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March 10, 1957

Hospital Association
Seeks To Change Act

CHICAGO--(BP)--Southern Baptist hospital administrators agreed here recently to press for changes in the present Hill-Burton Act under which the federal government makes grants for hospital construction.

The Southwide Baptist Hospital Association decided to seek changes in the act so that denominational hospitals can no longer receive outright grants. The law, as now worded, includes both public and denominational hospitals as eligible for construction grants.

At the same time, the association will seek action by Congress to provide that federal money may be loaned to denominational hospitals for improvements. The Hill-Burton Act has no such provision at present.

The Baptist hospital administrators will ask that loans be made at a "fair rate of interest plus administrative costs."

C. Emanuel Carlson, director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, told the association that since the passage of Hill-Burton, \$112 million has been granted to Roman Catholic hospitals. During the same period, only \$20 million has been granted to hospitals operated by other religious faiths.

Baptists have declined the money on the grounds that government grants violate the principle of separation of church and state.

Carlson said that "denominational hospitals which refuse government subsidy will become symbols of principle and thereby mean more than denominational hospitals which accept government money for capital improvements."

The hospital administrators said they believed chances for amending the law to make loans available to denominational hospitals appeared good during the present session of Congress.

The association installed Edwin B. Peel, administrator, Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, as its new president. It chose Boone Powell, administrator, Baylor University Hospital, Dallas, as president-elect. Emmett R. Johnson, administrator, Western Baptist Hospital, Paducah, Ky., was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Frank Tripp, New Orleans, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Hospital Board, also serves as executive secretary of the association. The 1958 annual meeting

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will also be held in Chicago, probably the last week in February.

The action of the hospital administrators on the Hill-Burton Act followed within a few weeks a statement by the Southern Baptist Hospital Board that acceptance of government grants by hospitals controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention "is out of the question."

The Southern Baptist Convention operates two hospitals -- at New Orleans and Jacksonville. There are 34 other Southern Baptist hospitals owned and controlled by the state Baptist conventions co-operating with the SBC.

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Baptist Evangelists
Plan Jubilee Advance

WASHINGTON, D. C.--(BP)--Evangelism leaders of four United States Baptist conventions met here recently to discuss plans for cooperating in soul-winning during the Baptist Jubilee Advance, 1959-64.

It is believed to be the first time in history that evangelism leaders of the various Baptist groups have assembled to discuss cooperation in a mass effort to win America to Christ.

Present were Leonard Sanderson, secretary of evangelism, Southern Baptist Convention, who served as discussion chairman; Jitsuo Morikawa, director of evangelism, American Baptist Convention; Richard Schilke, general mission secretary, North American Baptist General Mission Society, and William Turnwall, secretary of home missions, Baptist General Conference of America.

They will report their findings to a session of the Baptist Jubilee Advance steering committee in St. Louis Apr. 9.

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Hospital Asso. Chooses
Two Baptist Officers

CHICAGO--(BP)--Two Southern Baptist hospital administrators have been elected to offices in the American Protestant Hospital Association.

Edwin B. Peel, of Georgia Baptist Hospital, Atlanta, has been elected first vice-president, and C. E. Copeland, of Missouri Baptist Hospital, St. Louis, treasurer.

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Fellowships Available
For Alcoholism Study

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Fellowships are available for three Southern Baptists who want to attend a two-week Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism. Institutes will be held this summer.

W. A. Scharffenberg, executive secretary, National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism, said one fellowship is available to a Southern Baptist minister, one to a social welfare worker, and a third to a Southern Baptist educator.

One institute will be held at Loma Linda, Calif., near Los Angeles, July 8-19 for residents west of the Mississippi River. The other institute at American University, Washington, will be held July 22-Aug. 2 for residents east of the Mississippi River, he said.

The fellowship grant includes round-trip coach fare from the student's home as well as his tuition. Applications should be secured from National Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism, 6840 Eastern Ave. N. W., Washington 12.

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Smith Changes Posts At
Calif. Baptist College

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--P. Boyd Smith has resigned as president of California Baptist College, Riverside, effective June 1 but will remain with the college as a teacher.

Smith will be given the chair of evangelism at the college, supported by the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. He has been its president since 1950. The college enrolled 352 students last year.

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Lester Chosen To Head
Ga. Public Relations

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention has announced the appointment of a New Orleans minister-newspaperman as its first public relations officer.

He is James A. Lester, state news editor for the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Lester, an ordained Baptist minister, has worked for the Times-Picayune while getting B.D. and Th.M. degrees at New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

He has been on the newspaper's staff six years. Lester is a native Georgian.

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Hawkins Chosen To Head
Chaplains Association

CHICAGO--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Hospital Chaplains Association has elected Harold Hawkins, chaplain, Baptist Hospital, Alexandria, La., as president.

Hawkins was elected at the Association's annual meeting here. Other officers are vice-president, Samuel Southard, institute of religion, Texas Medical Center, Houston, and secretary-treasurer, Don Corley, chaplain, Arkansas Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, Ark.

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\$1 Million In Bonds
Issued By Illinois

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--Executive Secretary Noel M. Taylor announced that churches affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association have issued over \$1 million in Broadway church bonds during the last 10 months.

21 churches have issued the bonds during the 10-month span. Taylor reported that to date \$756,175 worth of bonds -- 75 per cent of the total issued -- have been sold.

The state association has a contract with the Broadway Plan of Church Finance, a Houston, Tex., group, whereby the state association guarantees the bonds issued by the churches affiliated with it. This helps the churches get better interest rates and better markets for their bonds.

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Chicago Weather Is
Center of Curiosity

CHICAGO--(BP)--Have you already begun to wonder what the weather will be like in Chicago during the annual Southern Baptist Convention there in May?

The normal temperature for May is about 59 degrees, so that heavy spring clothes should be the main items packed for the trip. The Conventioneer should also bring a raincoat and umbrella, for there is a normal total of 3.66 inches of rain for May.

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