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Walker Never Too Busy
For Visit From Friend

By Juanita M. Wilkinson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The presiding officer at an annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention, stumped for a correct procedure, called for his parliamentarian to clarify.

Realizing he was the object of a search, parliamentarian Arthur L. Walker Jr. announced, "I'm over here behind the organ studying Roberts' Rules of Order--Revised."

Walker's expertise in the universally recognized authority, Roberts' Rules of Order, brings him into frequent demand as parliamentarian at state Baptist conventions or sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He doesn't do all of his studying behind church organs to stay abreast of the most recent revisions in Roberts' Rules. But it is not because his typically hectic schedule of speeches and appearances allow him much other time. Still, no visitor to Room 319 in the Southern Baptist Convention building is turned away.

Though he may be preparing yet another speech or figuring budgets on his small computer, he is never too busy to answer a question, listen to a need or chat with a former colleague.

Walker's revolving bookcase and the books lining his walls reflect a habit long broken by his ever present travel responsibilities--reading a novel per week.

Walker wears the double title of executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary. He coordinates work with 72 colleges, universities, seminaries and schools related to the Southern Baptist Convention and 17 state conventions and is the SBC contact with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. in the joint sponsorship of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville.

Walker, the educator, is the product of Christian higher education and is its chief supporter. Having felt the call to the gospel ministry early in life, he prepared academically at Howard College (now Samford University), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He was inspired as an undergraduate by the teaching ministry of Ray F. Robbins. Eventually, the classroom on Birmingham's Baptist campus became Walker's primary pulpit for more than 20 years. During those years, he enjoyed the unique experiences provided in interim pastorates throughout Alabama.

Also, while at Howard College, Walker came under the influence of Dean Percy Pratt Burns who was famous for his rich vocabulary. It was Burns who affirmed that a man who has a vocabulary which allows words to run over his tongue is wealthier than the man who has gold coins running through his fingers. Walker accepted the challenge and his command of the English language was so obvious in the classroom that a former student warned his secretarial staff in Nashville, "Have handy a dictionary--you'll need it working with Walker."

Intrigued by the histories of nations in the Orient, Europe and Africa, Walker is also a recorder of history, especially church histories. At least four Alabama churches have had their historic background and traditions recorded by Walker's pen. He is now writing the history of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Personal participation in the unfolding of history was an unforgettable part of Walker's interrupted college years when he served in the armed forces in Indonesia, Philippines and Japan. He recalls upon visiting Hiroshima after the great bombing, he met a young Japanese man who paused long enough to ask, "Why Hiroshima?" The question frequently surfaces in Walker's thoughts.

Walker grew up in Birmingham, Ala., and married his Birmingham sweetheart, Gladys, whose last name also happened to be Walker. Together they have pursued their educational interests, shared their concern for students, opened their doors to streams of visitors who may be "just passing through town and want to say hello."

They enjoy frequent visits with one-year-old grandson, Brent Hamby, son of the Walkers' daughter, Marcia, and her husband, Pat, who live in Atlanta. Walker's eyes brighten and a proud grandfatherly voice is easily detected as he shares the latest photograph of "the smartest little boy in the world."

The Walkers enjoy the mountains--springtime visits when the hillsides are aglow with wildflowers and January visits with the stark beauty of barren trees and snow covering the sides of the earth. At home, Walker tends the yard in the summertime, dreading the lawn cutting, but finding therapy for the mind and body as he digs into a flowerbed or plants a dogwood tree.

Working with the earth, encouraging new plant life to grow has its own therapeutic effect on Walker. The need for such consolation was intensified for the Walkers 17 months ago upon learning of the sudden death of their college-student son, Greg.

Long walks near the wooded area surrounding their home, the newly-acquired habit of birdwatching encouraged by close friends, opportunities to be alone, together, and always reaching out for the strength so readily available amidst God's creative nature have helped ease the pain of separation from their only son. These experiences coupled with the constant reassurance of friends, many of whom have been closely related with the Walkers for over 30 years, have been continued sources of comfort.

If anyone should wonder what satisfaction comes from a lifetime invested in Christian higher education, Walker is quick with a reply: "Satisfaction is seeing a former student take his place on the mission field. It is searching for the student who is about to drop out of school, encouraging him to complete his education, and receiving--years later, unexpectedly--a personal 'thank you.'"

