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**Court Upholds New York Law  
Reimbursing Church Schools**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled here that a New York law reimbursing parochial schools for administering state-required pupil tests and monitoring school attendance does not violate the Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion.

The 5-4 ruling upholding the New York law brings to an end a legal battle which began to take shape 10 years ago when the state legislature first attempted to reimburse both church-sponsored and secular nonpublic schools for a variety of state-mandated services.

Although the high court struck down the 1970 law, the narrow majority in the new case held that a revised law passed in 1974 and estimated to cost the state \$8 million to \$10 million annually, is sufficiently different to uphold it.

Justice Byron R. White, writing for the majority, pointed to two key improvements. They are elimination of teacher-prepared, as distinguished from state-prepared tests, and a provision under the new law calling for state audits of disbursed funds to insure that only secular testing services are reimbursed to nonpublic schools.

"Each of the tests addresses a secular academic subject," White wrote. "None deals with religious subject matter." The examinations in question consist of pupil evaluation tests, comprehensive achievement tests, and New York regents scholarship and college qualifications tests.

White's opinion for the majority upheld a federal district court which ruled that there was no substantial risk that the tests could be used for religious educational purposes.

The majority likewise held that no significant danger of "excessive entanglement" of the state with church schools exists under the reimbursement scheme. White went on to declare that "we are not prepared to read into the plan as an inevitability the bad faith upon which any future excessive entanglement would be predicated."

White acknowledged in the conclusion of his 15-page opinion that "establishment clause" cases such as that from New York "are not easy." "They stir deep feelings," he continued, "and we are divided among ourselves, perhaps reflecting the different views on this subject of the people of this country."

He went on to say that the high court has determined "to avoid categorical imperatives and absolutist approaches at either end of the range of possible outcomes."

Justice John Paul Stevens, on the other hand, declared in a short dissenting opinion that "the entire enterprise of trying to justify various types of subsidies to nonpublic schools should be abandoned."

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Stevens accused the majority of "groping for a rationale" to support laws such as New York's and said that he is prepared to "resurrect" Thomas Jefferson's view of a "high and impregnable" wall between church and state.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who wrote a separate dissenting opinion for himself and Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, said he fears the court had taken "a long step backwards in the inevitable controversy that emerges when a state legislature continues to insist on providing public aid to parochial schools."

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Lawson Named  
News Supervisor

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Linda Lawson, program interpretation specialist in the Baptist Sunday School Board's office of communications, has been named supervisor of the news and information section in the same office.

In this post, Ms. Lawson, 34, will direct the board's news operation working with denominational and secular media, according to Lloyd Householder, director of the office of communications and chief of the Baptist Press bureau at the Sunday School Board.

Before coming to the office of communications, she was single adult work specialist and then editor of youth materials, including Event magazine, in the board's Sunday School department. Prior to that she was an assistant editor in National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board and assistant editor of Home Life magazine.

She was a political reporter for the Columbian Missourian, a daily newspaper in Columbia, Mo., while earning a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. She also is a graduate of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

A native of Missouri, she formerly taught English in Kearney, Mo., and was a teaching assistant at the University of Missouri.

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(BP) photo mailed by Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

High Court Strikes Down  
Anti-Solicitation Law

By Stan Haste

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court ruled here that local municipalities may not forbid charitable organizations from soliciting funds door-to-door on the streets.

By a solid 8-1 majority the high court struck down a local ordinance passed in 1974 by the Village of Schaumburg, Ill., located 25 miles northwest of Chicago, requiring charitable groups to obtain permits to solicit and to prove to town officials that 75 percent of the money raised went directly to charity.

Church-state observers have watched the Schaumburg case closely, convinced that the town's ordinance threatened the free exercise of religion as well as freedom of speech.

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The ordinance specifically stated that the 25 percent exclusion could not include solicitation expenses, salaries, overhead, or other administrative costs.

The law was challenged by an environmental group calling itself Citizens For a Better Environment after the group was denied a permit because it failed to qualify under the 75 percent rule. The group sued the town in federal district court, arguing that it had been denied free speech rights guaranteed by the First Amendment and the equal protection of the law.

Both the district court and a federal court of appeals ruled against the ordinance.

