

(BP)**BAPTIST PRESS**

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICESBC 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. Hastey, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

September 18, 1984

84-134

Pressler Gives Answer
To Student Complaint

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"No honest person should object to a record being kept of what he says," Paul Pressler said in response to the filing of a formal Federal Communications Commission complaint against him.

J. Stafford Durham, 28, a third-year theology student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., filed a formal complaint with the FCC Sept. 14, alleging Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, had illegally tape recorded a telephone conversation Sept. 1.

Pressler, in Nashville to attend his first meeting as a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, gave a statement to Baptist Press concerning the incident, which he saw as part of the "holy war" declared by Southern seminary president Roy Lee Honeycutt Aug. 28, during a convocation address at SBTS.

"Roy Honeycutt in conducting his 'holy war' against other Southern Baptists has attempted to turn non-issues into issues in order to divert attention from the legitimate concerns which many have for the spiritual quality of the education of our institutions," Pressler said.

"Dr. Honeycutt made charges which have since been clearly refuted. Since Honeycutt's representations can no longer be asserted successfully, a student who was involved now complains because his comments can be accurately quoted," he added.

Pressler, who has been involved in an effort to turn the SEC to more conservative directions since 1979, declined to comment publicly on whether he tape recorded the conversation with Durham, who also formerly was a student driver for Honeycutt.

He said, however, in his statement that "recent experiences have caused me to be most careful in communications with certain people to make sure that the content of conversations will not be misquoted."

When asked to amplify his comment, Pressler declined, saying he "has said all I am going to say. Since he (Durham) has seen fit to have AT&T investigate this matter, I have no further comment."

The complaint and response are part of an escalating "holy war" in the denomination over theology, education and denominational politics.

In his convocation address, Honeycutt mentioned a student who drove for him, but did not mention Durham by name. He said "a Texas leader" of the "Independent Fundamentalist Political Party" had made an effort to recruit the driver as a "campus subversive."

After the speech, Pressler said he "had absolutely no idea" who Honeycutt was talking about. On Sept. 1, Durham said Pressler telephoned him at Stamping Ground, Ky., and talked for an hour. The student said Pressler tape recorded the conversation and later made it available to a reporter for the Houston Chronicle.

The news article, as well as Pressler's assertion he did not know what Honeycutt was talking about, resulted in Durham identifying himself and filing the formal FCC complaint.

—more—

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Pressler's version of the incident differs markedly from that of Durham. Both, however, do agree there had been prior contact, on at least three occasions.

Pressler's account of those encounters agrees with that of Durham. Both say they met in October of 1979 in a Sunday school class at First Baptist Church of Houston. They agree further contact occurred in November of 1979, when Pressler invited Durham to attend the Heart of America Bible Conference in Louisville.

Durham says Pressler invited him to a meeting with key leaders of the inerrancy movement in which politics were discussed, as well as obtaining information on "some professor."

Pressler said the meeting "wasn't secretive at all. After the meeting we just had hamburgers in James' (Robison) room. I took him (Durham) right in there with me. We have always been just as open as we could about everything."

The two agree there was a telephone conversation in February of 1984. Durham says it was to "fish for information" about who the moderate faction was going to run for president of the convention, and "anything else that might come up."

Durham also maintains Pressler knew he (Durham) occasionally drove Honeycutt's car.

Pressler, however, maintains the February telephone call was part of a general operating procedure he follows. "When I was invited to speak in Louisville, I looked through my files to see who I knew in the area and I called a number of people to see if I could get together with them while I was there.

"I had not seen Staff (Durham's nickname) for four-and-a-half years and was not even sure he was at the seminary. I had absolutely no idea he had been the driver for Dr. Honeycutt."

Pressler admitted he "might have said: 'Do you hear any talk about who the liberals will run for president of the convention?' I was just making conversation."

When informed of Honeycutt's remarks about efforts to recruit campus subversives and the recounting of Durham's story, Pressler said he was "absolutely shocked that somebody might be spying on the president. I wondered who in the world that might be."

He said he "had no idea who he (Honeycutt) was talking about. I looked through my files to see who I knew, and he (Durham) was the only one it possibly could have been."

Pressler admitted he telephoned Durham "to find out what happened. It was evident Dr. Honeycutt had turned it (the February conversation) into something it wasn't. It was clear this had been blown way out of proportion."

--30--

Conservative Women's Group
Holds Political Rally

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
9/18/84

WASHINGTON (BP)—Speakers unleashed a verbal assault on abortion, public education, communism and "secular humanism" during the first national convention of Concerned Women for America, meeting in the nation's capital.

