



## BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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85-76

Billy Graham Explains  
Stand On Baptist Vote

By Helen Parmley

DALLAS (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham said Friday June 11 he never expected his controversial endorsement of Atlanta pastor Charles Stanley for a second term as president of the Southern Baptist Convention to be made public.

He apologized for the confusion it may have caused, but he did not deny making the endorsement. He said the endorsement was based on the Baptists' tradition of giving their presidents a second term.

Graham, who is a Southern Baptist and holds membership in First Baptist Church of Dallas, explained his action in a telegram sent to his office in Minneapolis from Sheffield, England, where he is conducting a crusade. The Dallas Morning News obtained a copy of the message that is being mailed to state Baptist newspapers.

A controversy developed during the annual meeting of the 14.3-million member denomination in Dallas two weeks ago, when a telegram containing Graham's endorsement was leaked to reporters the night before the presidential ballot. Stanley, a candidate of the fundamentalists, was being opposed by W. Winfred Moore, a conservative pastor from Amarillo, Texas, who was supported by Baptist moderates.

The endorsement telegram was sent to Stanley on June 6 by T.W. Wilson, a Graham associate, who wrote that Graham had called him from England and asked him to "call Dr. Stanley and tell him that I will be praying for him during the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. Tell him that if I could be there I would vote for him."

Many—including Moore—speculated the endorsement was "a tremendous advantage" for Stanley, who won reelection with 55 percent of the vote of the more than 45,000 messengers attending the convention.

Stanley could not be reached for comment, but when Moore heard the message from Graham, he said of the evangelist, "I have never doubted his integrity."

In his telegram, Graham said he was busy preaching in a 40,000-seat stadium in an internationally televised crusade.

"However, word has reached me there was some confusion and consternation over a telegram that was sent to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas," Graham said. "It has been my custom for many years to either write to the president of the convention ahead of time or to congratulate him afterward on his election."

Graham acknowledged that earlier he had stated publicly that he did not intend to get involved in the denomination's controversies.

"Therefore I called my associate, T.W. Wilson, and asked him if he would call Dr. Stanley and tell him I was praying that God would come in mighty power upon the convention and bring about a new sense of love and unity in the convention," Graham said.

"Because it is the custom of the convention to give a president a two-year term, I added to tell him if I were there, I would vote for him."

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Graham said he had not known who would be running against Stanley.

"Apparently," Graham said, "Dr. Wilson could not reach Dr. Stanley and decided (on his own) to put it in a Mailgram. It was supposed to be a private message of encouragement to Dr. Stanley over the telephone. I never intended to make a public statement."

Graham said he realizes some people will interpret his action as speaking out of both sides of his mouth. "In any event," he said, "if I had been there, and if I were a messenger, I would have voted for Dr. Stanley on the grounds that the convention by custom has given a president a second term.

"Secondly, I had been told that if he were not elected, it might split the convention. It is my prayer that we will stay more united than ever before. I believe this could come about if we had a spiritual revival and focused our interest on evangelism and missions."

Finally, Graham said he admires Stanley for not answering his critics in kind during his first year in office. He also praised Stanley as pastor of "one of the most successful churches" in the denomination and for his nationally aired television ministry.

"I think he helps the image of the Southern Baptists throughout the nation," Graham said.

He added he has "great admiration for Dr. Moore," and said he deeply regrets the confusion his endorsement caused. "It has taught me a lesson to keep my priority on preaching the gospel and on winning souls to Christ," Graham said.

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(Helen Parmley is religion editor of the Dallas Morning News.)

Hollis Urges Action Against  
Social 'Malady' Of Porn

By David Wilkinson

Baptist Press  
6/25/85

WASHINGTON (BP)--A Southern Baptist ethicist has urged a special commission on pornography to propose bold initiatives and concrete actions to deal with "not just a minor social irritation, but a major, far-reaching, influential malady" in America.

Harry N. Hollis Jr., of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, testified June 19 at the first of a series of hearings to be held by the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography.

The 11-member commission will conduct a year-long study of the problem of pornography and make recommendations on ways to control its production and distribution. Alan Sears, an assistant U.S. attorney from Louisville, Ky., and a member of the SBC's Executive Committee, is serving as the commission's executive director.

While previous studies often faltered because of debates over empirical evidence of pornography's effects on society, Hollis challenged commission members to consider common sense arguments in the case against pornography.

