



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 _____, 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) Lloyd T. Householder, 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. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

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80-83

Wood, Puckett See Threat
In Parochial School Aid

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two church-state executives issued strong warnings in Washington concerning the increasing threat to public schools and religious liberty posed by the use of public funds in parochial schools.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and R.G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, forecast continued problems in this area at the sixth annual meeting of the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL).

Wood, whose agency is a charter member of National PEARL, cited Supreme Court decisions and congressional action from which PEARL members should "take heart," but cautioned, "this is no time to take a rest."

The cause for alarm is the increasing barrage of attacks on public schools coupled with growing support and enrollments in private religious and non-sectarian schools.

Puckett, former editor of the Maryland Baptist, predicted that "Christian schools will continue to flourish and do so at the expense of public schools. I think that is the attitude of the times."

The problems accompanying the growth of Christian schools lie in determining whether and for what purposes the schools may use public funds, and to what extent the schools will be regulated by state and federal government.

Puckett contended that the state has an interest in establishing minimal standards for such areas as textbook selection, teacher certification, and curriculum. Parochial schools in Rhode Island and Kentucky have resisted such control.

Many private and parochial schools are already receiving federal and state funds. PEARL, which performs an advocacy role for public education and religious liberty, has sought to stem the use of public funds for private religious affiliated schools through litigation as well as by exerting influence on Congress and the Department of Education of HEW.

Through its legal counsel, Leo Pfeffer, PEARL filed suit against HEW in 1976 to stop what executive director Joanne Goldsmith termed "the practice of sending publicly paid teachers into parochial schools." The case was not tried until 1979 and was only recently decided against PEARL.

Pfeffer, authorized by PEARL's executive committee to appeal the decision, expressed optimism about the appeal's chances in the high court.

Regain Personal Touch
Religious Communicators Urged

By Terry Barone

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"Churches must move from a mass media approach to a more personal approach in communicating with people," Richard T. McCartney told participants in a seminar at Religious Communications Congress/1980.

"We must interpret our message in very personal terms. Religion must become less institutional and more personal," said McCartney, editor of the Baptist Messenger and director of communications for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.

Another speaker, Hal Kennedy, chairman of Holder, Kennedy and Co. of Nashville, agreed with McCartney that the '80s would see a more traditional message being presented in churches.

Referring to "de-massification" of media in Alvin Toffler's new book, The Third Wave, McCartney said growing regionalization of the media will result in people seeking information close to home and nearer to their interest areas."

Because of social and economic changes in our society, McCartney said, "The church must find its place of influence and creative input."

"Some observers believe that participation in institutional religion will increase as a result of the spiritual hunger people are expressing," he continued. "Others, however, believe that the growth will come to small, non-institutional groups, the charismatic movement, and the offbeat cults."

Kennedy said religion will find a "valid place and mission in the '80s" as people turn to the church because of current problems with energy, inflation, food and the balance of power in the world.

He described the church's real mission as "personal spirituality." He said the "church should quit trying to save the world and save people."

If the church is going to build upon the renewed interest we are experiencing in personal religion, "it is going to have to be more sensitive to people and to their concerns," McCartney said.

He added that effective church public relations also must require a renewed emphasis on the individual in society.

The mode of communication chosen to make religion more personal must be "appropriate both to the message of the church and to the audience we seek to reach," McCartney declared.

"No longer can the church or synagogue live in isolation, waiting for the flock to arrive to be fed. People will forsake the impersonal institution in favor of those that make them feel important and needed."

Biblical Submission
Explained to Women

By Roy Jennings

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Submission, singleness and service threaded their way through 35 workshops for more than 4,000 women from 18 states and Canada at the three-day Mid-Continent Christian Women's Concerns Conference at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis.

Barbara Taylor of Fort Worth, Texas, wife of evangelist Jack Taylor, spelled out the meaning of biblical submission in three overflow sessions.

Velma Rhea Torbett, assistant educational director at Bellevue for almost 20 years, told women how to enjoy singleness.

Carolyn Weatherford of Birmingham, executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, outlined a wide range of service opportunities for women.

The workshops were sandwiched around seven general sessions, each helping develop the conference theme, "A Wise Woman Builds."

Mrs. Adrian Rogers, wife of the pastor of Bellevue who's also the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a Bellevue member, Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis, co-directed the conference for Christian women, primarily Southern Baptist women.

