

(BP)**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. Hasteley, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

January 20, 1984

84-11

Kansas City Housing
 Still Available

By Craig Bird

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Anyone wanting to attend the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Kansas City next June should have no trouble getting a hotel room.

The remaining rooms won't be within walking distance of the convention center but most have ease access to freeways and/or six shuttle bus routes which will operate to and from the convention site. The exact routes have not been determined.

Quite a few people who thought they would be able to walk to sessions may have to join those in hotels on the outskirts of Kansas City though. The Kansas City convention housing bureau has notified the SBC Executive Committee the Dixon Hotel (two blocks from the convention center) is being closed and its future is uncertain.

"We had been given 150 rooms at the Dixon," Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the Executive Committee, said. "Those people will be informed of their new rooms by the Kansas City bureau directly--the Executive Committee will have no control or knowledge of the shifts."

Hedquist pointed out the housing bureau received 6,000 requests for the 4,000 rooms they set aside for the convention but Kansas City has more than 13,000 hotel rooms.

"People can get rooms--they'll just be a distance from the convention center," Hedquist said. "Even 1,000 of the bureau's 4,000 rooms are outside of walking distance and some of them are 15-20 miles away.

"Even if the housing bureau had taken all 13,000 rooms to assign itself, there still would have been just 3,000 rooms 'close in' and those are the rooms everyone wants," he continued. "Approximately 95 percent of the 2,000 applications which were sent back requested either the Radisson Muehlebach or the Holiday Inn Center (two of the closest). People who say they can't get a room really mean they can't get a room within walking distance."

Organized groups apparently grabbed most of the housing bureau rooms by knowing how to increase the odds in their favor, Hedquist said.

Under the procedures used by the Kansas City bureau, applications were stacked according to first choice then filled until the allocated space was used up. "Those who studied the system realized if they put down as first choice a hotel other than the ones across the street their odds for getting a room downtown increased considerably," Hedquist said.

As a result, all of the rooms were filled with first choices.

Bureau personnel feel many applications included bogus names and one individual sent in 100 separate room requests. Under the system, one credit card can guarantee any number of rooms even if the person is not listed to stay in those rooms and names can be changed after the reservations have been confirmed.

"Technically all these tactics are legal but it sure works against the layman from a small town who didn't know the system," Hedquist said.

--more--

DARGAN-CARVER LIBRARY
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

It also worked against many SBC agencies. Last week the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board called looking for additional rooms and many agency personnel whose jobs require them to be at the convention have reservations in the outlying hotels.

Hedquist said the 1985 convention in Dallas will see changes in the housing bureau system. "The Dallas people have agreed to process application forms one at a time instead of stacking them by first choice, to require the reservation be confirmed by someone staying in the room and not to allow the substitution of names without notifying the housing bureau."

Anyone still seeking room reservations can contact: Housing Information, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn. 37219 to request a list of Kansas City hotels so they can make reservations directly.

--30--

Expert On Organized Crime
Refutes Pro-Gambling Claims

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
1/20/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--Despite recent trends toward its legalization, illegal gambling still ranks as a major source of revenue for organized crime in the United States, according to an FBI expert of organized crime activities.

Sean McWeeney, chief of the organized crime section in the FBI's criminal investigation division, told Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission staff member Larry Braidfoot gambling joins narcotics and labor racketeering as the most lucrative ventures of organized crime. Braidfoot, who has led the denominational agency's efforts to inform and mobilize Southern Baptist opposition to gambling, met with McWeeney in McWeeney's Washington office.

The FBI official refused to confirm estimates of revenues generated for organized crime by gambling, since such estimates "are not part of the FBI's job." Some gambling experts have estimated \$26-30 billion comes annually from organized crime's gambling operations.

McWeeney also refuted claims of pro-gambling forces that legalized gambling, particularly state lotteries, reduces illegal gambling activities and thereby bites into the pocketbook of organized crime.

He cited recent studies of legal gambling in New Jersey and of off-track betting in New York as evidence the result may be the opposite. "The major track problem," he pointed out, "is credit. Legal gambling creates new gamblers who switch over to illegal gambling when their money is exhausted. They switch to the illegal games because they can get credit."

McWeeney identified illegal sports bookmaking as the number one money producer for organized crime's gambling activities, due primarily to the immense popularity of pro football. Sports gambling, he said, would be followed by pari-mutuel gambling (mostly on horse races), illegal lotteries and casino gambling, in that order.

