



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 21, 1986

86-22

EDITOR'S NOTE: Baptist Press has adopted the terms "fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative" to identify the opposing sides in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy. They will replace the currently used terms "conservative" and "moderate".

Although the news service of the SBC will seek to avoid the use of labels, whenever possible, on occasion it is necessary to have a way to designate the opposing groups.

The terminology grew out of a report by Charles Fuller, chairman of the SBC Peace Committee. Fuller, speaking at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association, used the terms, and then supported their use by Baptist journalists.

The Press Association, composed of the 37 state Baptist newsjournals and Baptist Press, adopted the terminology "fundamental-conservative" and "moderate-conservative" by vote. The action also was adopted in a separate meeting of Baptist Press bureau personnel.

Thanks, Baptist Press

Executive Committee Approves
1986-87 Budget Allocations

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/21/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A record \$136 million goal has been proposed for the Southern Baptist Convention's 1986-87 Cooperative Program unified budget.

The 69-member SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 19 to recommend the Cooperative Program proposal to messengers who will attend the 1986 SBC annual meeting this June in Atlanta. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' means of funding missions, education and ministry programs around the world.

The \$136 million Cooperative Program budget is divided into three categories. The first is \$126,630,000 for the first phase of the SBC basic operating budget, or operating funds supplied to 20 convention agencies, institutions or programs. The second is \$5,874,000 allocated to meet capital needs of 12 agencies and institutions. The third is \$3,496,000 for the second phase of the basic operating budget.

The disbursement priority will be to supply the first phase of the operating budget, then to meet capital needs and finally to enter the second phase of the operating budget, if revenue is available.

In conjunction with the budget proposal, the Executive Committee adopted a "special note" to emphasize Planned Growth in Giving, the stewardship campaign adopted in 1983 to support the SBC Bold Mission Thrust plan to present the message of Christ to the entire world by the year 2000.

The special note highlighted a four-part strategy which has been designed to lead Southern Baptists to reach their Planned Growth in Giving objectives, said Nelson Duke, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jefferson City, Mo., and chairperson of the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee, which formulated the budget proposal. The strategies are:

--"Church members increase personal giving to their church each year by some percentage of personal income.

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

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC

—"Churches increase giving by some percentage through the Cooperative Program each year with the goal of having grown by at least 7.5 percentage points of their undesignated budget receipts to missions support through the Cooperative Program; and a planned increase in giving to the (local) association.

—"State conventions continue to work toward a 50-50 division of undesignated Cooperative Program receipts between state convention and Southern Baptist Convention ministries.

—"The Southern Baptist Convention to seek by A.D. 2000 or sooner to allocate 75 percent of the SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget to home and foreign mission ministries."

The 1986-87 Cooperative Program allocation budget proposal "represents a first effort toward achieving the Southern Baptist Convention part of the strategy," Duke said. He noted the combined allocation for the SBC Foreign and Home Mission Boards is 69.88 percent of the basic operating budget, up from 69.64 in 1985-86.

Against an overall increase of 5 percent for the first phase of the operating budget, the two missions boards both were allocated 5.36 percent gains. In that phase, the Foreign Mission Board's allocation was raised from \$60,300,000 to \$63,532,700. The Home Mission Board's portion went from \$23,690,500 to \$24,960,600.

As a percent of the first phase basic operating budget, the Foreign Mission Board's allocation climbed from 50 percent to 50.17 percent, and the Home Mission Board's share grew from 19.64 to 19.71.

Other allocations from the first phase basic operating budget and their percent of increase include SBC operating budget--the Executive Committee, \$1,778,400 (4 percent increase); Annuity Board, \$999,200 (4 percent); Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, \$7,533,242 (6.58 percent); Southern seminary, \$5,597,924 (5.75 percent); New Orleans seminary, \$4,230,657 (4.59 percent); Southeastern seminary, \$3,966,352 (2.84 percent); Golden Gate seminary, \$2,479,411 (3.44 percent); Midwestern seminary, \$2,136,814 (4.33 percent);

Also Southern Baptist Foundation, \$275,500 (4.75 percent increase); American Baptist Seminary Commission, \$244,500 (2.52 percent); Brotherhood Commission, \$924,000 (4 percent); Christian Life Commission, \$772,800 (4 percent); Education Commission, \$461,300 (3.99 percent); Historical Commission, \$432,000 (4.85 percent); Radio-Television Commission, \$5,237,600 (3.96 percent); Stewardship Commission, \$431,300 (4 percent); Public Affairs Committee, \$435,700 (4.01 percent); and Planned Growth in Giving promotion, \$200,000 (new item).

