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85-55

✓ Dilday Endorses Moore;
Predicts Texan's Election

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. has endorsed Texas pastor Winfred Moore "or someone like him" and predicted such a "mainstr am conservative" will be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention June 11 in Dallas.

Dilday made his remarks to reporters following an April 28 sermon at First Baptist Church in Washington, saying of Moore, "He's the type of person I can support because he is cons rvative theologically, biblical in his approach, evangelistic, missionary...(and has) a proven record of support and involvement" in the SBC. Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas, has been rumored for months as the candidate most likely to oppos Atlanta pastor Charles Stanley in Dallas for the presidency of the 13.4-million member SBC.

Of Stanley, Dilday said: "I have declared my own position that we need a leader of our convention who is Southern Bapitst in commitment. It is my opinion that the one who now serves as president is not really Southern Baptist.... He and his church do not support Southern Baptist causes." He compared Stanley's election at last year's annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., to that of a deacon in a local church who, while perhaps a "godly" person, does not attend his church and fails to give his money, but is elected chairman of the board of deacons.

In contrast, Dilday said, Moore "is unapologetically Southern Baptist." He said further he expects "that in the next few weeks someone will say, 'I have spoken to Moore and I would like to go to Dallas to nominate him as president.'"

If Moore is nominated, Dilday said he is "very confident" the Amarillo pastor will be elected. He said he bases his optimism on "some things that are happening this year (that) haven't happened" before. First among these, he went on, is that "organizational efforts (are) now being made by what I call mainstream conservatives." He said since developments at last year's meeting in Kansas City, "a remarkable coalition of networks all across this convention" has been activated.

He added: "I don't like it. I think when we do divide up into political parties and us political methods we lose something. But that is happening." Dilday later told a church luncheon crowd that only last year did he personally become "completely convinced" the SBC "ship was on fire." At such times of crisis, he said, important concerns may suffer temporarily while the fire is put out.

A second reason for optimism, he said, is what he called a "shift in momentum" away from the "ultra-conservative group" that has elected the last four SBC presidents. Dilday said the "fundamentalist/independent" party has won over the past five years because "there is an emotional appeal to this call for conservatism." But he added, "the emotion has shifted" as more and more Southern Baptists have been made aware of the nature of the controversy.

Reit rating his oft-stated view the battle raging in the SBC is at root not theological but political, the 54-year-old seminary president declared: "There's not that much theological diff rence between Southern Baptists.... The issue is, what kind of convention are we going to be? Who are going to be our leaders?"

On one side, h said, "is a group of people who seem to me to be more at home in a Falwell/independent kind of church environment, who seem more at home with the civil religion or Moral Majority kind of national political agenda, who seem to be more involved in an independent/societal approach to missions and evangelism rather than a convention approach."

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He added recent threats by immediate past SBC presidents James T. Draper Jr. and Bailey Smith to place in escrow or cut back gifts to missions through the denomination's unified Cooperative Program is "clear evidence of an independent/societal approach wher I only support what I want to or like or agree with."

Dilday added: "I think that explains why some of the independent (Baptists) today are so supportive of this group in our convention. Jerry Falwell is not a Southern Baptist but he's come out publicly endorsing the president (Stanley) and calling on Baptists to vote for this particular president. To me it is obvious that he would like to see this denomination move away from its convention commitment toward an independent style where people could support his cause.... That is why Pat Robertson, on television, would be so happy to welcome three of our presidents (Draper, Smith and Adrian Rogers) and call on Southern Baptists to go out and vote in Dallas a certain way. He would love to see us move toward an independent approach."

Dilday, an Amarillo native who was pastor of churches in Texas and Georgia before his election to head the 5,100-student Fort Worth, Texas, seminary seven years ago, compared the charges of liberalism within the SBC to Red-baiting in the McCarthy era in national politics. "The accusation (has been) that we are drifting into liberalism," he said. "But there is no evidence for that." He said the ultra-conservatives offer the same handful of illustrations about allegedly liberal professors, some of which are now outdated.

While acknowledging there may be "three or four" SBC seminary professors who "are more to the l ft than (where) most Southern Baptists would be comfortable," he added, "But to say that represents a drift among about 400-500 seminary teachers in our convention...is just not rational evidence." If the "fundamentalist/independent" party retains control, he declared, they will be "more concerned with doctrinal uniformity than missions involvement." The SBC exists "only to do missions," he declared. "We've never had an agenda for doctrinal uniformity."

