



# BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 12, 1980

80-41

Senate Bill Would Restrict  
CIA, FBI Use of Religion

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Support continues to grow in the religious community for a bill prohibiting the use of clergy in the intelligence activities of the United States.

The measure (S. 2284), introduced last month by U.S. Sen. Walter D. Huddleston, D-Ky., is a proposed charter governing activities of all the intelligence community, including the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is co-sponsored by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., and Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz.

The bipartisan measure is before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence of which Bayh serves as chairman and Goldwater as vice chairman.

The bill, referred to as the "National Intelligence Act of 1980," specifically prohibits the intelligence community from using "any affiliation, real or ostensible, with any United States religious organization,..." This provision may be waived by the president during a time of war declared by Congress and does not prohibit voluntary contacts or exchange of information between individual clergy and the intelligence community.

The prohibition of the use of clergy as intelligence sources in the Huddleston bill conflicts with the position of the Carter administration on the proposed charters. CIA Director Stansfield Turner has stated he favors use of clergy and agents posing as clergy in the information gathering process.

Should the measure be amended by the Select Committee on Intelligence to accommodate the administration's position, the change would doubtless encounter strong opposition from both Senate leaders and the religious community.

Among Senate leaders expected to oppose any bill reaching the floor which permits the use of clergy as informants is Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, R-Ore., who has helped lead the fight against such practice.

"If legislation comes from the committee which permits the use of clergy and journalists, I'm sure the senator will move to strike that from the bill," a spokesman for Hatfield said.

Numerous religious groups have protested the practice in recent weeks. Among them are the National Council of Churches, which includes 32 Protestant and Orthodox denominations, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which represents eight national Baptist groups, and the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination. President Carter is a Southern Baptist.

A statement recently adopted by the Baptist Joint Committee decried the use of clergy, missionaries and church workers in the intelligence gathering process because the practice "immediately compromises and renders ineffective the primary role of religious workers to be carers for the humanitarian and spiritual needs of the constituents they serve."

The Foreign Mission Board, which has 2,991 missionaries in 94 countries, said that even suspicion that missionaries and other religious workers were involved in intelligence gathering would "do grave damage to the cause of Christian world missions."

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Wrapup

Baptist Press

3/12/80

Must Not Use Missionaries  
As Agents, Carter Warned

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has urged President Carter to establish a clear policy forbidding the involvement of missionaries or other religious workers in intelligence gathering by the CIA or the FBI.

The statement, contained in a letter signed by the board's president, John W. Patterson of Richmond, Va., and its executive director, R. Keith Parks, was approved by the board, March 11.

The board endorsed the stand taken earlier by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs after some Carter administration officials indicated they were not opposed to the use of religious workers as intelligence agents.

The letter asked the president to express the government policy "so clearly as to remove any suspicions about the matter. For our government to do otherwise, or even to remain silent and leave the question in doubt, will do grave damage to the cause of Christian world missions," it said.

This action came in a meeting in which a new role was announced for administrative associate Rogers M. Smith, the resignation of W. Eugene Grubbs as consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries was accepted "with regret," and a report was made that photographer Don Rutledge will join the staff June 1.

In other developments, a preliminary report on the 1979 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering showed receipts totaling \$29,657,746 through March 7, or about 73 percent of the \$40.5 million goal. Treasurer Everett Deane warned that it is too early to make valid comparisons with last year's giving, but said at this point the offering is about \$6.8 million above where it stood at this time in 1979.

"I really feel that we're going to meet the goal and perhaps exceed it," he said.

Smith will become special assistant to the executive director with primary responsibility for correlating intercessory prayer, a priority concern that Parks expressed in his installation speech in January. Smith will continue administering Margaret Fund scholarships for missionary children's education and will take on new responsibilities for working with the board's 253 emeritus missionaries and with state Baptist foundations.

Smith was administrative associate to former executive director Baker J. Cauthen for 21 years.

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Grubbs will continue in his role as head of the board's laymen overseas and hunger and relief program through Aug. 31, when his resignation becomes effective. He said he has been "approached by several international relief organizations, some churches, and business interests" and decided to submit his resignation so the board could be aware of his plans as it reorganizes under Parks' leadership.

Reorganization of the board's staff is expected to be voted by the board in April, and Parks indicated that a decision on Grubbs' successor would await these announcements.

Grubbs came to the board as consultant for laymen overseas in 1971 and assumed responsibility for hunger relief and disaster response in 1975. Both programs have grown rapidly in recent years. Last year the laymen overseas office coordinated the work of 3,139 volunteers in 58 countries, more than 10 times the 300 who went abroad in 1973. More than \$3 million was appropriated in 1979 for 103 relief ministries projects in 40 countries.

Rutledge, director of photojournalism services in the department of audiovisuals at the Home Mission Board since 1966, will come to the Foreign Mission Board as special assignment photographer in the communications department.

A veteran of 10 years' international service with Black Star, Rutledge has received more than 200 awards for religious and secular photojournalism. In his new post he will photograph world missions for the board's publications and a variety of other outlets.

In its letter to President Carter, the board reaffirmed its policy that its missionaries "go to their fields to share the gospel of Christ and minister to human need. They do not involve themselves in political or commercial affairs."

