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Congressman, Baptist  
Find Some Common Ground

By David Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A U. S. congressman and a Southern Baptist official who have taken conflicting stances in the battle over major broadcast legislation found common ground recently.

Both U. S. Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, D-Calif., sponsor of a controversial bill that would deregulate the broadcasting industry, and Christian Life Commission spokesman Harry N. Hollis Jr., an outspoken opponent of the bill, agree that now is the crucial time for the American public to be heard on the issue.

Speaking in Atlanta recently, Van Deerlin called upon public interest groups to express their opinions before final revisions are made on H.R. 3333, an overhauled version of a rewrite of the Communications Act of 1934 that Van Deerlin originally introduced more than a year ago.

"If they (public interest groups) are as genuinely interested in the public's interest as they claim to be, they will turn off the rhetoric and turn on some specific legislative language--realistic language," he said.

Hollis, who has testified before Senate and House subcommittees on legislation related to the Communications Act, urged Southern Baptists to respond to Van Deerlin's challenge.

"The broadcast industry," he claimed, "is working night and day to make certain Congress hears its plea for deregulation. It is essential that Congress hear also from Southern Baptists and others who are concerned about the moral quality of television. This may be the best chance we will ever have to affect television broadcasting."

Southern Baptists and others, Hollis said, should communicate their views to Van Deerlin and U. S. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S. C., chairman of a Senate subcommittee considering several other broadcast bills, as well as to their own legislators.

"Ask them," Hollis said, "to vote 'yes' for the public interest and 'no' on deregulation. Deregulation may be the dream of the broadcast industry, but it could prove to be a moral nightmare for the American people."

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Gallup Poll Shows Strong  
Support for Hunger EffortsBaptist Press  
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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A Gallup Poll, released just six weeks before Southern Baptists observe their second annual World Hunger Day, Aug. 1, indicates Americans strongly support government efforts to alleviate world hunger.

The national poll shows that although the American public does not fully comprehend the extent of the hunger crisis and tends to overestimate the level of current U. S. government programs to cope with the problem, approximately eight Americans in ten favor either retaining such programs at present funding levels or increasing them. The poll also reveals that, compared with a selected list of other spending priorities, most Americans consider efforts to ease global hunger to be as important as national defense and farm price supports.

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The poll was authorized by the Presidential Commission on World Hunger which has been asked by President Jimmy Carter to analyze hunger problems and programs and to recommend and help implement specific courses of action. The commission will issue a report sometime this fall.

According to W. David Sapp of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, the Gallup Poll's findings are "a strong confirmation of what we have been feeling among Southern Baptists in recent years. People are concerned about world hunger. They may not understand it. They may not know what to do about it. But they do care, and they want the government and the churches and whoever else knows what needs to be done, to do it."

The dramatic increase in world hunger offerings through the denomination's Foreign Mission Board, the growing popularity of the World Hunger Day observance and strongly-worded resolutions on world hunger at the 1978 and 1979 Southern Baptist Conventions are "adequate proof" of the interest among Southern Baptists, Sapp added.

Sapp, who testified before the Presidential Commission on World Hunger earlier this year, urged the commission to "hear the message in this poll" and to "lead our nation to new boldness on behalf of starving people."

"The people may not rise up and demand action, for a government with vision and courage to lead, but there is ample opportunity to make dramatic new initiatives to fight world hunger," he said.

Although hunger commission chairman Sol M. Linowitz cited the poll as "a major step forward in our public education effort," he also pointed out that Americans still have some learning to do about world hunger. Two thirds of the persons polled, for example, believe that the United States devotes more of its resources to foreign aid than any other nation. In fact, the U. S. ranks 13th on the list of 17 countries in the proportion of their Gross National Product given to development assistance.

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Mondale, Young to Headline  
Human Rights Conference

Baptist Press  
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WASHINGTON (BP)--Vice President Walter F. Mondale and United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young will headline the 17th Religious Liberty Conference sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The biennial conference is scheduled for Oct. 1-3 in Washington. Sites for the meeting are the Executive House Hotel and the First Baptist Church of Washington.

The meeting's theme, "The Role of Church and State on Behalf of Human Rights in National and International Affairs," coincides with the observance of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Baptist Joint Committee. A number of international religious liberty and human rights problems figured prominently in the agency's founding.

Other scheduled speakers include Patricia M. Derian, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs; John J. Gilligan, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame and formerly administrator of the Agency for International Development; William A. Jones, president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; and Theo Van Boven, director of the division of human rights at the United Nations' Geneva office.

The meeting will also include a luncheon sponsored jointly by the Baptist Joint Committee and the American Jewish Committee, at which the Jewish group has announced it will present its "Isaiah Award" to the Baptist agency.

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'Rules Not Changed,'  
Lolley Tells Faculty

WAKE FOREST, N. C. (BP)--"The rules by which we live our lives and do our work have not been changed," President W. Randall Lolley told the faculty and staff of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here following the 1979 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Texas.