Dilday was in the Washington church as the first in a guest preacher series. His expenses were underwritten by the church.

In answer to a reporter's question, he said he has not used Cooperative Program funds to finance travels during which he has called for Stanley's defeat. "I use a fund given by... three laymen," he said, noting the trio is composed of a Georgian and two Texans. "I do think I could build a good case for using our seminary budget to defend my school," he added. "I think that would be expected of a responsible president."

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Second Live Program
Debuts On ACTS Network

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Building on the success of its counseling program, "Cope," the ACTS network will premiere a second live television show June 3.

"Life Lines," a one-hour variety program, will be carried on the Baptist-sponsored satellite network Monday-Friday at 3 p.m. Eastern time and, like "Cope," will field telephone calls from the viewing audience.

Each episode will feature an upbeat interview and a demonstration of some hobby, health tip or home improvement idea. Then viewers will be asked to call a toll-free number with questions about the day's topics.

Bob Taylor, vice-president of production for the network, said "Life Lines" is intended as an uplifting alt native to the soap operas that dominat afternoon television. "This is a lightweight, fun format that will allow the audience to learn about a topic and participat as well," he said.

Lawanna McIver, co-host for "Lifestyles" on ACTS, will conduct the interviews. Mike Frazier, host of "Cope," will anchor the demonstration segments of "Life Lines."

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"This is structured to be unstructured," Frazier said of the new format. "As each episode flows it will take on a life of its own, while letting the audience help decide what direction it goes."

People interviewed for the program will be both well-known and unknown, McIver said, but all will have an interesting story to tell. While the intention of "Life Lines" will not be evangelistic, some of the interviews will reflect the spiritual dimensions of people's lives, she said.

Theresa Stroman, who with Frazier developed the idea for "Life Lines," will be production director. She said the show builds on what ACTS has learned from "Cope," which she directs.

Carried each weeknight at 10 p.m. Eastern time, "Cope" offers on-air expert counseling to viewers on topics such as family problems, depression, drug abuse and marriage relations.

"I'm always astonished at how many people call ("Cope") and just want to talk," Stroman said, and "Life Lines" will give them that chance. It will offer viewers a "friendly voice," Frazier said, as well as advice on less traumatic, more practical issues.

Taylor said "Life Lines" will cost ACTS only a fourth of other new programs. "The dollars necessary to produce this are minimal because we are utilizing the talents and skills of people who are already here for other reasons," he explained.

ACTS, or the American Christian Television System, is operated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. The network is carried on cable TV systems and television stations that reach about three million homes.

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Texas Commission
Urges SBC Prayer

By Orville Scott

Baptist Press
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DALLAS (BP)—The State Missions Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has adopted a resolution April 26 encouraging churches to devote themselves to prayer in behalf of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The resolution noted if controversy continues to build toward the nationwide meeting in Dallas, June 11-13, it could have a damaging effect on Mission Texas.

Mission Texas is the plan of Texas Baptists to help reach more than seven million unchurched Texans for Christ by strengthening existing churches, praying for spiritual awakening and beginning 2,000 new churches by 1990.

The 15-member State Missions Commission said in its resolution: "The efforts of men to solve the problems have served only to worsen the situation. We need the supernatural intervention of God that comes when people become desperate enough to fall on their knees and pray."

Commission member D.L. Lowrie, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, and former president of the 2.3-million member BGCT, said "It is pretty obvious men are not going to be able to solve our problems. The more men work on it, the worse shape we're in."

Lowrie said, "I have friends on all sides of the issue, folks who love Jesus and want the state won to Christ. We're brothers.

"Someday, we're going to have to stand before the judgement seat of Christ, and I hope we don't have to hear him say we've spent our time fighting one another."

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Archaeological Treasurers
Placed At Midwestern

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—A man who is perhaps the leading biblical archaeologist among Southern Baptists is sharing his treasure of artifacts with the seminary where he taught 27 years.

Although several other institutions have attempted to purchase his collection, William H. Morton has decided to place his archaeological finds at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Midwestern trustees voted recently to acquire the collection from Morton, senior professor of biblical archaeology at Midwestern.