Common sense, he said, "may be all that can lift us out of the continued confusion brought on by waiting for conclusive empirical data everyone can agree on."

Hollis argued pornography is harmful to society because of its negative impact on both character and conduct. Southern Baptists and others oppose pornography, he said, "not because it deals with sex, but because it exploits and degrades sex." In contrast to Christianity's holistic view, pornography presents a selective and distorted picture of sex, he added.

One of pornography's "worst sins," Hollis said, is the way it "has served, along with other cultural forces, to generate between the sexes hostility instead of fellowship, exploitation instead of love, anger instead of affection, one-dimensional sex instead of true intimacy and crafty manipulation instead of compassionate mutuality."

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Hollis shared a resolution adopted at the recent Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas which reaffirmed Baptists' opposition to pornography and urged the Christian Life Commission and local churches to support anti-pornography legislation.

He challenged the pornography commission to recommend strong and specific actions against the nation's pornographers whom he portrayed as "stealthy termites" who are "eating away at the structures of family fidelity and sexual integrity on which the foundations of society rest."

Hollis urged citizens to take action through "pocketbook and wallet power" to oppose distributors of pornography, including convenience stores which provide young people "convenient access" to pornographic magazines. He called for stronger enforcement of existing anti-obscenity legislation and more support for responsible sex education programs.

Effective treatment of pornography, he added, also must deal with society's increasing acceptance of the exploitation of sex. He cited as one example television programming which contains "far more adultery than fidelity, far more exploitation than mutuality, far more violence than tenderness, far more salaciousness than purity."

Hollis also urged the commission to give particular attention to pornography's impact on youth and children. He commended Tipper Gore, wife of Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, and others who have led a campaign to persuade the music industry to exercise moral responsibility in the music it produces for teenage audiences.

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Attorney Urges 'Defined'  
Charitable Giving Position

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press  
6/25/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists have been ill prepared in the national debate regarding tax laws which affect charitable giving, according to a Southern Baptist attorney.

James P. Guenther, a Nashville lawyer who represents several Southern Baptist agencies, was one of three authorities who addressed participants at a public policy/legal affairs workshop held in conjunction with the annual meeting in Nashville of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

He told educators Southern Baptists have not given clear and persuasive arguments for charitable deductions.

"Southern Baptists need to develop an apology for the idea of tax exemption and tax deductibility based on good theology, Christian ethics, historic appreciation for the Baptist position on church and state and a 1985 understanding of this country and where the church and its institutions fit," he said.

"Without this kind of well conceived position," Guenther said, "we begin to sound like simply one more special interest group playing the Machiavellian game of self-protection."

Guenther said if church spokesmen insist on total exemption from all taxes, they may appear to be using the cloak of church/state separation to hide simple financial self-interests.

"Southern Baptists have in their church/state philosophy a tradition steeped in integrity. We must remain cautious lest we appear to be trying to ride with a foot on two horses at once—charging off after every conceivable government benefit but rearing on our hind legs at any suggestion of government control," Guenther warned.

He pointed out Baptist colleges have not yet experienced the level of entanglement with federal funds as have hospitals. There is still time, he said, for Baptist colleges and universities to be heard, both in the Southern Baptist community and in the state, if they will articulate a sound basis for proper government/Baptist college relationships.

"As one keenly concerned about Baptist college welfare in a world of deep government involvement in education, I simply urge you and myself to hone our apology," he said.

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Stephen J. Markman, chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington told educators of issues involved with the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which was not passed by the U.S. Senate, and the upcoming Civil Rights Act of 1985.

The 1984 Civil Rights Act was brought about, he said, by the Supreme Court's decision in the Grove City v. Secretary of Education Bell case. According to Markman, in the Grove City case, the Supreme Court embarked upon an interpretation of Title IX of the 1972 Civil Rights Act which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in institutions of higher education receiving federal financial assistance.

In the Grove City case the high court ruled federal assistance to schools was "programmatic" in its coverage. Markman said the decision meant federal aid to one department or program of a college affected only that area, not the entire institution.

The 1984 Civil Rights Act sought to overturn that ruling, Markman said. "It represented a frontal attack on the essential idea of private education."

Markman said if the act had passed, schools would have been subject to regulations by virtue of receipt of "even a single dollar of federal aid."