More than 2,000 women from 47 states packed the ballroom of the Shoreham Hotel for the three-day rally which combined inspirational music and devotional messages with sessions on public policy issues and political strategy. Women were urged to lobby their elected representatives in support of a "human life amendment" on abortion, prayer in the public schools and tuition tax credits and to become involved in a massive "get out the vote" campaign for the November elections.

In the closing message, conservative author and lecturer Tim LaHaye described election day as "the second most important day of your life."

--more--

"God almighty looked down on us in 1980 and we had an enormous victory," he said. "But if the left regains control of the White House and the Senate, I believe it will all be over for freedom in America."

CWA, which now claims more than 480,000 members, was organized in 1979 by LaHaye's wife, Beverly, to support "traditional American values" and to oppose the "liberal feminist viewpoint." It has organized "prayer/action" chapters across the country through which to channel information and mobilize action.

Four Southern Baptists are among the organization's 14-member national advisory council: Dorothy Helms, wife of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.); Dorothy Patterson, wife of Criswell Bible Institute president Paige Patterson of Dallas; Joyce Rogers, wife of former Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., and Anna Stanley, wife of current SBC President Charles Stanley of Atlanta.

Pastors Rogers and Stanley serve on the executive board of the American Coalition for Traditional Values, chaired by Tim LaHaye. ACTV and CWA share office facilities with the LaHayes' Family Life Seminars, Inc., in San Diego. CWA also employs a staff of four lawyers in Washington.

Although CWA carefully avoids denominational distinctions in its membership, one staff member said there is a "growing interest" from women in conservative Southern Baptist congregations. The Southern Baptist delegations at the Washington conference were led by 75 women from Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis.

While speakers addressed a variety of moral issues, opposition to abortion, CWA's "No. 1 concern," permeated the sessions. Delegates responded with a boisterous standing ovation when Beverly LaHaye claimed that "the greatest day in America will be when the (1973 Roe v. Wade) Supreme Court decision is reversed and we can nail shut every abortion clinic in America."

The conference, dominated by speakers from the Reagan administration, often took on the trappings of a pro-Reagan political rally. Frequent references to the president's personal beliefs and public policy received enthusiastic applause, while occasional allusions to the organization's non-partisan status met with unrestrained laughter.

A CWA state representative acknowledged the partisanship of the speakers, but added "where we stand on the issues, we have no choice. If we brought somebody in who was pro-Mondale, he wouldn't get a very receptive hearing."

President Reagan had been scheduled to address the conference but declined the invitation at the last moment due to campaign conflicts.

Faith Whittlesey, director of the White House office of public liaison, read a letter from the president which praised CWA's leadership, noting "America is on the way back in no small part due to your efforts." In a brief address Whittlesey lauded Reagan as a "strong and eloquent spokesman for peace and freedom." The president, she added, also is giving "courageous leadership" to efforts "to preserve traditional family values."

"We hope that is a message you will help us carry to the far reaches of this nation," she said. "The President can't do it alone."

John Lenczowski, director of European and Soviet affairs for the National Security Council since 1981, urged CWA delegates to "get the facts about the nature and intentions of the Soviet Union," claiming that his department "sees things daily that are the embodiment of some of the darker sides of human nature."

"A lot of people think if we and the Soviets sit down and talk things out, we'll clear up misunderstandings and there will be peace," he said. Many of those persons, he claimed, are "engaging in mirror image perceptions," believing the Soviets "really want the same things we do," or they have been misled by a massive Soviet "disinformation campaign."

The Soviets "hate us," he said, because of the fundamental American idea that "our human rights are endowed to us not by men but by the Creator."

Samuel Blumefield, author of several books critical of public education, described America's public school system as "Satan's parochial schools." Public education, he charged, has been taken over by "humanists," who operate on the "false premise that man is perfectable--the same premise upon which communism is based."

Blumefield labeled the National Education Association as "the most dangerous political party in America," whose stand on social issues is "virtually identical with the radical left."

The NEA, he claimed, "is for Marxist revolution in Central America, abortion, and the nuclear freeze." The NEA "hates capitalism and supports socialism. For all practical purposes, the NEA might as well be the socialist party of America."

Carolyn Sundseth, White House public liaison to conservative Christian women's groups, told CWA members "the battle in this country is basically a spiritual battle. The real issue is: are we going to make God an integral part of our country or are we going to let the humanists take over?"