"I've been at Midwestern since it was founded. My love for and association with the seminary make it a logical home for the artifacts," said Morton, one of the seminary's four charter faculty members. Midwestern was founded in 1958.

Morton gathered his extensive collection of artifacts during his 37 years of travels in the Middle East. He collected most of the materials while directing the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem in the 1950's.

Morton has also directed excavations at Dhiban (Dibon) and has participated in digs at both Old and New Testament Jericho.

His collection includes coins, pottery and assorted artifacts such as weapons and figurines. Some of the oldest materials are pottery vessels and bronze weapons dating from 2100 B.C.

Morton said the most unique feature of the collection is its completeness. Many of the groupings of artifacts represent a progression of archaeological periods.

Several hundred ancient coins range from the first coins appearing in Bible lands to coins dating from the Crusades.

Morton's collection also features nearly 230 examples of oil lamps dating from the Early Bronze period. These artifacts illustrate the evolution of this type lamp, Morton said.

Morton said he began collecting artifacts to show the life and culture of the biblical world. "After the collection grew year by year, I saw that there were certain gaps in it," said Morton. He filled these gaps by acquiring objects from the missing historical periods.

In the classroom, Morton's beginning students are often surprised when they read his name in archaeology textbooks. He is mentioned among such noted archaeologists as George Wright and W.F. Albright. A soft-spoken man whose friends have called him "secretive," Morton would probably be the last to elaborate on his archaeological accomplishments. But his years of careful study and excavations have earned him a reputation as an expert archaeologist.

He has been a research scholar at Harvard University, Oxford University, and the University of Chicago. A graduate of Southwest Baptist University (then college) and Southwest Missouri State University, Morton earned master's and doctoral degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

When he announced his retirement last year, Morton received a letter of congratulations from the crown prince of Jordan. The letter recognized Morton for his contributions to biblical archaeology.

While teaching first at Southern seminary and later at Midwestern, Morton has quietly shared his zest for archaeology with countless students.

One of these is Larry McKinney, a 1961 Midwestern graduate. McKinney was recently appointed instructor of biblical studies at Midwestern.

For the past three years, he has worked with Morton organizing and cataloging the artifacts. McKinney continued the project when an extended illness slowed Morton down earlier this year.

McKinney said the collection will be significant for both the seminary and the Kansas City community.

"The Morton collection is an invaluable treasure of ancient artifacts that will put us in touch with the biblical world," added N. Larry Baker, academic dean. "It can help us be better stewards of our task of teaching God's Word."

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Southern Seminary Begins
Monday Classes In Fall

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—For the first time in nearly 40 years, students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will be able to attend class on Monday starting this fall.

A total of eight Monday-only classes in theology and religious education will be offered in the fall semester, with each lasting two and one half hours. Students will be able to enroll in a maximum of two Monday courses.

The new schedule will allow many pastors and other ministers currently in service to attend seminary classes while only being away from their churches for one day, according to Harold Songer, vice-president for academic affairs at Southern seminary. The Monday offerings also will allow current students to spread their academic loads over the week to better accommodate work and ministry schedules.

"It's an effort to meet the fullest possible range of students' needs," Songer explains.

Until the 1948-49 academic year, Monday classes were a normal part of the seminary scene. They were eliminated, at least in part, to assist student pastors—who often travelled long distances—to return from church fields for seminary classes. The new course offerings are a response to improved transportation and the desire of many full-time church workers to attend seminary classes, according to seminary officials.

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Ring Lost In Jungle Found
In 'Unbelievable' Events

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5/1/85

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—In what sounds like an entry from Ripley's "Believe It or Not," an alumnus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has reacquired a class ring he lost in a jungle in Central America.

William Stoney Shaw, a 1970 graduate of Southern seminary, lost the ring after removing it before taking a swim in a sink hole in the jungle while on a mission tour in Belize.

A clerical staff member at Southern seminary received a call from Robert Thomas of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center in New Orleans. Thomas had been to Belize, and found a Southern seminary class ring with the year 1970 and the initials S.W.S. engraved on it.

When he called the seminary recently, a check of alumni records found one 1970 graduate with those initials—Shaw.

Believe it or not.

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