The \$5.9 million capital needs budget calls for disbursements to Golden Gate, New Orleans, Southeastern and Southern seminaries for capital improvements to their campuses and for funds to be channeled to the seven occupants of the new SBC Building in Nashville--Seminary External Education Division, Southern Baptist Foundation, Christian Life Commission, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Stewardship Commission and Executive Committee.

The second phase of the basic operating budget is designed to distribute almost \$3.5 million to the recipients of the first phase, in the same proportion in which they received first phase disbursements.

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Guidelines Approved
For SBC News Service

Baptist Press
2/21/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Operational guidelines for Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, were adopted during the February meeting of the SBC Executive Committee.

Purpose of the news service, as stated in the guidelines, is "to report factually and fairly the news of, about and for Southern Baptists."

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The guidelines acknowledge that ownership and management of Baptist Press is vested in the Executive Committee "to provide the required freedom and responsibility necessary for the benefit of Southern Baptists."

"The news service will strive to be factual and fair, as objective as possible, staying not only in the bounds of legality but also at a high level of professional and Christian ethics," the guidelines say.

On handling of controversial news, the guidelines say that Baptist Press releases are expected to be positive and constructive, adding that "when necessary, Baptist Press also will report forthrightly and accurately the valid news produced by controversy and adverse events."

"In its role of reporting to the Southern Baptist constituency, Baptist Press will encourage and have a right to expect Southern Baptist agencies, institutions, boards, commissions, organizations and committees to be open and cooperative in newshandline," the guidelines add.

The guidelines call for the Baptist Press central office in Nashville to strive to develop and maintain trustworthy relationships with both news sources, and with the users of the news.

"To achieve its ultimate purpose, the news service must be both highly professional in its journalistic function and highly useful as one specialized means employed in the broad denominational effort to bring all persons to God through Jesus Christ," the guidelines concluded.

The set of 13 guidelines have been in preparation for more than a year, according to BP Director Wilmer C. Fields, who characterized them as a summary statement of what Baptist Press already has been doing in practice for years.

The call for guidelines for the 40-year-old organization came in September 1984, after Houston appeals court judge Paul Pressler, a member of the Executive Committee, complained the news service was unfair to him in two stories concerning the alleged taping of a telephone call.

On the day Pressler attended his first Executive Committee meeting, Sept. 17, Baptist Press released a story concerning charges by a Southern Seminary student that Pressler taped a telephone conversation. On the next day, Sept. 18, the news service released Pressler's response.

Pressler's complaint the stories were unfair resulted in a three-hour hearing before the Executive Committee's Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee in February of 1985. Following the hearing, the subcommittee adopted a recommendation concluding the two stories "when taken together" give a balanced presentation of the news.

The recommendation, which said it was "untimely" and "unfortunate" the first story appeared separately, also expressed support for the BP staff for "their strong recommitment to timely, accurate and well-balanced news reporting. It also reaffirmed "its longstanding policy of openness in its deliberations and actions" and "its support for a responsible and free press as an essential element for an informed Southern Baptist constituency."

The entire report, along with the statement the Executive Committee staff was preparing guidelines for the operation of Baptist Press, was adopted by the entire Executive Committee almost without comment.

When the guidelines were presented for adoption at the February 1986 meeting, there was almost no discussion.

The guidelines had been discussed extensively at a meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 12, where representatives of the 37 state Baptist newspapers took official action that they "favorably received" the guidelines.

The guidelines were discussed during a meeting of the SBC Public Relations Advisory Committee Feb. 17, and during a session of the Executive Committee's Public Relations Workgroup.

In addition to approving the guidelines, the Executive Committee also took note of the fact the Administrative and Convention Arrangements Subcommittee had elected Marv Knox as feature editor of Baptist Press, effective Feb. 1.

Knox, who was associate editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, was introduced to the 69-member committee by Darrell Robinson of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the subcommittee.