"Our Constitution does say we must keep institutional government and the institutional church separate," she said. "It does not say we have to expel God from every activity of government."

---30---

Conference Examines
Church-State Clashes

By Stan Haste

Baptist Press
9/18/84

NEW YORK (BP)—Participants at a conference on government intervention in religious affairs in New York heard speaker after speaker assail what was described as a growing trend threatening freedom of religion in the United States.

Co-sponsored by the National Council of Churches, U.S. Catholic Conference, Synagogue Council of America, National Association of Evangelicals, Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., and Southern Baptist Convention, the conference spotlighted recent examples of difficulties organized religion has had with governmental officials at all levels.

Conference keynote speaker Laurence H. Tribe, a renowned constitutional scholar and professor at Harvard Law School, called continuing threats of government intervention "virulent" and singled out the "outrageous" prosecution of Unification Church founder Sun Myung Moon for income tax evasion by the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Justice. The investigation and subsequent conviction and imprisonment of the South Korea-born Moon amounted to "persecution," Tribe charged.

Other speakers addressed an array of areas in which governmental authorities in recent years have dealt with what was once considered the domain of the churches. They included clergy malpractice suits, government control of church schools, searches and seizures on church premises, "landmarking" of church property, discovery and disclosure of church documents, and the question of "ascending"—or extended—liability within church structures.

But Elliot Wright, program director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and one of the conference organizers, discounted any "conspiracy" theory that government has turned against organized religion, saying "social confusion" over the proper relationship between church and state better explains increasing tensions between the two.

Wright denounced a pair of 1983 U.S. Supreme Court rulings, one involving fundamentalist Bob Jones University, for setting forth the view that exemption from federal taxation amounts to a government subsidy. Those decisions, he said, should cast a "pall of fear" on all U.S. religious groups.

Despite its concentration on legal problems facing organized religion, the conference provided a forum for repeated discussions of the proper role of religion in politics. In his opening address, Tribe noted participants convened 24 years to the day after presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed the Greater Houston Ministerial Association to assure concerned Protestant ministers he would not as president give primary allegiance to Rome.

---more---

Tribe accused the Reagan administration of "presumptuous piety" in assuming a "private pipeline to the Almighty" and called for a division over what is "properly public" and "inherently private."

The Harvard lawyer, who has won nine of 13 cases argued before the Supreme Court, declared the current discussion of church and state should ask not whether religion and politics should mix, but how. He said religion and politics should be present in the political debate as "spheres of belief and action," but not as "sources of power and authority."

Government-sponsored prayer in public schools, he added, is an example of the latter.

On another subject, Tribe said he has changed his mind on the question of the advisability of a lawsuit challenging an exchange of ambassadors between the U.S. and the Vatican. Saying he was at first unconvinced that opponents of U.S.-Vatican relations would have legal standing to bring suit against the government, he said he now believes they have a good case.

During the conference's final session, U.S. circuit judge Arlin Adams presented a critique of recent Supreme Court church-state decisions and suggested the high court may be contributing to "religious factionalism" by its "abandonment of a coherent framework" in deciding church-state cases.

Adams, who sits on the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, was especially critical of decisions during the past two terms in which the nation's high court upheld tuition tax deductions for parents who send their children to parochial schools, paid chaplains in state legislatures, and Nativity displays on publicly owned property.

"Whatever one thinks of the results of those cases," Adams declared, "the absence of a coherent framework for analysis does a disservice both to government and to religion."

But on another issue involving government "accommodation" of religion, Adams defended his dissenting vote in a recent 2-1 Third Circuit ruling against student-initiated, voluntary religious meetings in the Williamsport (Pa.) High School.

Noting recent passage of the Equal Access Act legalizing such meetings nationwide as well as an expected appeal in the Williamsport case, Adams suggested the high court may approve the practice. "It may be that the Supreme Court will decide that prayer in a truly open forum at a public secondary school is constitutionally permissible since it does not coerce, compromise, or influence anyone's religious belief merely because the state permits its property to be used," he said.

Although no dates were set for future gatherings on the same subject, organizers of the government intervention conference expressed confidence more will be needed.

Future Southern Baptist Convention sponsorship is questionable, however. Last year the SBC Executive Committee narrowly approved co-sponsorship of the New York conference on a 28-20 vote. Eight Southern Baptists were among the 125 participants.