Mrs. Taylor defined biblical submission for the women first in terms of what it wasn't.

"It is not being a doormat or admitting inferiority, and it is not being in slavery," she said. "Nor is it getting your husband to do what you want him to do by manipulation. For a woman, biblical submission is to discover and yield to her position in God's divine order."

She said women could find that order in 1 Corinthians 11:3 where it says: "The head of every man is Christ; and the head of a woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

The feminist movement was criticized several times during the seminar. It was characterized once as a demonic attempt to make men and women alike.

"To seek to make a woman like a man is to destroy her reason for being," Mrs. Taylor declared. "As I listen to feminist leaders speak, I wonder which man in their life they are angry with and why they are taking the anger out on God."

Mrs. Taylor said God assigned woman to a place of submission for the purpose of fulfillment.

"God created men and women equal but unique," she said. "God gave each of us roles. Man is submitted to God and woman is submitted to man. America needs this kind of order."

On the subject, "Enjoying Singleness--Myth or Possibility," Miss Torbett said singleness can be a very precious experience if persons learn to use it creatively.

"We need first to accept ourselves as persons of infinite worth to God," Miss Torbett explained. She cautioned women against downgrading themselves because they are single or becoming disappointed to the point of despair.

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Acknowledging singles are living in a couples society where even churches program for pairs and families, Miss Torbett insisted singleness isn't a tragedy. "The tragedy is not learning to accept and trust God and recognizing that God has prepared you for singleness," she said.

Miss Weatherford reported Southern Baptists offer a wealth of Christian service opportunities for single women or those married women who have reared children and now have time on their hands.

Beginning with Ann Judson, the first woman foreign missionary, Miss Weatherford also cited Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong as Southern Baptist women who found fulfillment in missions.

Miss Moon, a wealthy Southern woman with an independent spirit, spent her life in China as a missionary, while Miss Armstrong rallied Southern Baptist women in the United States to support missions with prayer and gifts, the conference leader recalled.

Miss Weatherford also pointed to Miriam, Deborah, and Phoebe in the Bible as women who served God well.

Other workshops claiming large attendance were on the successful executive's wife, living with teen-agers, how to stay slim, and the basic needs of men.

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Women Praised, Chided,
Encouraged at Conference

By Mike Davis

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MEMPHIS (BP)—Women attending the Mid-Continent Christian Women's Concerns Conference in Memphis were praised, chided, and encouraged by speakers who struck religious and patriotic themes such as "Women of America Wake Up," "Let Me Be a Woman," "The Priority of Homemaking," and "The Spirit Controlled Woman."

Billie Barrows, wife of Billy Graham team member Cliff Barrows, praised homemakers, whom she said were called by God.

"Looking back on every stage of our children's lives, I can really say they were the happiest years of my life," she said, although she admitted raising five children was difficult at times because of her husband's travel.

Mrs. Barrows scathed television for eroding the American family.

"It's (TV) a wonderful invention, but it's just about to damn the American family," she charged, and urged the women to control "this monster" before it destroys the family.

Mrs. Barrows singled out soap operas as particular offenders.

"These soap operas that are making women discontented in their roles, they're immoral. Women, I pray God will convict you if you cannot put the test of Philipians 4:8 on that TV. 'Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure... think on these things.'"

Mrs. Barrows called on the women to "give themselves over to the Lord" in order to fulfill their responsibility of building a family. "Marriage and family aren't just 50-50 propositions," she said. "You have to give 100 percent. You've got to give all of yourself."

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Beverly LaHaye, wife of Tim LaHaye, founder of Family Life Seminars and pastor of Scott Memorial Baptist Church in San Diego, Calif., blasted abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

"We need to call it (abortion) what it is," she said. "Let's don't dress it up and call it fancy names. It's murder of a human life that God has created."

On the Equal Rights Amendment, Mrs. LaHaye drew loud applause when she said "Praise the Lord, the Equal Rights Amendment has not passed."

"I want you to be encouraged," she told the women. "We're told to resist. We're told to put on the armor of God and resist the enemy. You don't put on the armor to go sit in your church pews. You don't put on the armor to go to a Sunday School picnic. You put on your armor when you're going into battle."

Mrs. LaHaye warned the women not to give in to humanistic theories that would erode Christian values in the home and urged them to be alert to encroachments on strong families.

