



**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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**Dunn Lashes Helms' Plan  
To Push 'Court Stripping'**

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Baptist church-state specialist has responded sharply to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms' announced intention to propose a court-stripping amendment on school prayer to bankruptcy legislation the Senate is expected to take up April 26.

Helms' proposal to remove Supreme Court and lower federal court jurisdiction from cases involving school prayer, Bible reading and religious meetings in public schools is one of several amendments the North Carolina Republican announced April 20 he plans to propose to the Bankruptcy Reform Act.

During the last Congress, Helms' court-stripping proposal was hotly debated on the Senate floor but the measure died after several unsuccessful attempts to cut off debate.

"Once again Sen. Helms is engaging in desperation politics at great cost to the American taxpayer," declared James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "He was soundly rebuffed last fall using the same tactics in attempts to force his court-stripping concepts on unrelated legislation. He subverted the Senate process for a month and played obstructionist to no avail.

"What does prayer in schools have to do with bankruptcy law?" Dunn asked. "This approach defies common logic, flies in the face of fairness, violates proper political protocol and reveals a lack of respect for his Senate colleagues."

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Southern Seminary Trustee Board  
Acts on Personnel; Adopts Budget

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted a record operating budget and took actions affecting 17 faculty members in their annual meeting.

William B. Rogers Jr. was elected professor of history and philosophy of education, with tenure, effective Aug. 1. They also granted him a half-sabbatical from Aug. 1 through Dec. 31.

Rogers has held a similar position at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since 1974, and he has been chairman of the seminary's academic division since 1977.

Trustees also recorded the presidential appointments of Donoso Escobar as assistant professor of social work and Paul A. Richardson as assistant professor of church music. Both appointments are for three-year terms, beginning Aug. 1.

Escobar, a native of Nicaragua, has been director of immigration and refugee service for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board since 1982. Richardson has directed admissions and student records at Southern since 1982 and adjunct professor of church music since 1979.

The board named John N. Jonsson as the W.O. Carver professor of missions and world religions, effective Aug. 1. Jonsson joined the faculty in 1982 after a teaching career in South Africa, where he was born to Scandinavian Baptist missionaries who worked among the Zulu-speaking people.

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Four faculty members were granted tenure during the board meeting. They are Daniel Aleshire, associate professor of psychology and denominational ministries; Timothy George, assistant professor of church history and historical theology; Kathryn Chapman, assistant professor of religious education, and Robin Rogers, assistant professor of church social work.

Trustees also promoted six faculty members.

New full professors are James L. Blevins, New Testament interpretation; Raymond H. Bailey, communications; G. Douglas Smith, church music, and Glen H. Stassen, Christian ethics. New associate professors are David E. Garland, New Testament interpretation, and Ronald A. Turner, church music.

Extended teaching contracts were approved for Judith Bair, assistant professor of church social work, to July 31, 1986, and for Robert Hughes, assistant professor of mass media, to July 31, 1984.

In addition, the trustees adopted a record \$10.6 million operating budget for the fiscal year beginning Aug. 1. The budget includes a 10 percent increase in the faculty-staff salary scale and an eight percent increase in the clerical-secretarial-manual salary scale.

The board also adopted a fund raising goal of \$4.5 million to be secured by trustees during the next three years. This will be part of the seminary's current \$50 million capital and endowment effort.

The adopted capital budget of \$300,000 includes building and renovation projects and purchase of equipment. Rental charges for student housing were increased by approximately five percent.

James L. Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., was elected board chairman. First vice chairman will be Ben R. Murphy, vice president of Tyler Corp. in Dallas, Texas, who also will be chairman of the trustee executive committee.

Other new officers are David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist church, Jackson, Miss., second vice chairman, and Fred Pfannenschmidt, Louisville real estate agent, secretary.

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Cooper To Retire  
As Florida Editor

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)--Edgar R. Cooper, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness since 1971, has announced he will retire effective Dec. 31, 1983.

In a signed article in the April 21, issue, Cooper said: "Some people don't like to think about retirement. But if you live long enough the subject of retirement has to be dealt with one way or another. This has happened to me and my decision is to retire from the editorship ...Dec. 31, 1983."