--30--

Stanley Promises Increased Involvement With SBC

By Karen Benson

Baptist Press
9/18/84

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—An emotional intervention by God convinced Charles Stanley to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Now, "eye-opening" encounters with the evangelistic thrust at the heart of Southern Baptist agencies and programs is deepening his involvement with Southern Baptist causes.

Stanley, elected president of the 14.1-million member denomination last June, spent an hour and a half talking with members of the Southern Baptist Press Association Sept. 17 while attending his first meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

--more--

He told the group of editors of state Baptist newspaper and Baptist Press editors, he understood the concern of many people over the percentage his church gives to the SEC unified national budget (the Cooperative Program) of 2.1 percent and its support of non-Southern Baptist missionaries.

"I have challenged my budget committee to move our Cooperative Program giving to at least five percent next year and even higher if we can, and we are rethinking how our world missions conference involvement can be channeled."

He also promised the editors he would consult with the presidents and executive directors of the state conventions prior to making his committee appointments. Such appointments have become points of dispute in recent years in light of an announced attempt by inerrantists to take control of the boards of trustees of the conventions agencies and seminaries.

Stanley stressed he has no desire to "control anything or to run anything," claiming his election to head the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination was the will of God.

Stanley said it was only after God brought him to his knees and caused him to weep that he finally submitted to God's will to be nominated for president.

Stanley said the only reason he is president is "not out of choice, not by a coalition, but because I could not live with myself if I had not said, 'God, if you would like to publicly humiliate me to do something else in my life, that's fine. If you want me to be the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, you'll have to arrange it because I've never lifted a finger in my life to be nominated for anything, go to any church or to do anything.'"

Stanley believes "God has placed me here for a very specific reason." His one desire as president, "is to be obedient to God whatever his reason is for me. If he puts me here for one year, that will tickle me pink. If it's for two years, I will probably struggle with that—but if he requires it, and if he arranges that, then I'll have to be obedient."

Stanley said he is convinced there has been a lot of "misunderstanding of motivation" and "misunderstanding of methods" on both sides. If leaders of both theological groups would "talk soberly" about the principles involved and eliminate personalities totally, much could be done to smooth out trouble spots within the denomination, Stanley said. "I believe there is enough godly wisdom in the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention we can find God's solution to the problems."

"I must believe that God is great enough, that he has not invested all this energy, time, money, know-how, organization, into the Southern Baptist life to watch us go by the wayside when we have the greatest opportunity of any denomination that has ever existed in human history to impact this nation and the world," Stanley said. "I've got to believe God has brought us all to this point in a time of strife and cloudiness and storm, not to disintegrate, not to divide, but to act like godly men and women to discover God's solution to the problem and get on with doing what God called us to do."

Stanley has been "deeply encouraged" by visits he has made to SEC agencies and institutions in recent months, particularly a visit several weeks ago with SEC Foreign Mission Board personnel. "This emphasis on evangelism is a vital point of view that needs to be conveyed to most Southern Baptists," he said. He challenged more pastors to consider leaving the pastorate to go to the mission field and urged the Southern Baptist Press Association to distribute a one-page report to pastors on a frequent basis that would provide testimonies to the work being done by Southern Baptist missionaries and which would offer some statistics about mission work.

Stanley also answered charges his church has not adequately supported the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist fund which supports SEC agencies and institutions. "I've realized our Cooperative Program giving has been low. But churches have different roles. Most Southern Baptist churches have their only mission outlet, really, through the Cooperative Program. In a large, downtown church like ours, we have many avenues of missions. Likewise, God has called us to have a nationwide television ministry all across this land, now into foreign countries. That has cost us millions of dollars. But it's beginning to pay off in the thousands of people being saved every month.

"I would say many of these people are joining Southern Baptist churches because they know I'm a Southern Baptist. So God has given our church a different role. That doesn't make us better or less than anyone else. I'm simply saying we have a different role than other churches. So that's the reason, or one of the primary reasons, we are giving 2.1 percent."

First Baptist Church of Atlanta has done "what we believe God would have us to do, up to this point," Stanley said. "Now, as I said to our folks, I want to be very, very careful that I examine very honestly my motivation, because I do not want to raise our Cooperative Program giving but for one basic reason, that is a conviction on my part and a conviction on the part of our people that we need to do it because we need to be more involved in that aspect of our missionary giving."

Stanley was quizzed about his lack of involvement in SEC life prior to his election as president.