The Supreme Court agreed, citing a long line of decisions over the last four decades generally upholding the right to solicit as being guaranteed by both the free speech and freedom of religion clauses of the First Amendment.

Justice Byron R. White, writing for the eight-man majority, said that the high court has consistently held that charitable appeals for funds, either door-to-door or on the streets, "involve a variety of speech interests--communication of information, the dissemination and propagation of views and ideas, and the advocacy of causes--that are within the protection of the First Amendment."

While acknowledging that the solicitation of financial support "is undoubtedly subject to reasonable regulation," White held that Schaumburg exercised its power in too broad a manner.

The town has argued throughout its series of legal setbacks that its primary interest in enacting the ordinance was to protect the public from "fraud, crime and undue annoyance."

White held, however, that while the town's interests were "substantial," they were "only peripherally promoted by the 75-percent requirement and could be sufficiently served by measures less destructive of First Amendment interests."

Only Justice William H. Rehnquist dissented from the court's decision.

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Missionaries Used To War  
Retool Ministry For Peace

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2/21/80

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (BP)--Sending 20,000 tracts to Plumtree, where about 700 refugees a day reenter Rhodesia from Botswana, is one way Baptists have responded to the new peace in Rhodesia.

Since the Dec. 21 signing of a peace agreement ending the seven-year guerrilla war for majority control of the country, Southern Baptist missionaries have continued Scripture distribution and relief work among displaced persons and refugees, according to Marion G. (Bud) Fray Jr. He is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Southern Africa.

Fray, who met with Southern Baptist missionaries in Rhodesia, reported that plans are being made for a possible poster campaign in the country and cited a need for more personnel, especially a stewardship promotion expert. He also said some schools have reopened.

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Missionaries are using a \$10,725 allocation made by the Foreign Mission Board in February, along with money from earlier allocations, for Scripture distribution. Missionary John P. Griggs has contacted British monitoring forces about the possibility of distributing Bibles among guerrillas near Fort Victoria. Part of the cease-fire agreement called for guerrillas to gather in designated assembly points around the country, some near Fort Victoria.

Scriptures distributed include Shona language Bibles which have been unavailable for three years because of a lapse in printings.

Fray said the Baptist Publishing House, Bulawayo, used the slack period between printing literature for two quarters to print 250,000 tracts, part of which are being distributed at Plumtree by Rhodesian Baptist pastors and laymen.

He and Zebedee V. Moss, mass media representative for Africa, urged the publishing house staff to "get on immediately to bold and dynamic plans for an increased literature ministry through the publishing house." They are considering a poster campaign, similar to that used by Baptist missionaries in Uganda following Idi Amin's downfall. The posters would promote such values as love and friendship and attempt to combat intertribal conflicts and revenge.

Fray stressed a need for personnel and said the mission is recommending to the Baptist Convention of Rhodesia that they request a stewardship promotion expert--a missionary or someone from a state convention in the United States--to spend two or three months helping convention leadership build a solid base for a stronger convention during the country's transition.

Several schools which had closed or moved were open during Fray's visit.

The Baptist Theological Seminary, which moved from the campus outside Gwelo into town after students and faculty were held hostage by guerrillas, is among those which have reopened. Faculty members hope to move back to the campus for the second term. The Seminary Day School has reopened despite a shortage of funds, and the seminary caretaker and the pastor of the church there have moved back to the campus to care for it.

The Sanyati (Rhodesia) Baptist schools, closed last August following a guerrilla visit, were also open. The high school, which reopened the next semester in churches in the Cam and Motor Mine area, is operating in Rimuka, and the elementary school has reopened on the Sanyati Baptist Compound.

Although missionaries evacuated the compound following the guerrilla murder in 1978 of missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. and the schools closed, the Sanyati Baptist Hospital continued to operate under national leadership.

"The hospital is running over with patients since this cease-fire and things are improving and folks are freeing up...the atmosphere is better. People are talking more. They are more relaxed," missionary physician Maurice L. Randall, who visits the hospital frequently, told Fray.

In addition, the only remaining Baptist clinic in the country, operated by Rhodesian nurse Lizha Mhlanga in the Gokwe area, treated 100 patients on the Friday before his visit, Fray said.