McWeeney sympathized with the difficulties in educating the public about the threats posed by gambling and its ties with organized crime.

"Small individual bets by themselves don't seem significant," he explained. "But millions of these small bets provide an enormous source of income which can then be used in other organized crime activities like the narcotics trade.

"Those who go overboard in their betting are likely to wind up getting involved with loan sharks. Only then, when they are unable to pay the exorbitant fees, do they run into the violent aspect of organized crime."

--30--

Miami Baptist Association
Mends Ethnic Divisions

By Adon Taft

MIAMI (BP)--An ethnic rift which threatened to split the Miami Baptist Association two years ago and led to the resignation of both the director of missions and head of language missions has healed.

That's the observation of Doyle Wetherington, the new executive director of the association which has been without a leadership staff since Dottson Mills and John Pistone resigned.

"There has been a real period of healing and understanding and there seems to be a sense of unanimity and cooperativeness," Wetherington said. "I don't expect any problems. Both Anglo and ethnic church pastors have expressed themselves as desiring a unified witness for Christ."

Marcos A. (Tony) Ramos, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church and president of the Hispanic Baptist Pastors Conference, agrees.

"It's not a Baptist problem, but a community problem," Ramos said. "What we need is a lot of humility among both Anglos and Hispanics and the realization the Kingdom of God is not an ethnic enterprise."

Some 37 of the association's 117 churches and missions are Hispanic. Ten others are American black congregations, nine are Haitian, two are East Indian (Jamaican), and one each is Chinese, Russian and Miccosukee Indian. Most of the congregations, with a total of 50,000 full members, are integrated. One predominately Anglo congregation, Highland Park, has a black pastor, James Phillips, Wetherington pointed out.

Wetherington, 55, said his first order of business will be to find an associate director for language missions.

He has been in Dade County for nearly nine years. He was pastor of Homestead Baptist Church for four years and was associate pastor and then acting pastor at Miami Central Baptist before being selected to head the association where he said the "problems of distance and time, because of the pressure on local church staffs to meet the genuine needs in their communities, have tended to obscure efforts of fellowship in the larger context."

Wetherington, who spent nine years as an automobile dealership executive before entering the ministry, said he not only expects to see area Baptists engaged in more cooperative projects, such as their summer recreation and education program in the Liberty City area for the past two years, but to be increasingly involved in interdenominational and interfaith projects.

--30--

Mercer Law Library
Gets Million Dollar Gift

Baptist Press
1/20/84

MACON, Ga. (BP)--Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Ga., has been awarded a grant of one million dollars--to be distributed over a three-year period--from the Callaway Foundation, Inc.

The award is primarily for the Furman Smith Library to purchase historical and current business law materials, and to fund personnel costs of cataloging and processing such materials.

--30--

James Dunn Declines
Controversial Board

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has declined renomination to a second term on the board of directors of People for the American Way.

Dunn's membership on the 28-member PAW board has drawn considerable controversy in the past year, including a resolution adopted by the Alabama State Baptist Convention asking that funding for the BJCPA be withdrawn because of Dunn's participation in the organization.

People for the American Way is described by friends as a "national educational group" for First Amendment rights, and by enemies as an organization of "pornographic smut peddlers, homosexual activists and baby-killing abortionists."

Despite Dunn's action declining to serve a second term, the action does not appear to have quieted his critics. One, former Alabama Congressman Albert Lee Smith of Birmingham, suggested the only way to quiet the criticism would be for Dunn to resign as BJCPA head.

Dunn told Baptist Press that on Jan. 11, 1984, "I declined renomination to the board of that organization (PAW). On that date, I told the nominating committee that since I rotated off the board Dec. 31, 1983, I would not serve a second (three-year) term.

"It is important to emphasize that I made this decision in part because of time and energy spent dealing with a very few Southern Baptists who have been engaged in a smear and harassment campaign. Leaving the leadership... (of PAW) does not reflect any retreat from working with groups with different degrees of disagreement," he said.

The head of the Washington-based BJCPA noted such attacks "may be instructive to all of our agencies if we recognize the challenge to the precious right of free association, if we identify the tactics of those with a personal and political agenda attempting to use Southern Baptists and if we determine to know the facts and not be misled by distortion and untruth."

He noted the attacks on him and BJCPA--an organization of nine Baptist bodies in the U.S. and Canada--have "required a great deal of forbearance and forgiveness on our part."