Also, four new members were elected to the Public Relations Advisory Committee for three year terms. They will be joined by a fifth member, the chairman of the Executive Committee's Public Relations Workgroup, who serves on the advisory body by virtue of office.

Elected were Lynn P. Clayton, editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, Alexandria; Charles W. DeWeese, director of publications and communication, SBC Historical Commission, Nashville, Tenn; Milton Ferguson, president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and Barbara J. Fly, public relations coordinator, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood.

The advisory panel also elected new officers for the coming year. Chairman, to succeed R. G. Puckett, editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, Raleigh, will be John Earl Seelig, vice president for public affairs, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. Don Whitehouse, communications planning analyst, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., will be vice chairman and David Wilkinson, director of news and information services, SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville, Tenn., secretary.

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SBC Messenger Process
Set For Special Study

By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/21/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Alarmed by the potential for "chaos" at increasingly large Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, the SBC Executive Committee has approved a special committee to study the "messenger participatory process" at the yearly gatherings.

The call for the special committee "arose out of concern for the cost involved in the annual convention and the effectiveness of conventions the size of Dallas and expected for Atlanta," said Dewey Presley of Dallas. The 1985 meeting in Dallas attracted 45,519 messengers, and some observers believe the Atlanta convention may attract similar numbers.

Presley moved the Executive Committee "request its officers to appoint a special committee to study messenger representation to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Edward J. Drake of Dallas concurred, noting, "The thought of accommodating 65,000 messengers staggers the imagination."

"If the numbers continue to increase, where do we go—a football stadium?" Drake asked. He pointed out messenger participation may decrease as the SBC Peace Committee does its work and controversy within the convention possibly subsides, but he warned future crises and increased interest in the denomination could push messenger registration to even higher levels.

Drake also insisted "intelligent participation" in annual meeting business sessions virtually is impossible with so many messengers.

"It's frightening if you think about it," he said. "The purpose is to permit free and open discussion among Southern Baptists, but we're only headed toward chaos with 50,000 or 60,000 messengers."

On the other hand, if certified messengers are not allowed to participate in annual meetings, "the democratic process is thwarted," Drake added. He also noted the expense of the annual meeting and asked, "Are we getting the best, most effective economical participation for the dollar spent?"

The 1985 annual meeting in Dallas cost \$335,459, not including salaries for convention staff who helped the meeting function.

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The Executive Committee approved the recommendation, along with an amendment by Sunnye Jones of Baton Rouge, La., which changed "messenger representation" to "messenger participatory process." Jones explained the amendment was needed to delineate clearly Southern Baptists' polity, which holds that, as autonomous Christians, messengers come from their churches but vote as their own consciences dictate.

Action on the study committee followed a report on the upcoming convention in Atlanta by Tim Hedquist, Executive Committee vice president for business and finance. Hedquist described four major logistical problems which will be present at the June meeting.

"The first is a problem of moving people," Hedquist noted, explaining the main meeting hall in Atlanta is down two flights of escalators and that up to two hours may be required to fill and empty the hall for each session.

"This many people taxes a facility greatly," he added. "The most visible problem is restrooms. Obviously, enough phones are not available. Registration is much harder, as is just about everything people do at a convention."

Third is the problem of food service, he said. "Food in all cities is a major problem. Now our meetings involve so much business, and everybody is crowded. They don't want to give up their seat, so they stay in the building to eat." To rectify that situation somewhat, the convention has negotiated to use for food service 94,000 square feet of space previously contracted to another group.

Fourth is the problem of "carrying on business in multiple halls," at least four of which will be used in Atlanta, Hedquist said. "We've utilized all kinds of technical systems, but when it comes to a voice or hand vote, what do you do? Instantaneous voting mechanisms would cost \$1.8 million. That technology is being improved rapidly, and companies are willing to put us on the cutting edge. But it's still not easy."

As an example of increased technology being put to use at annual meetings, Hedquist told about a computerized "microphone ordering box" which will be used this summer in Atlanta to help the moderator keep track of discussion from floor microphones placed throughout the meeting halls.

In a related action, the Executive Committee received as information that its convention arrangements workgroup is continuing to consider future convention sites for 1993 and 1994 and will make a recommendation to the full committee concerning these sites next February.

