



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

### NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 244-2355  
Wilmer C. Fields, Director  
Dan Martin, News Editor  
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

### BUREAUS

**ATLANTA** Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041  
**DALLAS** Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996  
**NASHVILLE** (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300  
**RICHMOND** (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151  
**WASHINGTON** Stan L. Hasty, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

February 25, 1983

83-30

### CLC Participants Told To Accept Responsibility For Peacemaking

By Terry Barone

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--Christians must accept their responsibility as peacemakers in a world where nuclear holocaust is a constant threat, participants at the annual workshop of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission were told.

Under the theme, "Blessed are the Peacemakers: Christian Responsibility in a Nuclear Age," workshop leaders outlined key issues facing the American public concerning nuclear war, such as spiritual and ethical values, economic impact, military buildup and the psychological effects of a nuclear holocaust.

Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the Center for Defense Information in Washington, D.C., said other factors besides military size should be taken into account when talking about nuclear war, arms and the national defense.

"Citizens must come first in national defense," he said. "If a nation's defense policy leads to less security rather than greater security, it is not a good policy."

Carroll, a 37-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, called for an effective, mutual, verifiable nuclear arms reduction. "A freeze is not a panacea--it is difficult to negotiate but it can be done," he said, adding, "An adequate defense is an illusion in a world with 50,000 nuclear warheads. We must find a way to reduce those weapons in an orderly way and the drive must come from the United States citizens."

Kermit D. Johnson, who retired from the Army as a major general and chief of chaplains, criticized government bureaucrats for being "cold and rational, speaking only in strategic, technical language, such as vulnerability and deterrence rather than the blood language of death and disaster," when discussing nuclear weapons.

He emphasized the great need to clarify the moral issues involved in the use of nuclear weapons. "Anytime you talk about killing human beings, you have entered the realm of morality. Any attempt to make nuclear war a remote, unemotional issue should be regarded as highly dangerous," he said.

Johnson added he does not believe there is any area of life exempt from the redeeming activity of God "including our natural security. Now is the time for Christians to lead our leaders to provide our nation with a vision of life and hope."

Just as World War I paved the way for the rise of totalitarianism, World War II established a permanent armaments industry for the first time, said Bill Lawson, pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston.

Lawson detailed America's enormous arms expenditures, by explaining that if a person had spent \$1,500 per minute since Christ's birth, he would still not have spent the \$1.6 trillion designated for arms by 1986.

Sharing Lawson's idea was Jeff Dumas, professor of political economy at the University of Texas at Dallas, who said the economic instability and high unemployment of the 1980s is due to three and a half decades of accelerated military spending.

Because of the continued weapons buildup, Dumas said, military-oriented industry has diverted between 30 and 50 percent of the technological force which, before 1950, was used for technological advances in civil industry.

-more-

"What we have done," he said, "is undermine the strength and competitive ability of American companies to produce efficiently."

Dumas called for a restructuring of American industry in order to rebuild the eroding economy. "If we are to reindustrialize America, we must get this military burden off the back of the American public," he said, adding that if the burden is not removed, the late 1980s will make the late 1970s "look like the 'good times'."

Dumas said while military spending is necessary for the nation's defense, such spending, because of its economic effects, should never be excessive.

He said the arms race and the financial expenditures are "taking food out of the mouths of the hungry, denying health care to those who need it and destroying the American dream. This is killing our bodies and spirits without firing a single shot."

Robert Jay Lifton, professor of psychiatry at Yale Medical School, said if "we are to be peacemakers, we must make equal use of the heart and mind. Each operates poorly without the other."

He added there is a rebellion of the human mind against what he termed the "numbing anesthesia" that the world has had to live in for the past 37 years.

"It is absurd that the two superpowers (the United States and Russia) stand poised to destroy each other and ask that we go about our business as usual as if the threat didn't exist," he said.

Lifton speculated survivors of a modern-day nuclear war would be more dead than alive. "The individual trauma may be so great that people will lose the ability to do the simple tasks of finding food or burying the dead," he added.

He urged workshop participants "not to continue to believe the illusion that we can recover from a nuclear war."

Lifton said Americans need to move beyond being a sympathetic spectator to begin seeking to connect our everyday work with the anti-nuclear position. "We brought the weapons into the world through our imagination and we can use our imagination to take them out."

