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83-27

New SBC Building
Given Approval

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A \$7.5 million building to house seven entities of the Southern Baptist Convention was approved by the SBC Executive Committee in its February meeting and a plan for financing it will be recommended to messengers to the 1983 SBC in Pittsburgh.

The building, under study for more than two years, will house the Executive Committee, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation and the Seminary External Education Division.

The building, if funded, will be constructed at Ninth and Commerce in downtown Nashville on property, valued at \$500,000, given to the entities by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The new building would be adjacent to the BSSB main building.

Messengers to the 1983 annual meeting will vote on funds to be provided through the 1984-88 capital needs budget for construction. Under the capital needs budget--also approved during the February meeting--\$8 million will be asked for construction and interest costs, primarily in 1984 and 1985, in order to save interest.

Both the five point proposal for the building and the \$31,700,000 four-year capital needs budget were approved without opposition and virtually without discussion by the 68-member committee during the February session.

The budget for the new building calls for \$6 million for construction; \$300,000 in architectural and engineering fees; \$20,000 for consultant fees; \$15,000 for testing and quality control; \$600,000 for furnishing, equipment and moving; \$382,000 for library and archives equipment and \$250,000 for a building contingency fund.

Total estimated construction and occupation cost is \$7,567,000, but interest would push costs to the \$8 million range, according to Rodney Landes, a layman from El Dorado, Ark., who chaired the long-range study committee which proposed the building, budget and method of financing.

Other members are William A. Fortune of Knoxville, Tenn.; Dotson M. Nelson Jr. of Birmingham, Ala.; W. Dewey Presley of Dallas; SBC President James T. Draper Jr. of Euless, Texas; David C. Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., and Executive Committee Chairman John T. Dunaway of Corbin, Ky.

Landes said if the 1983 SBC approves the proposal, construction is expected to begin in October 1983, and take 15 months for completion. A move-in date of Jan. 1, 1985, was projected.

The Executive Committee action authorizes construction of the seven-story building, approves the method of financing and recommends the financial plan to the annual meeting of the convention, okays a revised agreement of title and operation for the seven entities, requests the committee continue its work until after the Pittsburgh meeting, and authorizes SBC Executive Committee Executive Secretary-Treasurer Harold C. Bennett to negotiate interim financing pending receipt of capital needs funds.

All of the action is contingent upon approval of the capital needs budget by the Pittsburgh convention.

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Bennett told Baptist Press the method is the "usual process" all SBC agencies use in major capital needs construction and is "normal procedure" followed by the agencies. He added the request for capital needs funds will be the first time most of the seven entities have ever requested such funds.

"There is no question about the urgent need for meeting space for these agencies of the SBC if we are to get our job done," he added.

The two-year study determined all of the entities which would occupy the building are in need of additional space "to expedite the work...and thereby improve the impact of the Southern Baptist witness and ministry."

It also determined present facilities are inadequate in office space, conference rooms, assembly rooms and parking, and that remodeling of the present facility would cost almost as much as a new building would cost.

"The proposed new building will provide adequate facilities through the turn of the century for the agencies...", the report said.

The seven story facility, if approved, would provide 170,000 square feet of floor space and an additional 59,000 square feet of parking space.

Under plans proposed by the Nashville architectural firm of Earl Swensson Associates, the building would be brick, cast-in-place concrete and glass in dark anodized aluminum frames. The first three floors would provide public facilities for meetings, banquets, receptions and other common uses. The top four floors would be used for office and support space for each entity.

In the capital needs budget the Executive Committee, the five agencies and the six SBC seminaries--which sponsor the external education division--will receive a percentage of the funding requested.

Each seminary will receive \$75,000 in 1984-85, and \$58,333 in 1985-86 for the projects, amounting to \$133,333 per seminary for the two year period, for a total of \$799,998, or 10 percent of the total.

The Southern Baptist Foundation would receive \$180,000 and \$140,000 for a total of \$320,000 (four percent); the Christian Life Commission, \$630,000 and \$490,000 for \$1,120,000, (14 percent); the Education Commission \$225,000 and \$175,000 for \$400,000 (five percent); the Historical Commission \$720,000 and \$560,000 for \$1,280,000 (16 percent), and the Stewardship Commission \$495,000 and \$385,000 for \$880,000 (11 percent).

The Executive Committee would receive \$1,800,000 and \$1,400,000 for a total of \$3,200,000 or 40 percent of the funding for the building.