Cooper, who will be 65 Nov. 15, assumed the editorship from the pastorate of North Jacksonville Baptist Church, where he had served since 1968. Previously, he was pastor of North Park Baptist Church in Orlando from 1959 to 1968, and Mayfair Baptist Church of Jacksonville from 1948 to 1959.

During his editorship, the circulation of the newsjournal of the Florida Baptist Convention has grown from 67,000 to 92,000.

He is a native of Ojus, Fla., and grew up in Ft. Pierce. Following graduation from high school, he worked for two years with his father in the produce business and then as chief billing clerk for a steamship line. In 1939, he entered Stetson University, graduating in 1943 with a BA degree. He also is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, earning the B.D. in 1946, the Th.M. in 1947 and the Ph.D. in 1949.

Cooper was president of the Florida Baptist Convention 1966-67, and has been active in association and state convention posts.

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In the article in the April 21 issue, Cooper said the Witness Commission, elected by the FBC, has the responsibility for selecting a successor. The five member commission is chaired by Carroll U. Kendrick Jr.

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Senate Panel Examines  
Child Abuse Programs

By Gerri Ratliff

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources has concluded hearings on reauthorizing federal child abuse programs and examining the treatment of handicapped infants, the causes and prevention of child abuse and adoption.

Senators Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, and Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., have introduced S. 1003, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act Amendments of 1983, to extend funding of the act through September 30, 1986.

Congress first enacted the child abuse act in 1974 and extended it in 1978 and 1981. Current legislation runs through Sept. 30, 1983.

The first hearing centered around the "Baby Doe" case, an infant in Bloomington, Ind., born with multiple problems including Down's syndrome. The parents, doctors and the state's highest court requested that food and treatment be withheld from the baby, even though many people offered to adopt the child. "Baby Doe" died during the appeals process.

Betty Lou Dotson, director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), reviewed a new regulation requiring hospitals to post a notice that the failure to nourish handicapped infants is against the law. The notice contains the phone number of a hotline set up to receive reports of violations.

On April 14, U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell voided the regulation, concluding the rule would not produce higher quality care of infants.

George Little, of the American Academy of Pediatrics, testified the new regulation is poorly defined, promotes a distrust of hospitals and has not led to any direct evidence of discrimination against handicapped infants.

Speaking for the administration, C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, testified that the withholding of treatment should not be a medical option. David McLone, pediatric neurosurgeon, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, said denying food and water to such children is rare. "What is more common is withholding needed operations."

In the second hearing, Arnold E. Sherman, executive director of Camp Fire, Inc., a national youth agency, said factors such as low self-esteem, financial problems, unemployment and role confusion can trigger child abuse. "With more than 30 million Americans living below the poverty level, the highest number in 16 years, there is every expectation that even more children will become the victims of abuse."

More than 1,100,000 children are victims of abuse and neglect each year, testified Clarence E. Hodges, HHS commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families.

Witnesses stressed prevention of abuse, recommending agencies look at high-risk families before abuse occurs and increase the quality of care available to abused children.

The final hearing looked at legal, jurisdictional and societal barriers that prevent permanent adoptive placement of children. Barriers cited by witnesses included unnecessary delays in the adoption processes of state-administered systems, a rejection of nontraditional families and lack of recruitment of minority families.

About 97 percent of public spending on children in substitute homes goes to foster care, while only 3 percent assists adoption services.

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Witnesses recommended using adoptive family groups, corporations, small businesses and the media to promote adoption and endorsed the concept of a national adoption exchange to match approved families with waiting children.

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Taiwanese Baptists Get  
Bold Mission Scholarship

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LIBERTY, Mo. (BP)--William Jewell College has established a program of "Bold Mission Scholarships" for Taiwanese Baptists.

The full-tuition scholarship has a value of more than \$15,000 over a four-year degree program. It is available to nationals who are members of Taiwanese Baptist churches and who meet William Jewell admissions standards, including the ability to do academic work in English.

The scholarship program, according to President Gordon Kingsley, is an effort to conserve, extend and expand the work done by Missouri Baptists over a three-year Bold Mission Taiwan project. "Baptists have always depended on education to solidify and advance the gains of evangelism," said Kingsley. "We want to educate leaders who will return to their churches and communities in Taiwan and carry forward the witness of the Gospel."

