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February 26, 1981

81-32

## New Senate Bill Seeks Tuition Tax Credits

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--A comprehensive tuition tax credit proposal which has tacit Reagan Administration support has been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., and co-sponsored by Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del. Packwood is an Unitarian, Moynihan a Catholic and Roth an Episcopalian.

Packwood said the Administration is "endorsing this bill," but said the administration has reserved the right to negotiate on the specifics to fit its economic goals.

Packwood's proposal calls for a credit against federal taxes owed for 50 percent of tuition payments up to a maximum of \$500. It covers tuition for private elementary and secondary schools, private and public colleges and vocational schools.

Specifically, the proposal would allow a credit of up to \$250 for full-time undergraduate, vocational, elementary and secondary students by August, 1982; a credit of up to \$500 for the same students by August, 1983; and an extension of the full credit to graduate students and half-time students at colleges and vocational students by August, 1984.

Packwood said the \$500 cap was put in place to avoid having the measure labeled a "rich person's bill."

The credit would be refundable, meaning that a taxpayer whose tax liability is less than the tax credit due, would have the difference refunded by the U.S. Treasury.

Packwood said the administration will not introduce a bill of its own and added that he will not be "adamant" about the specifics, such as phase-in time or the amount of the credit. "I want to be a team player," he said. "We want to establish a principle."

Reagan gave verbal support throughout the campaign for tuition tax credits, but chose not to include the proposal in the major tax package he sent to Congress last week.

Baptists have traditionally opposed tuition tax credits, primarily because they see them as a violation of the church-state separation mandated by the Constitution's First Amendment.

Moynihan challenged the church-state separation argument used by opponents of the proposal, declaring that constitutionality of a proposal isn't settled "until the Supreme Court has ruled."

"Do it, and let the court decide," the New York senator said.

Roth also disputed arguments the proposal is unconstitutional, saying the Constitution "means what the nine old men on the bench say it means."

Packwood admitted the proposal, which he described as "not unlike" one which cleared both the House and Senate in the 95th Congress before dying in a conference committee, is highly controversial.

"We're not fooling ourselves about the difficulty," Packwood said, referring to the battle he expects in the Senate.

And, even if the measure clears the Senate and the full Congress, Packwood is confident there will be court challenges.

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Missionary Physician Returns  
To Work in Villages of Ghana

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NALERIGU, Ghana (BP)—Walter Moore is back at work in the villages of Ghana after having experienced a speedy recovery from serious injuries he received in an automobile accident.

Moore, a Southern Baptist missionary physician, returned to his work a month after he suffered a head wound, two broken ribs and a fractured kneecap when his vehicle crashed into a dump truck Dec. 18.

The physician, an Oklahoma native, said his speedy recovery happened because "God has been very good to me."

Moore was pinned inside his vehicle after the accident, wedged tightly between the seat and steering wheel and unable to breathe. Just as Moore was beginning to lose consciousness, a highway department soils inspector came to investigate, alerted by the continuously blowing automobile horn.

"He jerked the seat backwards and I felt the sweet fresh air pour into my lungs," Moore said.

The inspector, Manfred Dho, cradled Moore in his arms as the injured man was taken—by dump truck—the 27 miles to Tamale and the hospital.

Dho, said Moore, was at the scene of the accident only because he had refused an earlier offer of a ride into town.

By the next morning, Moore's wife had arrived. All the Baptist mission stations in Ghana, the Foreign Mission Board and the International Missionary Ham Network had been notified. A worldwide prayer chain started.

That same morning Moore saw the man considered the best-trained Ghanaian surgeon, who wasn't supposed to be in Tamale. But since the surgeon was ill and stayed in Tamale, he returned to work the day after Moore's injury and a few days later repaired Moore's kneecap.

The day after Christmas, Moore returned home to Nalerigu on a helicopter provided by Canadian friends working for the World Health Organization. Moore had removed a ruptured appendix for one of the pilots four years earlier.

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Thanks to the prayers for him, Moore says he was able to visit the Baptist Medical Centre, Nalerigu, where he works, only two weeks after the accident.

"Another week and I was seeing clinic patients and on Tuesday, Jan. 20, returned to the villages with a driver to do my current public health program, measles vaccinations," he says.

The only thing holding him back now is a leg cast, but he has a driver to take him to his work and the cast comes off Mar. 23.

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Golden Gate to Offer  
Language/Culture Degree

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HOUSTON (BP)—A doctor of ministries in ethnic missions, developed in conjunction with the language missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will be offered at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary beginning this fall.

The degree will draw curricula from the regular D-Min program, with electives to meet specific needs. Persons receiving the degree must be able to speak a modern language other than their native tongue.

