 1976 as a church planter. That summer, eight ETBC students spent ten weeks, organizing the community and beginning the door-to-door evangelism.

The tremendous needs touched the heart of those eight students. Queen's vision spread into their hearts and has spurred young people from ETBC to return to that mission field summer after summer, semester after semester.

"The ETBC kids are the heart of our evangelistic thrust. If it weren't for the work they do each year, we wouldn't be where we are today," says Queen.

"I see the need and every time I come back the need grows in my heart," says senior Cindy Potts. "I used to hate the poor, but there has been a change in my heart; a love that grows deeper and deeper every time I'm here." Miss Potts used her spring break for a third trip to Uptown and she plans to return again this summer. "This will be my home someday. This is where God has called me to serve," she says. After graduate work, she plans to return to Uptown to help establish a counseling center.

Forty-seven ETBC students spent spring break in Uptown. They got "do's and don'ts", including tips from a Chicago policeman from homicide, such as keep away from abandoned buildings, walk the other way from gangs, expect hostility from some, and never go out alone or with just girls.

Walking the streets in groups of two or more, the students canvassed the 12-square block area where less than one percent of the 150,000 population profess to be Christians.

-more-

For some, this week was the "experience of a lifetime." Not only did they encounter people from all walks of life, they saw sights they never dreamed existed. One student said she was "shocked that people actually lived like dogs."

At times they were frightened and scared--doors were slammed in their faces, they were ignored, yelled at, and made fun of. But many of the people were open and receptive to the gospel and invited the students into their homes. Sixty made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and over 400 attended the Saturday night rally.

Several international and Spanish-speaking students interpreted among the ethnic groups. Entire apartment buildings house such ethnic groups as Laotians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodians, Indians and Mexicans.

Students shared the plan of salvation one-to-one. They made contacts for groups. They revisited new Christians to share scriptures of the assurance of salvation and answer questions.

"We have to be their friends," says Joe Hutchinson, a student now serving as a semester missionary. "Our attitude is the most important thing. For many sharing the gospel just isn't enough."

"Some people can quote the scripture forwards and backwards, but have never accepted Christ. They've heard religion without hearing Jesus Christ," said Queen at the Wednesday evening service at Palatine Baptist Church, Uptown's sponsoring church.

Queen says having a group come like the ETBC students, helps get the church exposed and find more contacts. "We need to know who is behind the doors and the only way to find out is to go out into the community."

"Somebody has to care for them," he says. "The needs are so overwhelming, it just breaks my heart."

-30-

Miss Dortch is director of public relations at East Texas Baptist College.