It also agreed to report to the SBC annual meeting this summer "that the technology necessary to conduct business meetings in multiple satellite convention sites is not presently available, and, therefore, satellite convention meetings should not be conducted at this time."

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Criswell Sets Limits
On Shared Ministry

By Ken Camp

Baptist Press
2/21/86

DALLAS (BP)--Lay leadership of the church is unbiblical when it weakens the pastor's authority as "ruler" of the church, said W.A. Criswell.

Criswell offered his view in answer to a question about "Shared Ministry" during the closing session of the "School of the Prophets" at First Baptist Church of Dallas, Feb. 20. Criswell is pastor of First Baptist and chancellor of Criswell Bible College, co-sponsors of the annual seminar in church dynamics.

Although Criswell was not familiar immediately with the term Shared Ministry, a current emphasis of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department, a pastor in the audience who had attended a Shared Ministry conference said he believed it is an attempt to take away pastoral authority. Criswell expressed his opposition to any such effort.

"A laity-led, layman-led, deacon-led church will be a weak church anywhere on God's earth," Criswell said. "The pastor is the ruler of the church. There is no other thing than that in the Bible."

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Shared Ministry promotes on a biblical basis the development of healthy relationships between pastors, church staff, deacons and church members," said Joe Stacker, director of the church administration department.

"The emphasis affirms the pastor as the overseer/leader of the church who equips the saints for ministry," Stacker said. "This multiplies the ministry of Christ through persons who lead by example as taught in 1 Peter 5:1-4."

This scriptural foundation for Shared Ministry is the priesthood of all believers and servant leadership as taught by Jesus, he added. A study of the biblical basis for Shared Ministry is found in the book, "Shared Ministry: A Journey Toward Togetherness in Ministry," by Stacker and Bruce Grubbs, also of the church administration department.

In response to other questions, Criswell also was critical of what he perceives as "liberalism" within the Southern Baptist Convention, and he specifically applauded the efforts of Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Oklahoma evangelist Bailey Smith and others within the fundamental-conservative movement.

"The greatest tragedy overtaking our denomination is what I would term the spirit of liberalism that is almost universal," Criswell said. He condemned the baptism record of churches with what he termed "liberal" pastors, singling out in particular John Claypool's record at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Claypool recently left a Baptist pastorate to enter the Episcopal ministry.

Patterson, who shared the platform with Criswell, said the success of the fundamental-conservative movement "depends squarely" upon a fundamental-conservative victory at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention, which he termed "the second battle of Atlanta." He encouraged fundamental-conservative pastors to "assume the responsibility to go home and find five other pastors to make the sacrifice and go to Atlanta."

Patterson gave the name of a travel agent who could make arrangements for messengers to the convention. He also said several fundamental-conservative churches in the Atlanta area would provide housing in their members' homes or in church gymnasiums for any who could not afford a place to stay.

When asked to comment on rumors that attempts are being made to place Patterson as president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., Criswell turned to Patterson.

"If you were asked," Criswell said, "I would say you're stepping down."

"There are no attempts being made to do that," Patterson said.

In response to other questions, Criswell voiced opposition to "diploma mills" and fraudulent academic degrees, to rock music and to the charismatic movement. He encouraged pastors present to follow his example of expository preaching, daily physical exercise and uninterrupted Bible study.

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Student Groups Differ
On Seminary Violations

By R.G. Puckett and Dan Martin

Baptist Press
2/21/86

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Conservative Evangelical Fellowship, a student group at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has issued a "statement of apology" for "the intense level of negativism and mistrust" caused by its meeting with members of a Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee subcommittee.

The two-page CEF statement was distributed Friday, Feb. 21, in response to three weeks of controversy which followed a Feb. 4 meeting between the campus organization and three of the four members of the subcommittee, which made an official visit to seminary officials Feb. 5.

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The controversy spilled out of the seminary community and has resulted in a heated discussion on the floor of the SBC Executive Committee, meeting Feb 17-19, in Nashville, Tenn., and into a meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association in Williamsburg, Va., Feb. 11-13.

It has included allusions to discipline, intimidation and "blasting" from one side and accusations of betrayal from the other.

It also resulted in a "tense" meeting of the President's Forum, a monthly meeting between Southeastern President Randall Lolley and interested students. Seminary officials said strong opinions were expressed by both sides during the meeting, but no official action has been taken against any of those involved.

