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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 11, 1982

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82-39

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

June 13-14, 1982

The Mardi Gras Room, The Marriott Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana

Theme: "The Religious Educator's Challenge: Faith Development, Staff Unity
and Continuing My Mission"

Sunday Evening, June 13

7:30 SBREA will attend the Evangelism Rally at the Superdome. Billy Graham will preach.

Monday Morning, June 14

Session Theme: "The Religious Educator's Challenge—Faith Development"

8:55 Worship—The North Carolina Brass Ensemble; Harold Hanson, Dallas, TX
9:15 "A Call to Purpose"—Charles F. Gwaltney, Baton Rouge, La., President, SBREA
9:30 "Faith Development"—Bruce Powers, Wake Forest, N.C., Vice President, SBREA
A multi-media presentation featuring Bill Clemmons, Wake Forest, N.C.;
Jack Naish, Atlanta; Chip Turner, New Orleans; Bill Rodgers, New Orleans;
and Tom Halbrooks, Wake Forest, N.C.
11:10 Business Session—Charles F. Gwaltney

Monday Noon, June 14

12:30-1:45 Annual SBREA Luncheon—Bill Ballou, Fort Worth, Texas, Vice-President, SBREA
Distinguished Leadership Award Presentations—Charles Lowry, Alexandria, La.

Monday Afternoon, June 14

Session Theme: "The Religious Educator's Challenge—Staff Unity"

2:00 Worship—Earl Sandifer, Alexandria, La.
2:10 "Staff Unity"—Elaine Dickson, Nashville, Tenn., President-Elect, SBREA
A multi-person presentation featuring mini-lectures, a case study presentation,
a reactor panel and audience sharing. Personalities include: Jerry Brown,
Deland, Fla.; Dot Thompson, Lubbock, Texas; C. Vernon Cole, Middletown, Ky.; and
Bob Ed Shotwell, Austin, Texas
3:50 Afternoon Break

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Monday Evening, June 14

Session Theme: "The Religious Educator's Challenge--Continuing My Mission"

The evening session is a period of worship and celebration

- 6:45 Praise Through Music--Young Adult Ensemble, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.
 Praise Through Prayer--Carl A. Hoffman, New Orleans, La.
 Praise Through Personal Testimony--Charles P. Wood, Mobile, Ala., and Bill Taylor, Coral Gables, Fla.
 Praise Through Scripture--Ferris Jordan, New Orleans, La.
 Praise Through Music--Audience
 Ministering the Word, "Continuing My Mission"--Frank Pollard, San Antonio, Texas
 A Prayer of Commitment--Elaine Dickson
 "Ye Shall Be Witnesses"--Young Adult Ensemble, First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.
- 8:30 Annual SBREA Fellowship--Acadian Room

SBREA Officers - 1981-1982

President--Charles F. Gwaltney, Baton Rouge, La.
 President-Elect--Elaine Dickson, Nashville, Tenn.
 Vice-President, Bruce Powers, Wake Forest, N.C.
 Vice President, Bill Ballou, Fort Worth, Texas
 Secretary-Treasurer--Marvin Myers, Fort Worth, Texas
 Assistant Secretary-Treasurer--Ferris C. Jordan, New Orleans, La.

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Religious Educators Focus
 On Faith, Unity, Mission

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Baptist Press
 3/11/82

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Faith, unity and mission will be the focus of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Educators Association, June 13-14, in the New Orleans Marriott Hotel.

The meeting is one of several related meetings preceding the Southern Baptist Convention, June 15-17, in the Louisiana Superdome.

"We will be focusing on the practical aspects of religious education," said Charles Gwaltney, SBREA president and minister of education at First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, La.

"We felt there was the need to have a program that would focus on the ministry of religious education, and thus we have broken it down into separate sections on faith development, staff unity and the continuing mission of religious educators," he added.

The association will cooperate with the SBC Pastors' Conference and the SBC Order of Business Committee by participating in an evangelistic rally in the Superdome on Sunday, June 13. The rally will feature Billy Graham as main speaker.

"We chose to go along with the programming and include participation in the evangelistic rally," Gwaltney said. "We normally start our program on Sunday evening, and had already completed the programming when they contacted us about participating (in the rally)."

"We regret the circumstances, but we re-arranged our programming. We feel the effort (rally) is a good effort and we are cooperating," he added.