An awesome, black and white print entitled "Creation," the work of another former student, hangs over Walker's credenza. It shows the hands of the sculptor putting the last stroke on his masterpiece, the head of a biblical personality. The inscription on the print reads simply, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Undergirded by such firm remembrances in his own youth, Walker has been an effective force in encouraging others to such a remembrance. Daughter Marcia remembers her dad talking with her while she performed kitchen chores as a youth--and work suddenly became enjoyable!

A former student and later associate summed up the feelings of most persons acquainted with Walker by stating simply: "Dr. Walker has been and continues to be an anchor in my life. His calm, gentle manner puts problems in perspective and as a result, discovering answers is a much easier task. Just like any anchor, he has a stabilizing effect on the people around him."

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Juanita M. Wilkinson is a secretary for the SBC Education Commission.
(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

High Court Deals Setback To Southwestern Seminary

By Larry Chesser

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WASHINGTON (BP) -- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary suffered a major legal setback when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a federal appeals court ruling which required it to file certain Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) reports.

The high court's action left in place a ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ordering the Fort Worth, Texas, institution to furnish EEOC with numerical data on the racial, sexual and ethnic makeup of its support staff and other "nonministerial" employees.

The refusal to hear Southwestern's appeal left seminary officials and Baptist legal specialists concerned about the church-state implications of the Fifth Circuit's ruling.

The March 29 Supreme Court action is the latest development in a four-year dispute with EEOC over whether Southwestern or any of the other five Southern Baptist Convention seminaries comes under EEOC reporting requirements. Under agreement with EEOC and the other seminaries, Southwestern is serving as a test case.

Southwestern won the initial court test in January 1980, when U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon of Fort Worth ruled that the seminary was not subject to EEOC jurisdiction. When the federal agency appealed that ruling, the Fifth Circuit overturned portions of Mahon's decision. It held that while the seminary was entitled to the status of "church" and that faculty and teaching-related administrators were exempted from reporting requirements, employment data must be provided on support staff and administrators performing tasks that "are not traditionally ecclesiastical or religious."

After the Fifth Circuit denied Southwestern's request for a rehearing, the seminary petitioned the Supreme Court to review the appeals court's ruling.

"Because the issue is tremendously important to the practice of separation of church and state," Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr., said seminary officials are "keenly disappointed" in the high court's action allowing the Fifth Circuit Court ruling to stand.

"When official notification is received by our attorneys, we will know what courses of action are open to us in the case," he said.

Indicating that the issue is far from settled, Steve M. King, one of the attorneys for Southwestern, said the action "opens the door for continuing litigation." He suggested the likelihood on continued dispute between the seminary and EEOC over which administrative staff positions are traditionally "ecclesiastical or ministerial" as well as the possibility of conflict over any demands by EEOC for information beyond the data called for on the EEO-6 forms. The Fifth Circuit judge referred back to the district court for settlement any dispute between EEOC and Southwestern over the ministerial nature of specific administrative positions.

Warning that EEOC efforts to collect employment data will not stop at seminaries, King said if the government continues on its present course, it "will be taking on First Baptist Church, Dallas." He said EEOC attorneys have indicated they would not hesitate to take on churches with 15 or more employees.

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs general counsel John W. Baker described the Fifth Circuit's decision as "a serious matter for churches," saying that it "appears to alter some of what were considered axioms of church-state separation."

"Apparently now the courts, rather than the church, may define who is a minister and apparently now the First Amendment may not protect a religious organization from ongoing government entanglement in its personnel policies," he said.

Though the high court gave no explanation for refusing to hear Southwestern's appeal, Baker suggested the possibility that it "avoided ruling on the church-state constitutional issue until a future date when Southwestern could demonstrate that it had been adversely affected by EEOC demands."

New Orleans Seminary
Adopts Record Budget

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NEW ORLEANS (BP) -- A record budget of \$5,189,045, was adopted as trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary held their spring meeting.

In other actions, trustees elected board officers, voted to increase student matriculation fees, approved building and renovation plans and promoted two faculty members.

William M. Hamm Jr., president of Berg Mechanical Inc. of Shreveport, La., was elected trustee/president, succeeding Robert S. Magee, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Ruston, La. Also elected were Dudley May, Baton Rouge, vice president; Guy T. Williams, New Orleans, secretary, and Frank W. Gunn, Biloxi, Mississippi, treasurer.