"We have to allow that all of us are not going to feel the same about this," Stanley responded. "I can understand why you would perceive of me being a disloyal Southern Baptist, if that's what you're saying. But I can tell you that I'm not. I wouldn't be anything else today but a Southern Baptist. I made a choice to be a Southern Baptist. I was not born one. None of my family was one. I was the first one out of my family to become a Southern Baptist. And so, while there is diversity in opinion concerning doctrine, then I think we have to allow for God to use different men in different ways in the roles he has called them for, and that means he may not call all of us to be as intricately involved all the time."

Stanley was also asked if he will be a "tool for the inerrancy camp to stack the boards" when making appointments to the SEC Committee on Committees. Members of this committee choose the members of all other SEC committees, which in turn elect board members and trustees of SEC agencies and institutions.

Said Stanley, "I'm sure a lot of inerrantists voted for me, but they're not the only ones who voted for me. I'm not committed to anybody, as best I know, but God. I want to be obedient to him, and I'm going to be as honest and as open as I know to be. When the time comes, I'm going to seek godly counsel, and I want to make wise judgments so they'll not be made quickly."

Stanley also explained his involvement in the American Coalition for Traditional Values, a new political organization organized by conservative author Tim LaHaye which claims to be non-partisan. Stanley said he originally was unaware that his name was included in a list of religious leaders named to the board of directors of the ACTV.

After talking with LaHaye about the matter, Stanley said he agreed to leave his name on the list because of his interest in getting people involved in the political process. He said he agrees with at least nine of the 10 goals of the organization, but has yet to firmly make up his mind on the issue of government funding for religious schools.

The ACTV has adopted a position supporting government aid to parochial schools, a stand contrary to the traditional stance of Southern Baptists. "That's the one area that I probably have a little problem with," Stanley said. "The rest of them (goals) I don't have a problem with, and so I just sort of have to overlook it."

--30--

Gambling Expert Traces
Organized Crime Ties

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press
9/18/84

WASHINGTON (BP)--Regardless of its proponents' claims legalized gambling is a "dirty business" that inevitably leads to expansion instead of retardation of organized crime, warned Austin McGuigan, a prosecutor with 10 years' experience in investigating gambling activities.

McGuigan, chief state's attorney for the state of Connecticut, traced the ties of organized crime to legal and illegal forms of gambling during the opening session of a special conference on legalized gambling.

--more--

The two-day meeting, sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, brought together anti-gambling activists from 14 states and the District of Columbia who hope to pool knowledge and resources for a nationwide counterattack against the growing gambling industry.

McGuigan said his experience in prosecuting gambling-related cases in Connecticut had convinced him that "legalized gambling is a dirty business. There is no way to keep the gambling business clean," despite claims that it can be regulated. Even if the original gambling operation is "clean," he said, "you can guarantee it won't last long."

Although McGuigan reported on the ties of organized crime to parimutuel betting on horse racing, jai alai, bingo and other gambling activities, he pointed out illegal sports betting is by far the most lucrative gambling business for organized crime.

"I can guarantee you there is no major sports betting operating in the United States that does not have connections to organized crime," he said. "Organized crime is involved in all illegal sports betting, without fail."

One of the predictable side effects, he added, has been "intense pressure," on athletes to help with "fixing" games. The problem is particularly acute in intercollegiate sports, where students are "especially vulnerable," he explained.

McGuigan estimated more than \$50 billion is bet nationally each year in illegal sports gambling. He said illegal sports betting in Connecticut alone is a \$1.2 billion business.

The prosecutor criticized the frequent claim that legalization of gambling will help eliminate the problems associated with illegal gambling, including ties to organized crime. "Illegal gambling," he said, "has grown every year since Connecticut brought in so-called legalized gambling."

Crime control, he added, also is a "myth" in legalized gambling, pointing out that one factor is that many times former law enforcement officers are hired by the gambling industry to testify in its behalf. Another enticement to support legalized gambling, he said, is the promise of new jobs for law officers to help regulate the industry.

Even then, he stressed, true regulation seldom occurs. "There is not a state in the country where anybody is really checking on the (gambling) industry," he said.

The power of organized crime, McGuigan said, has created a "circle of fear" among law enforcement officers who are aware of the connections with gambling. "If you uncover a fixing operation that's making \$20 or \$30 million, you have to ask yourself, just how much is my life worth," he explained.

In a question-and-answer session, McGuigan said Southern states are now special targets of the gambling industry. He advised Southern Baptists and other gambling opponents to continue to fight legislation that would allow parimutuel betting. "Banning parimutuel betting," he said, is "the only way to keep out organized crime."



BAPTIST PRESS

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

✓

JW
PB
ART

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