One of the most dangerous encroachments on the family, according to Norma Gabler of Longview, Texas, is material in textbooks.

Mrs. Gabler and her husband have actively sought for parents' rights to screen textbooks. They have been successful in helping reject books in the Texas school systems which, according to Mrs. Gabler, are diametrically opposed to the teachings of a Christian home.

A nationally known proponent of parental textbook screening, Mrs. Gabler cited examples of school curriculum which she feels are immoral and contradictory to religious convictions, including sex education courses which she feels are being taught in schools without a proper moral context.

Many of the 4,000 conference registrants wept openly as several speakers shared how their faith helped during personal tragedies.

Mrs. Elisabeth Elliot, author and evangelical spokeswoman for the role of women, told of the death of two husbands, one who was killed while the Elliots were serving as missionaries in Ecuador, then outlined how the women could discover discipleship.

"Trust God for who he is, not what he does," she said. "Give up your right to yourself."

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Congress To Determine
Fate of Mission Dollars

By Marv Knox

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5/20/80

ATLANTA (BP)--If Congress doesn't act in time, \$2 million intended for world missions will find its way into Uncle Sam's pocketbook.

That's because congressmen have until the foreign income tax filing deadline of June 15 to amend the Foreign Earned Income Act of 1978, or else Foreign Mission Board personnel overseas will have to pay sharply increased income taxes.

In that event, the board has set aside \$1 million, which could be used for other matters, to help its missionaries withstand the burden of 1979 taxes, said Winston Crawley, board vice president for planning. Another \$1 million is being held in reserve to pay 1980 taxes when they come due next year.

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But the board is placing its hopes on H.R. 1319. That bill has been passed by the Senate Finance Committee and must be approved by the entire Senate before going to the House of Representatives for final passage.

Section 201 of the bill amends the 1978 act, and restores a \$20,000 income tax exclusion for employees of charitable and religious organizations overseas which was abolished by the 1978 law, Crawley said.

Because the 1978 law did not go into effect until the following year, it is only now being felt by missionaries preparing to file their 1979 tax returns.

"Congress passed legislation (in 1978) ostensibly to close the so-called loopholes of Americans working abroad, because previously we had granted more favorable tax treatment to Americans working overseas than we had to American citizens in the United States," said Sen. Herman Talmadge, D-Ga., to leaders from religious, charitable and relief organizations meeting in Atlanta.

"We overreacted," said Talmadge, one of the original sponsors of the amendment, "and it's harmful to religious organizations and other groups whose funds must be provided by donations and charitable deductions."

Jay Morris, a Washington attorney working on the problem, underscored Talmadge's remarks, noting that many organizations, such as the International Agricultural Development Service and CARE, are also affected.

He said U.S. income taxes for American employees at the agricultural service centers were projected to rise by 526.6 percent, while incomes rose only 21.06 percent from 1977 through 1979. To restore each CARE worker to the pre-1978 status quo, the organization would have to spend \$1 out of every \$7 it currently pays in salary to its overseas employees.

Employees of these organizations, as well as those of the board, can take advantage of deductions provided by the 1978 law, Morris reported, but the deductions have been so stringently drawn that "they have little or no value to charitable employees overseas."

Consequently, the amendment currently pending is the only real hope for the board and other religious, charitable and relief organizations and their employees, Crawley, Talmadge and Morris maintain.

Crawley feels the bill has widespread support in Congress and Talmadge does not anticipate opposition on the Senate floor.

Morris suggested persons who support the legislation contact ranking members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, to solicit their support for the bill.

Top Democrats of the Ways and Means Committee are Al Ullman, Ore.; Daniel Rostenkowski, Ill.; Charles A. Vanik, Ohio; James C. Corman, Calif.; Sam M. Gibbons, Fla.; and J.J. Pickle, Texas. Ranking Republicans on the committee are Barber B. Conable Jr., N.Y.; John J. Duncan, Tenn.; and William Archer, Texas. All the Republicans have indicated support for the bill.

Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee are Talmadge; Russell B. Long, La.; Abraham Ribicoff, Conn.; Harry F. Byrd Jr., Va.; Gaylord Nelson, Wis.; Mike Gravel, Alaska; Lloyd Bentsen, Texas; Spark Matsunaga, Hawaii; Daniel P. Moynihan, N.Y.; Max S. Baucus, Mont.; David Boren, Okla.; and Bill Bradley, N.J.