Although the action did not mention the current building at 460 James Robertson Parkway, a "Document of Title" approved by the Executive Committee specified the facility would be "sold at a price and according to terms determined by the Executive Committee. Value is estimated at between \$1.5 million and \$3 million.

Proceeds from the sale would be used to pay the costs of moving, providing furnishings, making interest payments and retirement of any indebtedness on the new building, its furnishings and equipment. The Executive Committee also approved a "Document of Operation" which specifies that the Executive Committee will be the managing agent, but specifies each entity will be responsible for its own space.

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Tennessee State Convention
Files Lawsuit Against IRS

By Al Shackelford

Baptist Press
2/22/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention have filed suit in federal court contesting penalties levied by Internal Revenue Service against TBCH for its refusal to file Informational Form 990.

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The suit which was filed Feb. 16 in United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Cookeville Division, will seek to recover \$17,675.12 paid by Children's Homes in penalties and interest in what was termed "unlawful assessments."

The TBCH and the TBC Executive Board contend that the Children's Homes are not required under Internal Revenue Act of 1976 to file Informational Form 990 and to file such forms would "result in an excessive entanglement of government in the function of the church which is violative of the United States Constitution, including the Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment."

The IRS Act of 1976 was interpreted by IRS regulations to mean that certain religious organizations, such as Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, were not "integrated auxiliaries" of churches and conventions of churches and therefore are subject to government inquiries and possible taxation.

On Dec. 6, 1977, the TBCH trustees voted not to file Informational Form 990 with IRS, primarily on Constitutional grounds, and that to do so would be "excessive entanglement" of government into the affairs of a religious organization.

On April 9, 1981, TBCH was informed that it would be assessed penalties and interest for its refusal to file Form 990.

One month later, on May 5, 1981, the TBC Executive Board voted to "reiterate its position on the separation of church and state by taking such actions as is necessary, including retaining legal counsel, to support the refusal of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes to file Form 990.

TBCH has paid to IRS penalties and interest of \$17,675.12 assessed for TBCH's refusal to file Form 990 for the years of 1977, 1978 and 1979.

Frank Ingraham, TBCH attorney, said that IRS has 20 days to respond to the suit, although he expects IRS to ask for an extension of time. The suit will be tried in Cookeville before a jury.

In addition to seeking return of penalties and interest, TBCH in the suit is also asking that it be declared exempt from filing Informational Form 990; that Treasury Regulations Section 1.6033-2 which deals with "integrated auxiliary" be declared unconstitutional and/or invalid; and that TBCH be reimbursed for all costs involved in this prosecution, including attorney's fees.

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SBC Resolutions Process
Due Overhaul In Pittsburgh

By Craig Bird

Baptist Press
2/22/83

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Citing the need to "defuse a volatile situation" and avoid "needless controversy," Southern Baptist Convention President James T. Draper Jr. outlined a new resolutions procedure for the 1983 SBC meeting in Pittsburgh.

The changes were included in Draper's address to the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee which also included a report on how he and the convention's two vice presidents had made committee appointments and a challenge for Southern Baptists to "agree Jesus is Lord" whatever the theological differences might be.

Draper is asking that resolutions be sent to Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville, for use by the 1983 Resolutions Committee chaired by Tal Bonham, executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

The resolutions committee will meet in Nashville May 10-11 and again June 11-12 in Pittsburgh just prior to the SBC meeting to discuss resolutions and make research assignments.

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Draper also has asked that each SBC agency or institution head and "other interested individuals in leadership positions in the convention" be allowed to meet with the committee before the convention begins.

"Many times resolutions committees have had to pool their ignorance" because complex resolutions had to be dealt with before "there was adequate time to think them out and pray them through," Draper said.

At the Pittsburgh Civic Arena, messengers formally will present their resolutions to a special resolutions desk where they will be assembled for the convention's recording secretary who will make sure they are in proper order. The subject and author of suggested resolutions will be announced by the convention's recording secretary and not read by the author of the resolution as has been the case in earlier SBC meetings.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas, said he already had traveled 94,000 miles; visited 20 states, three foreign countries and one territory; and preached 194 times in the eight months he has been SBC president. By Pittsburgh he will have traveled 130,000 miles in his elected role as a representative of 13.9 million Southern Baptists, "plus I've gained 15 pounds and become a grandfather--I'm thinking seriously about retirement!"