William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president, said: "We have needed a program like this for many years. The nation's growing ethnic population and increasing immigration have made it necessary for Southern Baptists to reach out to people whose cultural backgrounds make them much different from the traditional southern society." More than one third of the board's missionary force works in language missions.

Responding to patterns of immigration from all over the globe is necessary for a seminary wanting to provide modern methodology in communicating the gospel, said William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Seminary, which has an increasing number of non-Anglo students.

"We see the needs of ethnic America most clearly in California," said Pinson. The west coast state will soon have more ethnic population than Anglo, census data reveals.

"Because of immigration of a large international community—business people, students and diplomats, primarily—we have a chance to witness to the whole world here in the United States," said Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the board and catalyst for the creation of the new studies emphasis.

"To respond appropriately, we have to have a better understanding of the way ethnic people think, the way they look at life. When we know this, we can present the gospel to them in a language they can best absorb and appreciate.

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Baptist Work Grows  
After Winter Olympics

By Marv Knox

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (BP)—Southern Baptists have followed up on their pledge "to be in this village long after the Olympics are over."

A year ago, after months of preparation and two frenzied weeks of competition, the 13th Winter Olympics ended. World-class athletes went on to new conquests while spectators retreated to their homes. Local residents breathed sighs of relief, and "scaling down" replaced "building up."

As activity in the community slowed, Southern Baptists shifted from emphasis on spectators and athletes to an intensified effort to reach local folks.

"It's gone better than we anticipated," says David Book, pastor of Lake Placid Baptist Chapel. "We've baptized 17 people--mostly adults--and three men are waiting for the ice to thaw so they can be baptized."

Baptists came to Lake Placid in 1978, about a year before the games began. By the time the Olympics started, Baptists were involved in some 15 ministries for townfolk and visitors alike, helped by more than 125 paid and volunteer workers. The result was Southern Baptists' largest-ever single-event ministry effort.

"I really think the Olympic effort opened the door of community acceptance here," Book says. "It helped us break down social, economic and cultural barriers, because those people realized we were here to help."

Norman Bell, director of missions for Adirondack Baptist Association, credits Book with building rapport with the community, "before, during and after the Olympics. People in Lake Placid were skeptical about newcomers, but Book and his people have shown them Baptists are there to stay," Bell says.

Now, a year later, the chapel has grown to the point that it's "just about reached the capacity of our building," Book reports. The chapel still meets in the Exchange House, which was headquarters during the Olympics.

Book says the congregation is looking to buy property with three cabins which can be used to house volunteer workers and serve as a youth hostel. Plans include constructing a new main building that can house the chapel and double as a coffeehouse and headquarters for resort, weekday and family ministries.

"We could use it virtually 24 hours a day," he says, explaining that even though the excitement of the games is gone, Baptists in Lake Placid still conduct a variety of summer resort ministries, outreach to athletes training on Olympic facilities and year-round ministries for local residents.

"We're still excited about the opportunities here," Book says. "The huge crowds are gone, but there still are plenty of unchurched people we need to reach."

Family Issues Need  
Level-Headed Action

By Linda Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"The time is right for responsible, level-headed, compassionate action by Christians with their feet on the ground to deal with the ethical issues related to family life," a Baptist ethicist says.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., director of family and special moral concerns for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called on Southern Baptists to deal with those issues after commenting that both "right-wing fundamentalists" and "battle-worn liberals" have failed to provide adequate answers for family problems.

Southern Baptists have an "enormous opportunity to strengthen families," Hollis told a meeting of family ministry consultants at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The opportunity, he added, "comes at a time when the nation has never needed it more and we have never had more resources for doing it well."

Hollis emphasized Baptist efforts must grow out of a Christian understanding of the family and must be dealt with through churches. "The church provides a community for dealing with problems and the wisdom and guidance we need from the Holy Spirit," Hollis noted.

Warning against the temptation to jump on popular bandwagons for solutions to family problems, Hollis said, "We need to be emphasizing fidelity and lifelong commitment in marriage."

Programs for strengthening family life must be developed out of an awareness that the issues are complex, he said, adding: "It is an ethical issue to avoid oversimplifying complex family problems and therefore offer simple answers to problems that can be solved only with careful, competent help and the grace of God."

Hollis said secular assaults on family life and Christian values are causing many families to turn inward, without concern for their community and the world.

"One of the challenges we need to give Southern Baptists is the challenge of reaching out and doing mission work," he said. "It is an ethical issue of the profoundest kind."

Finally, Hollis warned participants they should never underestimate the power of television. "It is the most powerful invention of mankind, in my opinion, because it is shaping, if not controlling, the values of this nation day in and day out—and the values usually are not acceptable to Christians."