He commented he remains "one of the 104,000 members of People for the American Way," which he described as a "broad-based people's movement." He added he believed his membership in PAW, as well as his leadership role was as "an individual...any place organization names were listed it was understood to be for identification purposes only."

One of the criticisms of PAW is that Norman Lear, producer of such television shows as "All In The Family," "Good Times," and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," is associated with the group.

"The fact Norman Lear is associated is irrelevant," Dunn said. "It is not his; it does not belong to him. Father (Theodore) Hesburgh (president of Notre Dame University) also is on the board and that doesn't make me a Catholic. The late Ruth Carter Stapleton was on the board, but that didn't make me a charismatic."

R.G. (Gene) Puckett, editor of the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and chairman of the board of BJCPA, said the decision not to serve a second term "is evidence of his (Dunn's) deep commitment to the best interests of all Baptists. He has preserved his own integrity but has acknowledged the responsibilities of his role to put the best interests of Baptists above other things."

Sam Currin, U.S. District Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and chairman of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, which relates to the BJCPA, said he is "glad" Dunn has resigned from the board, but hoped it was a "clean break" with PAW.

"I feel PAW is antagonistic to everything we (Southern Baptists) stand for," he said, adding he had refused to attend a BJCPA-sponsored religious liberty conference in October "because some representatives from PAW were on the program. I felt if I went, I would have betrayed the SBC."

Currin, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC), said he believes if Dunn "does not make a clean break" with PAW, messengers to the annual meeting of the SBC in Kansas City in June of 1984, "will defund the Baptist Joint Committee. The messengers will repudiate the Baptist Joint Committee if it has anything to do with the People for the American Way."

Smith, who served one term in the U.S. Congress, also is a member of the SBC Public Affairs Committee, having been elected in 1983. Currently, Smith is seeking the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate from Alabama.

Other than an outright resignation, Smith indicated the only other way he believes Dunn can satisfy his critics is if he "put in writing that he is disassociating himself from that organization and the people who make it up. He would have to say he is no longer promoting the programs or the actions of the People for the American Way."

Smith also suggested the organization faces defunding at the 1984 SBC. The political candidate charged Dunn and PAW are "trying to prevent scientific creationism from being included in our textbooks," and are against "voluntary prayer in our schools." He said the "objectives of PAW and the SBC just don't coincide."

Another vigorous critic of Dunn was not appeased by the announcement. Russell Kaemmerling, editor of the conservative/independent publication, Southern Baptist Advocate, said Dunn's membership in the PAW "is not the real issue."

"The question," Kaemmerling said, "is whether he is still sympathetic with the pornographic smut-peddlers, homosexual activists and baby-killing abortionists who make up People for the American Way."

Kaemmerling also charged the PAW is just the most blatant thing that is wrong with BJCPA, noting the PAW membership was just "Dunn thumbing his nose at Southern Baptists."

"I am tremendously dissatisfied with the kind of representation we are getting in Washington," the Dallas-based editor said. "I don't think the Baptist Joint Committee represents Baptists at all."

Another Southern Baptist leader, meanwhile, "applauded" Dunn's decision to back away from leadership positions in PAW.

Wallace Henley, pastor of McElwain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, had called on Dunn to resign from the organization. Henley, a former White House staffer during the Nixon administration, was elected president of the ABC in November.

At the time of his election, Henley said he could "live with a whole lot" if Dunn would disassociate himself from the PAW board. He noted he still has significant disagreements with BJCPA stands on issues such as the Reagan Prayer Amendment and the nuclear freeze.

If Dunn's involvement with PAW had continued, Henley said, "it would have been a matter of conscience for many us, and some specific actions would have had to be taken."

Henley identified Lear and PAW "as enemies of the American people...a front group for the 'spiritual vacuuming' of America," and said, he, "as an individual is not here to police Mr. Dunn's thinking. As an individual, if he believes the way Mr. Lear does, that is his business. But it is another matter entirely when he formally relates himself to People for the American Way as the executive of a Baptist agency."

The state convention president noted he had been concerned "for the integrity of the Cooperative Program" because of the issue. The pot might have boiled over in Kansas City (at the 1984 SBC) as it did in Montgomery when messengers to the Alabama annual meeting asked that funding for the BJCPA be totally withdrawn.

The decision to refuse a second term, Henley said, "will turn the pot down, but it won't solve all the problems...I applaud Mr. Dunn. For whatever reasons he did it, I think it was a responsible decision."

LYNN MAY
ON
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE NO
NASHVILLE TN 37234

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

BAPTIST PRESS



[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]
08