In the midst of the travel schedule, Draper said he and SBC first vice president John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., and the second vice president, Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., had spent six weeks of intensive effort putting together the Committee on Resolutions, the Committee on Committees and the Tellers Committee.

"John Sullivan made four trips to Dallas-Fort Worth and Gene Garrison made three," Draper said. "We had conference calls and probably made between 300 and 500 calls and afterwards I had my secretary spend a week calling churches to verify Cooperative Program (the SBC unified giving program) receipts from the churches the nominees are from.

"We have named people who are firm in their convictions and thoroughly committed by their actions to the cooperative method of doing ministries through the Cooperative Program.

Draper said he was surprised that the announcements of the appointments more than four months before the SBC meeting, "had been met with overwhelming silence" since there had been "such a clamor for them to be released early." But, "speaking for Jimmy Draper and John Sullivan and Gene Garrison, I can tell you we are 'pleased with what we did' and we don't mind you researching any of the appointments--I guarantee you won't find any surprises."

Draper's closing statements were a challenge to Baptists to "never be so busy with our own programs, however good they might be, that we don't hear the cry of people in churches like yours and mine who are hurting.

"Whatever your theology might be--whether you and I ever agree on something, it doesn't matter to me--just touch people's lives, care about them and tell them that Jesus loves them.

"God doesn't want you to go everywhere--but he does want you to go somewhere. God doesn't want you to witness to everybody--but he does want you to witness to somebody. God doesn't want you to love the whole world in general--but he does want you to love somebody in particular." The standing room only crowd of 300 gave Draper a standing ovation.

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Union University Gets
\$344,000 Eppinger Estate

Baptist Press
2/22/83

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)--A \$344,000 estate from a man who died 26 years ago has been received by Union University, a school affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

John Eppinger died in 1957 but his estate was not settled until his last remaining heir died last summer. The principal will be invested in the university's permanent endowment fund and the earned interest will underwrite student scholarships.

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Pastor Finds
Second Ministry

By Tim Nicholas

MERIDIAN, Miss. (BP)--Leon Adams believes every church pastor should have his own ministry, even apart from his church ministry.

Adams, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss., has found such a ministry as part-time chaplain for the Meridian Police Department. When on duty, Adams wears a police uniform, but doesn't carry a gun--though one officer encouraged him to carry a night stick while riding in patrol cars.

Last year, Adams met the new police chief, Jerry Marlow, at a barber shop and suggested a chaplain's program. Marlow was interested.

"Even when I was a patrolman," said Marlow, who worked his way up through the ranks, "I thought we ought to have one (a chaplain)...someone we could go to other than our fellow officers." Marlow said an officer might go to a chaplain before going to a pastor.

Adams estimates the job takes about 32 hours a month. He works without pay and rides with the officers as often as possible. "That's the way to get to know them," said Adams. "It often provides a setting for ministry--some wouldn't come to my office, (however) if I came to their office..."

He gets called when there is a serious accident or when there's a death. After a death notification, an officer asked Adams how he felt about death, offering the pastor a chance to explain his concept of God and God's provisions.

Marlow believes Adams' chaplaincy helps show the community, "We're a God-fearing bunch --we're not so cold-hearted after all." When a police officer or family member is in the hospital and Adams makes a visit, he more or less represents the police department and people begin to feel, "by golly, they do care."

Adams worked with the Gideons to place a New Testament in every officer's hands (there are 93 officers and about 50 other employees) and a Bible in each office. None refused the scriptures, said Marlow, and if any officer threw it away, it was at least done privately.

Marlow sums up the kind of ministry Adams provides--one of opportunity. "I want the officers to have someone they can talk to instead of some bottle," he explained.

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Philippine Pastor
Glad He Was Late

COTABATO CITY, Philippines (BP)--"Sometimes it pays to be late," says Philippine pastor Romeo Palma, with a slight smile.

The pastor of Cotabato City (Philippines) Baptist Church escaped death or serious injury by missing a pre-dawn bus heading for Davao City where he was attending a convention strategy meeting. The early bus was ambushed less than 10 miles outside Cotabato City near a Philippine army installation. Thirteen people on the bus were injured, three seriously.

The tardy Palma said his bus arrived at the scene of the attack shortly after the incident and stopped to assist with the injured. Palma said he could not confirm what group had attacked the bus. According to published reports from the area, this type of action is not uncommon among various factions.

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