The first session of SBREA will center on faith development and will deal with the growth of the faith of individual religious educators, Gwaltney said.

The second session will concern staff unity, because for a subordinate staff person "one of the greatest problems faced is that of staff unity," Gwaltney said, adding that pressures from this direction are "extreme on the religious educator."

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"We are planning to have audience participation, and will have presentations by professional guidance people, religious educators and a pastor," he added.

The concluding session will feature a "celebration of worship and inspiration," in which ministers of education will give personal testimonies about God's activities in their lives.

"They will not be giving church growth statistics, but will be giving very personal testimonies about God's leadership in their lives," he said.

During the annual SBREA luncheon at noon Monday, the association will make distinguished leadership awards, to retired educators who have made significant contributions to RE work.

"The awards were started two years ago, and during the previous years, only one award was made each year. This year we concluded we needed to increase the number of presentations until we have caught up with those who are deserving of the awards. We probably will have five awards," Gwaltney said.

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Abortion Amendment Clears
Senate Judiciary Panel

WB

Baptist Press
3/11/82

WASHINGTON (BP)--A divided Senate Judiciary Committee approved a proposed constitutional amendment providing Congress and states with joint authority to restrict abortions.

The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, declares that the right to abortion is not secured by the Constitution. If it becomes part of the Constitution, S.J. Res. 110 would allow both Congress and state legislatures to restrict abortions but states could not pass laws less restrictive than federal law.

The narrow 10-7 vote by the committee signals only part of the problems facing the Hatch Amendment.

Several of the senators who voted with Hatch in committee do not agree with all the amendment's provisions but voted for it to move the debate to the Senate floor. Chairman J. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., for instance, opposes the provision allowing Congress to set a federal restriction standard and indicated he would seek to amend the measure to leave the question entirely up to the states.

Others, such as Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa and Sen. John P. East, R-N.C., support a different abortion bill which declares that life begins at conception and prevents lower federal courts from striking down any anti-abortion legislation enacted by states. Sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. the bill is on the Senate calendar.

Unlike the Hatch Amendment which must pass both houses of Congress by a two-thirds margin and then be ratified by 34 states before taking effect, the Helms bill requires only a simple majority in the House and Senate to reach President Reagan's desk for signature. Support for the Helms bill, however, remains questionable, primarily because a number of senators and representatives consider its approach of limiting federal court authority unconstitutional.

A spokesman for the judiciary committee told Baptist Press it is unlikely the Hatch Amendment can get a two-thirds majority on the Senate floor "as the bill is now."

Should it clear the Senate, it would likely face an even tougher test in the House where judiciary committee leaders have resisted efforts to move abortion bills. A spokeswoman for the subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights said the panel could "very possibly but not necessarily" consider the Hatch Amendment if it clears the Senate.

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Cooper to Lead 50,000
In Rio 'Run of Century'

RB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Physical fitness expert Kenneth Cooper will lead 50,000 joggers down Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach Sept. 25 in what a Brazilian national newspaper has labeled "the run of the century."

The event, part of the centennial celebration of Baptist work in Brazil, will allow Texas Baptist layman Cooper to share his Christian testimony with participants, according to Thurmon Bryant, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for eastern South America. Runners will receive gospel literature and be invited to Baptist churches by trained counselors at the scene.

Bryant reported on the plans at the board's March meeting as he told of accomplishments already achieved in Mission to Brazil, Texas Baptists' mission partnership with the Foreign Mission Board and Brazilian Baptists.

In 1981, Bryant said, more than 1,100 Texas volunteers from 373 churches were instrumental in helping Brazilians accept Christ as Savior. Another 3,500 have been requested this year for 87 projects pointing toward the Texas centennial observation Oct. 15.

Cooper is well known in Brazil because of his training program which helped Brazil's soccer team win its third World Cup in 1970. A Brazilian asks a person if he jogs this way: "Have you done your Cooper today?" In the United States, Cooper is best known for his books on aerobics and for his large aerobics center in Dallas.

Aerobics is a conditioning system that emphasizes fitness of the heart, lungs and circulatory system.

Board Chairman Travis Berry of Plano, Texas, urged prayer for the April 13 missionary appointment service in Birmingham, Ala. Alabama Baptist sponsors have set an attendance goal of 15,000 and are praying for 500 decisions for missionary service. The board also will meet in Birmingham April 12-14.