Various church groups have taken strong stands in recent weeks urging the president and Congress to prohibit the use of missionaries in a new charter being drawn up for the CIA.

News reports have indicated that the White House opposes an absolute prohibition of the use of missionaries, journalists and educators as intelligence sources or agents. The proposed National Intelligence Act of 1980 would outlaw the use of missionaries for such purposes but would permit voluntary contacts with the U.S. intelligence community. The measure, S.2284, was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Walter D. Huddleston, D-Ky., and is co-sponsored by Sens. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., Birch Bayh, D-Ind., and Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz.

The Foreign Mission Board letter to the president said, "Any implication, even indirectly or by rumor, that a missionary might be in some sense a government agent will 'make unclear' the proper image of the missionary and will 'greatly handicap' his missionary ministries."

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Don Rutledge To Join  
Foreign Board Staff

Baptist Press  
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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Don Rutledge has been named special assignment photographer in the communications department of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Rutledge, director of photojournalism services in the department of audiovisuals of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1966, has received more than 200 awards for religious and secular photojournalism. During his time at the Home Mission Board three books have been illustrated with his photography.

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Starting June 1, Rutledge will begin photographing world missions for use in the foreign board's publications and a variety of other outlets.

As part of his assignment, Rutledge will also share his expertise with Southern Baptist photographic representatives overseas, according to Thomas W. Hill, communications department secretary.

Calling Rutledge a person with deep spiritual commitment and sensitivity to others, Hill said the Foreign Mission Board believes "Southern Baptists will be able to focus more clearly on the various dimensions of world missions through the heart, eye and camera of Don Rutledge."

Before going to the Home Mission Board, Rutledge, 49, spent 10 years as staff photographer for Black Star, a New York-based photo agency that covers assignments for major magazines throughout the world. His photographs also have appeared in hundreds of newspapers serviced by the Associated Press.

A Tennessean, Rutledge is a graduate of Tennessee Temple College and Temple Seminary, both in Chattanooga, Tenn., and the New York Institute of Photography.

He is married to the former Lucille Marie Summerlin of Anniston, Ala., and they have two sons.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Grubbs Resigns FMB Post;  
No Decision on Successor

Baptist Press  
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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--W. Eugene Grubbs, consultant for laymen overseas and relief ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, announced his resignation at the board's March meeting.

Grubbs, 55, said he has been "approached by several international relief organizations, some churches, and business interests" and decided to submit his resignation so the board could be aware of his plans as it reorganizes under its new executive director, R. Keith Parks.

He will remain as consultant in both of his areas of responsibility until the resignation becomes effective Aug. 31. He said he has not yet determined his career direction.

Major reorganization of the board's staff is expected to be voted by the Foreign Mission Board in April, and selection of Grubbs' successor will wait until the reorganization is announced, Parks said. John R. Cheyne is associate consultant for relief ministries and James W. Cecil serves as associate consultant for laymen overseas.

Grubbs came to the board as consultant for laymen overseas in January 1971 after serving as executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington (now Northwest Baptist Convention). He took on additional responsibilities for hunger relief and disaster response in 1975.

The growth of both programs has been rapid in recent years as thousands of Southern Baptists have gone overseas to assist career missionaries in their work and as a number of major crises have focused attention on hunger and relief needs.

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Last year the laymen overseas office coordinated the work of 3,139 volunteers in 58 countries, more than 10 times the 300 who went abroad in 1973. Designated giving for hunger relief and disaster response increased from \$75,000 in 1973 to \$3,086,104 last year. More than \$3 million was appropriated for 103 relief ministries projects in 40 countries in 1979.

Grubbs said the board continues to provide immediate response to such needs as the Cambodian refugee situation and victims of natural disasters, but also is directing more attention toward long-range efforts to alleviate world hunger problems.

To coordinate and improve relief work, Grubbs has worked closely with the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, and other groups. He also has served on the religious advisory committee to the Presidential Commission on World Hunger and is on the World Hunger Ad Hoc Committee of Southern Baptist agencies. That committee planned a World Hunger Convocation in 1978 and plans an annual observance of the denomination's World Hunger Day.

Grubbs and his wife, Anne, were under appointment as missionaries in Southeast Asia, 1958-1963. He has served as pastor of churches in California, Mississippi, Missouri, Alabama and Florida. For four years he was secretary of evangelism for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Since the couple moved to Richmond, Mrs. Grubbs, a registered nurse, has been night supervisor of nursing services at the Virginia Home, a 113-bed home for patients with irreversible diseases.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

WFAA-TV Had Right To Drop  
James Robison, FCC Declares

Baptist Press  
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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that WFAA-TV in Dallas was within its rights when it dropped evangelist James Robison's Sunday morning television show in February 1979.

Robison's program was removed from the air for several weeks after he preached a sermon in which he commented on and read from periodicals attacking homosexuals.

In removing the show, WFAA officials cited the FCC's "Fairness Doctrine." Robison's attorneys filed a complaint with the FCC asking if the sermon was covered by the Fairness Doctrine.

The FCC did not respond to the Fairness Doctrine request, stating only that the station was within its rights of exercising editorial discretion in cancelling the program.

WFAA reinstated the Robison show in July.

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