Republicans on that committee are Robert Dole, Kan.; Bob Packwood, Ore.; William V. Roth Jr., Del.; John C. Danforth, Mo.; John Chafee, R.I.; John Heinz III, Pa.; Malcolm Wallop, Wyo.; and David Durenberger, Minn.

Senators can be reached by writing to them in care of U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, and representatives can be contacted by writing to them in care of U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Morris indicated letters also should be sent to the White House, addressed directly to the president or to Robert Maddox, religious liaison for the president. "Urge the president to sign the bill directly when it arrives," he advised.

In the meantime, board missionaries are holding two tax returns each--one filled out to match either decision Congress could make.

"The board has set aside the money it's holding to help our missionaries with this problem," Crawley said. "But if Congress makes a favorable decision, that money will immediately be released and can be appropriated for mission needs elsewhere."

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Religious Freedom Essential,
Allen Tells Israeli Committee

By Elizabeth F. Smith

Baptist Press
5/20/80

TEL AVIV, Israel (BP)--Freedom of conscience is fundamental to a healthy religion and a healthy state, Southern Baptist leader Jimmy Allen told an Israeli parliamentary committee on his second trip to Israel to press for religious freedom there.

Reading from a prepared text and punctuating his major points with finger stabs in space, Allen stressed the need for the committee to guard the concept of "freedom of conscience to embrace a faith, practice a faith, reject a faith, and share a faith."

Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, addressed the two-hour hearing May 19 on the draft of a basic law on the rights of man at the invitation of committee chairman David Glass. He planned to visit with Prime Minister Menachem Begin and reiterate some of his points the next day.

Glass introduced Allen as a "good and staunch friend of Israel, a personal friend of the president of the United States and my own friend." He said their friendship developed when Allen, then president of the Southern Baptist Convention, came to Israel in 1978 to discuss the anti-bribery law which Baptists and other Christian leaders feared would lead to restrictions of religious freedom in Israel. Glass later visited Allen in Texas and invited him to address the committee considering the human rights law.

Following Allen's first visit, Israeli minister of justice Shmuel Tamir made an official interpretation of the anti-bribery law which said it was not intended to limit religious freedom or prevent Christians from normal educational or philanthropic activities.

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On this trip Allen said safeguards for religious freedom must be specifically stated and cited examples of articles from the United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights of 1948, and from the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

He said such statements safeguard the sharing of religious ideas and creation of a strong and vigorous religious response. "Yet they also protect the right of dissent so that the democratic processes are kept intact and the possibilities of religious bigotry are diminished," he said.

Also at the hearing were representatives of the United Christian Council in Israel, Robert Lindsey and Herbert Kerrigan, and a representative of the Israel Interfaith Committee, Zwi Werblowsky. Lindsey, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative and pastor of West Jerusalem Baptist Church, is current chairman of the United Christian Council in Israel. Kerrigan is a professor and authority on international law from Edinburgh, Scotland, and Werblowsky is professor of comparative religions at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Lindsey and Kerrigan distributed a memorandum concerning human rights and religious liberty, and Kerrigan spoke to it, stressing the need for addition and modification of the draft.

Limited by time, the committee invited UCCI and IIC representatives to attend a second hearing May 26. Although Allen will not be present at that meeting, he said a "healthy process" had been started with the Knesset's willingness to listen and share. Others said the hearing was a positive step forward and had initiated constructive debate in which the Christian community could present its view before the law was passed.

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Elizabeth V. Smith is a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board representative to Israel, where she is a press representative.

Court Will Not Review
N.Y. Rape Shield Law

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WASHINGTON (BP)--Citing lack of jurisdiction, the Supreme Court will not hear a challenge to New York's rape shield law.

Under the New York law, enacted in 1975 and designed to protect the rights of rape victims, three men could not present evidence that a woman who brought a rape charge against them had a previous history of illicit sexual activities.

They argued that refusal by the trial judge to allow such evidence denied them due process of law and the right to present witnesses of their choosing, both rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

They also complained that the application of the rape shield law, which was enacted by the state legislature after the alleged crime had occurred and arrests made, violated the ex post facto, or "after the fact," constitutional principle.

The men were eventually convicted of sexual abuse and assault but acquitted on charges of rape and sodomy.

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