Baker James Cauthen, former executive director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said: "If any generation should be made to sit in sackcloth and ashes it is this one because we have done so poorly by God and humanity."

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Glen Stassen said the U.S. and the Soviet Union are "slaves of the weapons process" and compared them to alcoholics who say they will take "just one more drink."

"For us (Americans) and for them (Soviets) to continue building nuclear arms is pari-mutual gambling with the lives of children we love, and both must stop before we get into a first-strike nuclear game," he said.

Bob Adams, professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Christian attitudes toward war historically have followed three paths.

The earliest Christians adopted a policy of non-participation in armed conflict although this did not mean they had no strong convictions. Others have endorsed the "holy war" concept, which understands God as commanding some wars and fighting as a form of obedience.

The third concept, the "just war", justifies Christian participation in wars that accomplish good ends according to "just" means, Adams said.

Because nuclear weapons now give man the power of total destruction, he said, a just war may no longer be possible, since the innocent cannot be protected.

Dunn Says Parochial Leads  
To Pauper Public Schools

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)--Warning that "any enactment of tuition tax credit legislation would be a giant step toward guaranteeing a dual system of private schools and pauper schools," a Baptist church-state specialist urged a House budget panel to reject President Reagan's plan to give federal tax credits to parents who send their children to private elementary and secondary schools.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told the Budget Committee Task Force on Education and Employment that tuition tax credits would be destructive of public schools by placing a "bounty on the head of school children to withdraw from the public schools."

The task force, chaired by Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., is looking into Reagan's 1984 education budget requests which, in addition to his plan for tuition tax credits, asks Congress to make further slashes in spending for public education.

Dunn, who because of denominational polity disclaimed speaking for all Baptists, nonetheless cited recent resolutions passed by two member bodies of the Baptist Joint Committee, the Southern Baptist Convention and American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.

The 1982 SBC resolution passed in New Orleans warned that tuition tax credit legislation "carries the potential of financing private education at the expense of public education." It further stated opposition to tuition tax credits because of their threat to church-state separation and called on Reagan to "reconsider his support" for the measure.

Labeling tuition tax credits "unconstitutional" because most of the nation's private schools are church-affiliated, Dunn charged: "No one can escape the conclusion that public funds benefit the sponsoring church. The net result is that the taxpayer is forced to subsidize religion."

The chief executive of the Washington, D.C.-based agency further warned that government regulation of private and parochial schools would inevitably follow enactment of tuition tax credits.

"One great strength of private and parochial education is found in the freedom from government intervention," he said. "It would be sad to see that freedom swapped for a mess of tax credit pottage."

Six representatives of public education groups joined Dunn in opposition to both tuition tax credits and further education budget cuts.

Linda Tarr-Whelan, director of government relations for the National Education Association, said education cuts were "short-sighted" and "counter-productive for a nation which is concerned with economic growth, productivity and recapturing a position of strength in a high-tech world."

Tarr-Whelan described the tax credit proposal as "unsound educationally because it would create a 'caste system' in which public schools would become the dumping ground for the disadvantaged."

Another education community representative, Gregory A. Humphrey, legislative director of the American Federation of Teachers, charged that tuition tax credits "are another element in the Reagan war against public education."

Other education groups appearing before the panel included the American Association of School Administrators, Council of Chief School Officers, Council of Great City Schools and National School Boards Association.

According to White House statements, the tuition tax credit proposal pending in Congress is essentially the same version approved by the Senate Finance Committee in the 97th Congress but was never considered by the full Senate.

It would allow parents of private school children a tax credit of 50 percent of tuition paid per student in 1983, up to a maximum of \$100. That ceiling would increase to \$200 in 1984 and \$300 in 1985. The full credit would be available only to families with adjusted gross incomes of up to \$40,000, with partial credits available for parents with incomes up to \$60,000. It contains no refundability provision for parents whose tax bills are less than the tax credit due.

No hearings are yet scheduled in either the House Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee, the two congressional panels with jurisdiction over tax law changes.

Beyond traditional opposition to tuition tax credits which surfaced in previous congressional consideration, ranging from questions of constitutionality to concerns over budget impact, committee action on the proposal in the 98th Congress also may be delayed by a Minnesota tuition tax deduction case pending before the Supreme Court, according to a Gephardt aide.