In other actions, the board honored Elizabeth Minshew, who retired in February after 37 years at the board; reappointed Leland and Helen Elizabeth Harper, both of Missouri, as missionaries to Paraguay; and received word that William J. Damon of Texas, missionary to Brazil, will become administrative assistant to Bryant in the eastern South America office Jan. 1.

Minshew was assistant recording secretary of the board since 1967. Nellie P. Walters of Alabama, a board staff member since 1969, succeeds her.

Harper has directed church relations and promotion for the Baptist Home, a retirement center and nursing home in Ironton, Mo., since 1977. His wife has been the home's assistant director of nursing. They hope to return in April to Paraguay, where they served from 1951 to 1976. Harper will be business manager for the organization of 35 Southern Baptist missionaries. Previously, they worked at Baptist Hospital in Asuncion, Paraguay's capital. he was administrator and she directed nursing services, kept medical records and taught at the nursing school associated with the hospital.

Damon will work in Richmond helping Bryant to coordinate the work of 442 missionaries in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Since September 1980 he has worked in Dallas as the Foreign Mission Board coordinator for Mission to Brazil, a position he will fill throughout 1982.

A Texan, Damon and his wife, the former Roberta McBride of Oklahoma, previously were missionaries in Curitiba, Brazil, where both taught at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Parana. He also directed the seminary's religious education department, promoted religious education in the state of Parana and led education and music programs at several churches. They were appointed in 1965.

Baptists Endorse Call
For Nuclear Arms Freeze

WB
By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)-- Four prominent Southern Baptists have endorsed a joint congressional resolution which calls for a mutual freeze and reduction in nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Introduced in the Senate by Mark O. Hatfield R-Ore., and Edward M. Kennedy D-Mass., the resolution calls on the two superpowers to achieve "a mutual and verifiable freeze on testing, production and further deployment of nuclear warheads, missiles and other delivery systems." Following the freeze, it calls for "major, mutual and verifiable reductions" in nuclear warheads and delivery systems.

Baptist endorsers, who joined a large cast of U.S. religious leaders, include evangelist Billy Graham; Jimmy R. Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission; Foy D. Valentine, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission, and James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

During a news conference announcing the bill's introduction, Hatfield recalled being "overwhelmed" by what he saw in Hiroshima following the U.S. bombing of the Japanese city in 1945. Despite recognizing the probability that that atomic bomb may have saved his life, Hatfield said "even then I had a sense of ambivalence" over the kind of power that had been unleashed.

The Oregon senator said the timing of the resolution is critical since the two superpowers now have "rough equivalency" in nuclear capability. He further emphasized the significance of "houses of worship throughout the country" calling for peace at this time.

Kennedy charged that "the next world war could be a war against the world itself" where "all life could be the loser," adding that the "only sane choice is for both sides to halt and then reverse this disastrous arms race."

The Massachusetts Democrat linked current economic problems to the nuclear buildup, declaring that a nuclear weapons freeze "could save at least \$20 billion each year."

Kennedy further emphasized that the resolution depends upon "strict verification" instead of trust and calls for mutual agreement rather than unilateral action.

The resolution has 19 sponsors in the Senate where it was introduced as S. J. Res. 163, and 130 sponsors in the House, where it is labeled H.J. Res. 483. One of the primary House sponsors, Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., declared, "It's clear that members of Congress are hearing from their constituents on this issue. They are telling Congress that the United States and the Soviet Union are on a dangerous nuclear collision course."

Sponsors of the bipartisan resolution sounded optimistic despite President Reagan's planned buildup of U.S. nuclear weapons systems.

Hatfield said he had not discussed the proposal with the President but said Reagan is "one who will listen." The chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee then assured the audience that he would have ample opportunity to discuss the resolution with Reagan since the President "is anxious" to talk with him on budget matters.

In addition to the more than 125 religious leaders and organizations, other endorsers of the proposal included numerous representatives of the scientific, academic, medical, legal and political professions. Among them were former Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright, former New York Governor Averell Harriman, former U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union George Kennan, Salk Institute Director Jonas Salk, former Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Director Paul Warnke and Karl Menninger of the Menninger Foundation.