SBC seminaries have received criticism from some quarters for so-called "liberal" teachings, and successful efforts were launched to elect an SBC president in Houston committed to biblical inerrancy (errorlessness).

Lolley's remarks, in his briefing on the convention, were made to set in perspective the election of Memphis, Tenn., pastor Adrian Rogers as SBC president and the convention's re-affirmation of its 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

"The context for our work remains the same," Lolley said. "We remain unalterably committed to doing our task in accordance with the Articles of Faith of the seminary and the guidelines established by the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement, especially the sections on the Scriptures and Christian Education."

"I accept my responsibility as president," he continued, "to communicate to our constituency on behalf of our faculty and staff. Consistent with resolution No. 16 adopted at Houston, we will work with any well-intentioned Southern Baptist who has serious concerns regarding our teaching." (Resolution No. 16 expressed "profound appreciation" for the seminaries and requested that all concerns be directed to the convention's duly-elected seminary trustees.)

Lolley said he intends to invite Rogers to the Southeastern campus during the coming year, "just as has been our practice with other convention presidents."

He also shared with the faculty and staff his report to the convention, which said, in part: "Southern Baptists, we are your six seminaries. You dreamed us, prayed us and voted us into existence. You own us, support us, and control us through our trustees. Southern Baptists, you need us just as much as we need you."

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WFAA-TV Reinstates  
Robison's Program

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press  
6/29/79

DALLAS (BP)--Southern Baptist Evangelist James Robison, whose weekly television program was cancelled by WFAA-TV, Dallas, after he made critical remarks about homosexuals, has been reinstated by the station.

Robison and WFAA vice president Dave Lane, also a Southern Baptist, received a standing ovation from a packed house during his city crusade service at First Baptist Church, Dallas.

Robison said the agreement was reached in negotiations with Lane, noting that "We don't see it as a victory for our side or their side. It is an agreement that we can both live with without compromising my position."

Lane said Robison's return to WFAA programming in no way involves the evangelist's planned legal action testing the Federal Communication's Commission's Fairness Doctrine.

WFAA officials said they cancelled Robison's Sunday morning program because he had been a "continuing" problem.

They said they were forced to give free time to the Dallas Gay Political Caucus to defend the homosexual lifestyle after Robison's Feb. 25 broadcast in which he quoted a National Enquirer article which quoted law enforcement officials as saying homosexuals recruit and murder little boys. Lane said at that time that the station never objected to biblical preaching labeling homosexuality as a sin.

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Lane said Robison has assured him he can satisfy the needs of his ministry and stay within the bounds of WFAA policy. "We tried to say all along that dealing with moral issues does not violate our policies," said Lane.

Famed criminal attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes has teamed with Robison to challenge the Fairness Doctrine, which provides that a station give equal time to any group attacked on the air.

Robison said he will pursue the lawsuit because he feels the FCC doctrine of moral questions, as opposed to political questions, needs clarifying.

Before the agreement, a delegation of 103 women from First Baptist Church, Dallas, descended on WFAA and held a prayer service. The group included philanthropist Mary Crowley, owner of Home Interiors and Gifts.

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Texas Mexican Baptists  
Seek Farm Labor Help

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press  
6/29/79

LUBBOCK, Texas (BP)--The Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas adopted resolutions at its annual meeting on treatment of undocumented aliens, collective bargaining for farm workers, and equal protection in law enforcement.

Messengers from Spanish-speaking churches, also affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, voted to urge churches and associations "to help provide Christian social ministries, basic education opportunities, programs for meeting emergency needs, and at least basic counseling rights, privileges and documentation."

They urged the Texas Baptist state missions commission to explore opportunities for training pastors and lay people in counseling undocumented aliens "to increase opportunities for witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ." According to some estimates, four to eight million undocumented aliens live in the United States now, and they continue to pour across the border.

The resolution pointed to "strong blood ties with our neighbor to the south, Mexico," and "evidences that the Immigration and Naturalization Service procedures have been continually violated."

Another resolution called upon the Texas legislature to pass workers' compensation laws protecting farm workers and to establish procedures guaranteeing farm workers the right to bargain collectively.

The resolution said virtually no social restraints prevent the exploitation of farm workers and "campechinos" in Texas and the "campechino" is cut off from the privileges afforded all American citizens, including educational, social and political opportunities.

Another resolution cited evidence that individuals being held by law enforcement officials have suffered violations of their civil rights. It also said there are manifold needs for reform in the entire criminal justice system in Texas.

Omar Pachecano, associate to the director of missions of El Paso Baptist Association, was elected convention president. Pachecano, who served once before as president of the Mexican convention, succeeds Eliseo Aldape, pastor of the Arnett-Benson Baptist Church, Lubbock.

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