In 1981 Jewell sent Kingsley and five other representatives of the college to preach, lead conference sessions, teach Bible and conduct youth camps in Taiwan.

The college also took the lead in forming a prayer chain to provide support for Missouri Baptists ministering in Taiwan. Two students will be working on the island in two months as summer missionaries.

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Degree Programs In Night School  
Offered At New Orleans Seminary

By Nancy McGough

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NEW ORLEANS (BP)--For the first time, a student can earn a degree by attending night school at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Master of Divinity, Master of Religious Education or Associate of Divinity degree can be earned in the same amount of time that it would take a student attending day classes to earn the same degree, said Joe Cothen, vice president for academic affairs. In addition, no day classes are necessary to complete requirements.

The program has been in effect for ten weeks, and the response has been "excellent," Cothen added. One hundred-thirty-two students enrolled in the first eight-week term and 178 enrolled for the second term.

"It has become apparent students are experiencing more and more difficulty in being able to make a living by working nights and part-time during the day. And it was virtually impossible for student wives who had to work to get any seminary training," Cothen observed, adding, these were two reasons for initiating evening classes.

According to Cothen the program calls for the participation of the entire faculty with each member scheduled to teach at least one evening course per year. At a recent annual board of trustees meeting an 18 percent base salary increase was granted to the entire faculty to compensate for the extra teaching load.

At that trustee meeting approval was granted for students to audit seminary courses and a special "short form" registration procedure was adopted. This will make it easier for layworkers to enroll in classes.

Expanding the academic study programs of New Orleans Seminary is nothing new, according to President Landrum P. Leavell. "It has always been our philosophy to make seminary education accessible to as many people as possible," Leavell said.

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The seminary currently has satellite programs in Shreveport and Pineville, La., Birmingham and Mobile, Ala., Tupelo, Miss., Miami, Marietta, Ga., and Puerto Rico.

Eight courses were taught during the first eight week term and ten are being taught during the second term of the "second track" program. The courses range from undergraduate level courses on religion in society in English and Spanish, to Masters level courses on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit or contemporary approaches to religious education.

Plans for a full night program have been in the process for over a year, Leavell said. A survey was made among laypersons and pastors in the community and among students. The faculty gave full cooperation and have been "enthusiastic," according to Leavell.

Many students also have been enthusiastic.

"I feel the Lord did this just for me," said John White, an engineer with the Martin-Marietta Corporation in the city. He is involved in making the external tank for the space shuttle.

"I took one course last fall, but at that rate it would take me twenty years to earn my degree," he laughed. He added, "I can't get off in the daytime and I need to support my family, but I also feel that I need to go to school."

When White leaves his job, he comes straight to his two 5 p.m. classes, one of which meets on Mondays and Thursdays, and the other on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Mondays and Thursdays he takes an additional course and is finished at 8:50. On Tuesday and Friday he is through at 6:50.

"Be prepared to do a lot of reading," he advises anyone who is interested in the program; and acknowledges, "Dividing time between family, work and school is tight." However, he emphasizes it can be done, and it is worth the extra effort.

Mary Beth Donaldson also is juggling three courses and a full-time job. Her husband is a student, and they take one evening course together. On some evenings she brings their dinner and they eat in the snack room near the class rooms.

She is a speech therapist at the Association of Retarded Citizens in the city and is working toward the Master of Religious Education degree.

"While I'm on campus I want to get a degree because I believe it will make me a better pastor's wife," she said, adding, "Every student wife should take at least one course so she can see what it is like for her husband. If she does, she will be more understanding of him."

Bill Stevenson is a student who is attending night classes while looking for a daytime job. He commutes 50 miles four evenings a week from his home in Picayune, Miss. Last summer he made the decision to come to seminary. Not long afterwards, he received notice from the insurance company for whom he had worked for 15 years he would have to transfer from New Orleans or leave the company. He decided to leave.

"If you don't want an answer to prayer, you'd better not pray," he said. "Sometimes we hesitate to 'turn loose' where there's pride involved. There's a fear. But where there's a will and the call, there's a way."

Stevenson took day courses in the fall and changed to night classes in order to be able to work days, when there are more jobs available.

"I like the atmosphere of the night classes. They're more relaxed. This new schedule has certainly enlarged the opportunities for a lot of us," he said.

"It is adaptive to the times."