-30-

(BP) photo to be mailed to state Baptist papers by Washington bureau of Baptist Press

Three WMU Staffers  
Become Associate Execs

Baptist Press  
2/25/83

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)--Three women have been named to top management posts in a staff reorganization of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. Catherine B. Allen, Bobbie Sorrill and June Whitlow, all currently on the WMU national staff, will become associate executive directors.

Allen will supervise the Mission Services System which includes product procurement and delivery, personnel, internal operations and financial operations.

Sorrill will be in charge of the Missions Education System. It includes curriculum planning, publications, program interpretation and WMU language work.

Whitlow will supervise the Office of Missions Coordination which includes coordination with other SBC agencies and state WMUs, as well as public relations and the WMU library services.

The new associate directors are now leading in an analysis of the work groups they supervise.

In announcing the first major reorganization since she became WMU executive director in 1974, Carolyn Weatherford said its purpose is to increase the efficiency of the work and to balance the work load. She said the reorganization will be completed by April.

Weatherford also announced the national Executive Board has approved nine new staff positions. These include the hiring of a computer expert who will institute a Management Information Service; a specialist in mail and distribution and a video specialist. A purchasing office will also be added.

Language WMU work, while still highlighted in the organization, will be integrated in all operations. Publications and promotion will be enlarged.

Enlargement of staff, changes in technology, and reorganization all relate to WMU's building of a larger electronics-efficient building now under construction.

-30-

Rogers Wants No Resolution  
Endangering Mission Work

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press  
2/25/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Former Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers says the SBC should not pass any resolution on Israel that would hurt missionary endeavors.

-more-

In Washington for a meeting involving evangelicals and Orthodox Jewish rabbis at the Israeli embassy, Rogers told Baptist Press any resolution considered by messengers to an annual meeting of the convention would have to be "so wisely written" so as not to pose a threat to SBC missionaries in Arab countries.

He also declared such a resolution ought not deal with "narrow eschatological interpretations." Eschatology is the study of the end of time.

"We love all people," the Memphis, Tenn. pastor said, "Jewish people and Arabic people."

Rogers, who was SBC president in 1979-80, said he is not part of a move to have this June's Pittsburgh convention reconsider a resolution of support for Israel. A recent announcement by last year's resolutions committee chairman Norris W. Sydnor Jr. that he intends to reintroduce the explosive statement has provoked strong negative reactions from denominational leaders, including a warning from Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks.

The statement, tabled by messengers at last year's meeting in New Orleans, urged that the U.S. government "publicly and privately assure Israel and her enemies of such support." Parks has warned that such a resolution would jeopardize Southern Baptist missionary efforts in the Middle East and in other areas of the world where Moslem influence is strong.

Although Rogers said he has had nothing to do with the move to have the statement reconsidered, he told reporters at a news conference after the embassy meeting he "loves the nation Israel because I am a Christian" and because "I believe the Bible."

He made plain that he attended the meeting as an individual, saying he was not in Washington "representing all Southern Baptists." He also said evangelical Christians participating did not "negate" their convictions, a point underscored also by representatives of the Rabbinical Council of America.

The two-hour embassy meeting is considered important in part because it marked the first time the council, representing the largest group of rabbis in the world, had been involved in a meeting with evangelical, fundamentalist Christians.

Approximately 30 persons participated, divided roughly between Orthodox rabbis and evangelical leaders. They were selected by Rabbi Abner Weiss, chairman of the Israel commission of the rabbinical council, and Edward E. McAteer, a Southern Baptist layman and head of the New Right organization, The Roundtable.

In addition to McAteer, who is a member of Bellevue Baptist Church, of which Rogers is pastor, Southern Baptist participants included Sydnor, of Oxon Hill, Md., James Hayes, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., and Russell Kaemmerling of Dallas, editor of the conservative Southern Baptist Advocate.

Kaemmerling told Baptist Press the meeting "was convened to discuss areas of common interest as related to Israel," and listed those areas of "mutual concern" as "Israel's right to the land, the situation with bad press and Beirut."

He said there was no discussion of getting organized evangelical groups to pass resolutions supporting Israel, but said there might be "an agenda...a plan of action somewhere down the line."