The matriculation fee for each student will be raised from \$200 to \$225 per semester, effective August 1982. The action is similar to that planned or taken by all six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Trustees voted to keep all other student costs, including dormitory and apartment rents, at the 1981-82 level.

In addition, trustees approved the renovation of one-third of the second floor of the new Student Center Building to house the program of the School of Christian Training for the next four years. The partial conversion of the building purchased May 1981, will provide five faculty offices, four classrooms and one conference room.

Facilities previously used by the School of Christian Training will become a counseling center for the division of pastoral ministries.

The board also approved a plan to build three faculty townhouses, each containing three bedrooms and two baths. The multi-unit building will help alleviate shortages of faculty housing.

Two faculty members were given promotions:

Waylon Bailey, assistant professor of Old Testament and Hebrew since 1978 became associate professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

Talmadge Butler, an assistant professor of church music since 1977, was promoted to associate professor of church music, specializing in children's music literature and programming.

Bailey, a native of Alabama, joined the faculty after being pastor of Superior Avenue Baptist Church in Bogalusa, La. He received his bachelor of arts from Samford University and the Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from New Orleans seminary.

Butler, also a native of Alabama, came to the seminary from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., where he was a consultant in the church music department. He is a graduate of Samford University and New Orleans seminary.

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Seminary To Receive
Major Share Of Estate

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) -- A major share of the estate of Mrs. Josephine Carson Newell of Greenville, S.C., will be given to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Newell, who died in January, included the seminary along with other educational and charitable institutions in her will. The executors estimate the seminary's share to be approximately \$500,000, although a final determination will not come for several months. The will calls for the funds to be held in trust, with income to be used at the discretion of the seminary's trustees.

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**Buzzard Hits Mission Plane;
Four Missionaries Land Safely**

RB

BELEM, Brazil (BP) -- A diving buzzard smashed through the windshield of a small plane carrying four Southern Baptist missionaries March 15, but the group landed safely in Belem, Brazil.

Missionary pilot Don Johnson of Missouri was bringing the single-engine plane in for a landing when missionary Loyd Moon spotted the buzzard flying about 20 feet higher than the plane. Suddenly the bird dipped one wing, causing it to plummet into the plane's path.

The buzzard's body knocked out a section of the windshield, part of which struck Johnson on the forehead. The buzzard narrowly missed the passengers and landed in the baggage compartment, scattering blood and glass and ripping out a square-foot section of upholstery.

Despite his injury, Johnson kept control of the plane. Moon held a handkerchief to Johnson's bleeding forehead, while the pilot guided the plane from an altitude of 500 feet to a safe landing in Belem in about five minutes.

The missionaries were flying back to Belem from a weekend preaching trip to several cities on the Amazon River. Others on the plane were: Moon's wife, Mary Hazel; Betty M. Smith, and Beatrix Avila, a Brazilian Baptist. The Moons are from Alabama; Smith is from Texas.

The cut on Johnson's head wasn't serious, and no one else in the plane was hit by the buzzard or flying glass. Moon, however, discovered feathers in his shirt pocket and Avila found two shards of glass in her shoe.

Johnson is a missionary evangelist and director of evangelism for the Baptist Convention in the state of Para. Moon is president of the Equatorial Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Belem. Smith is business manager for Southern Baptist missionaries in Equatorial Brazil.

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**Two Injured As Robbers Repelled
During Break-In at MK Hostel**

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RB

JOS, Nigeria (BP) -- A Southern Baptist missionary and a teenage missionary kid were injured slightly in mid-March as they fought off robbers breaking into the MK hostel in Jos, Nigeria.

Connie Bowers, missionary-dorm parent from Georgia, was cut on the head and 16-year-old John High, son of missionaries Thomas and Kathy High of South and North Carolina, was bruised on the neck in a scuffle with the robbers.

Bowers' wife, Martha, also of Georgia, was awakened during the night by the sound of the robbers trying to break in through a hostel door. When Bowers and the older boys living at the hostel went to investigate, they met the robbers just coming in and scuffled with them. The robbers fled without taking anything.

Fourteen children--mostly Southern Baptist missionary kids--live at the hostel and attend school in Jos.

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