This coverage, he added, would have been triggered not only by direct campus-based federal assistance, but also by the admission of a single student receiving a federal grant or loan.

"The core issue in the 1984 act and one that will be at the heart of the 1985 Civil Rights Act is not discrimination; it is independence," Markman emphasized.

Markman said when Congress considers the Civil Rights Act of 1985, it will have at least two amendments relating to the coverage of educational institutions.

The first amendment would establish an effective religious-principle exception in Title IX while the second amendment would address part one of the Grove City decision which said "for purposes of Title IX, an institution was to be deemed a 'recipient' of federal financial assistance by virtue of the fact that they had students in attendance who themselves received federal scholarship aid."

Markman said the second amendment would exempt from Title IX coverage entirely those institutions which received no campus-based federal assistance.

Markman urged educators to "help us fight those in Washington who think they know better than you the proper form of education for everyone."

William L. Proctor, president of Flagler College, St. Augustine, Fla., emphasized educators should look at state issues for church-related colleges.

"We must continuously insist upon the recognition of the independent sector as an integral part of the state's system of higher education," he challenged.

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Service Organization  
Fails In High Court Bid

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press  
6/25/85

WASHINGTON (BP)—A national service organization which claims a religious purpose has lost an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the authority of the National Labor Relations Board to force union elections on some of its employees at a Minnesota facility.

The organization—Volunteers of America—maintains through its Minnesota post the Bar None Boys Ranch, a residential facility that treats emotionally disturbed children.

Two years ago, a Teamsters local filed a petition with NLRB to certify it as sole bargaining unit for maintenance, laundry, housekeeping and non-professional childcare workers at the ranch. After following procedures required in the National Labor Relations Act, NLRB duly certified the local, authorizing it to hold an election among the employees. The workers voted to unionize.

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But when VOA officials refused to recognize or bargain with employees, the NLRB ruled the service organization had committed an unfair labor practice and ordered it to the bargaining table. Instead, VOA took the federal regulatory agency to court, arguing at the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that because of its religious nature it did not fall within NLRB jurisdiction.

That panel disagreed ruling earlier this year the ranch "resembles a secular institution" whose "primary purpose" is the "care of children, not the propagation of faith."

In documents filed with the Supreme Court, VOA lawyers argued the court of appeals failed to recognize the essentially religious nature of the service group, an organization founded in 1896 in New York City. The group exists, the lawyers contended, "to provide service to those members of society most in need," in accordance with the biblical mandate.

"When an organization establishes itself as a bona fide religious organization, its beliefs are beyond dispute by the government," the lawyers argued further.

But the government, in a brief urging the court not to review the lower panel's ruling, argued successfully the lower court was right in finding the lay workers who voted to unionize were chosen without regard to their religious beliefs or affiliations and did not engage in propagation of VOA's religious tenets.

The government brief also noted the ranch's "chief source of income" is state and local governments which place children in the facility.

Attorneys for both sides disagreed on applying to the ranch a 1979 high court decision that the National Labor Relations Act did not authorize NLRB's assertion of jurisdiction over lay teachers in the Catholic parochial schools of Chicago and South Bend, Ind.

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Wayland Baptist  
Wins NAIA Honor

Baptist Press  
6/25/85

PLAINVIEW, Texas (BP)--Wayland Baptist University's men's athletic program has won the 1984-85 men's division championship in the all-sports competition sponsored by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Sports Information Directors' Association. In addition, Wayland's women recorded their highest finish ever, placing ninth.

Wayland is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The all-sports standings are announced at the conclusion of each academic year and measure the success of an institution's overall athletic program by the accumulation of points in post-season competition on the district, area and national levels. Wayland's championship is its first since the program was established in 1969.

Pioneer men's teams compiled 130 points, outdistancing runner-up Central Washington by 19 points. Wayland won the national NAIA indoor track and field championship and finished second in the nation in both basketball and outdoor track. WBU also picked up points by winning the District 8 basketball title and won the all-sports title despite competing nationally in just three of the 12 sports offered.

Wayland's women also had an exceptional year, finishing ninth with 74 points. Wisconsin-Milwaukee compiled 139 points in six events to win its second consecutive women's division championship while Adams State was second with 134.

Wayland's points in the women's division came primarily in basketball where the Flying Queens finished third nationally. The women's Pioneer track team placed 10th indoors and fourth outdoors in their highest finishes ever in those meets.

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