The nine-paragraph CEF statement, entitled "An Apology," is in response to a formal statement by the Southeastern Student Council, issued by student body President Ben Taylor of Macon, Ga., which expressed "great concern and dismay" about the visit between CEF and the subcommittee.

The statement identifies CEF as a "group of...students that agree that the Bible has complete authority and reliability, containing 'truth without any mixture of error'" and says the "purpose of this organization is to provide fellowship for students with conservative views...."

The statement includes "regret if the efforts of the...Peace Committee have been hindered because of misunderstanding between various groups" and regrets that "statements of good faith and intent" by some members of CEF have "for whatever reasons been misunderstood, ill conceived or improperly channeled."

It also "regrets...the purpose of the meeting was misunderstood." It says, "The written statement of intent provided to the subcommittee clearly emphasized that theological balance in the classrooms was the main concern and purpose for the session. There was no desire on our part to attack the integrity or the Christian faith of our professors. We did not and do not wish to have any professor dismissed, but only to promote balanced lectures or the addition of faculty who hold strong conservative biblical views."

The Southeastern Student Council issued a formal statement Feb. 11, which says, "...We...feel betrayed in that guidelines were violated, that a hidden agenda was carried out and that no single elected representative of our student body was given the opportunity to present genuine concerns of the entire student population."

The Peace Committee guidelines on the visit of subcommittees to the six SBC seminaries and five other denominational agencies called for the subgroups to meet with the chief executive officer, the chief academic officer and the trustee chairman. They did not discuss meeting with other organizations or individuals.

James Bradshaw of Virginia Beach, Va., president of CEF, in an interview with the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, confirmed he had set up the meeting, first talking with Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., a committee member, who referred him to Jim Henry of Orlando, Fla., subcommittee chairman, as the one to work out the arrangements.

The other two members of the subcommittee are Robert Cuttino of Lancaster, S.C., and William Poe of Charlotte, N.C.

According to Bradshaw, Henry set the time of the meeting at approximately 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at the Plantation Inn, a motel near the seminary campus where members of the subcommittee were staying.

All members of the subcommittee were invited to have dinner with Seminary President and Mrs. Randall Lolley, but only Henry was able to accept the invitation. He left the Lolley home about 9 p.m., explaining he had a meeting of the subcommittee at the motel that evening.

In a telephone interview with the Recorder, Poe said the meeting got underway sometime after 9 p.m., and he stayed in it until about 11 p.m. but excused himself because he was not feeling well. The meeting continued until 12:15 a.m.

Poe said when he arrived at the Plantation Inn, he found "15 to 18 people in the lobby who looked like students."

According to CEF members Bradshaw, Charles Waller of Cordesville, S.C., and Fred Hilder of Virginia Beach, Va., no classroom tape recordings were taken to the meeting, but notes taken by CEF students during class were used to address specific issues. Some recordings of speakers at the seminary—referred to as "official seminary tapes"—were taken to the meeting.

Bradshaw declined to list the "negative concerns," explaining they were now in the hands of the Peace Committee for its disposition. He also indicated the concerns were in the hands of the seminary administrators for their attention. Bradshaw added the students had some positive things to say about the seminary and certain professors.

"We fully expected Dr. Lolley and some faculty members to be there," Hilder said. All three students agreed the administration had not been notified formally of the meeting, nor had the CEF advisor, Glenn T. Miller. They indicated the students were prepared to face Lolley or any faculty members with their concerns if they appeared at the meeting.

Henry told the Recorder he did not tell the administration of the meeting.

CEF officers insisted they were not trying to hold any secret meetings, but the student council statement disagreed sharply: "We pray for peace, but how can we enjoy peace by destroying opportunities for the development of trust and respect? It is a sad, sad day when the work of Christ cannot advance because of the need for power and politics in the lives of a few people.

"It is an admirable thing to be sincere in a cause; it is a travesty when one is sincerely wrong. What transpired here at Southeastern seminary represents a severe breach in the spirit of our Christian community."

Bradshaw said he talked with Peace Committee Chairman Charles Fuller and apologized "if the meeting had hindered the progress toward peace. We were only trying to help the peace process."

Members of the CEF said they also have contacted Henry and Vines since the meeting to express their concern about the developments but have not contacted either Poe or Cuttino.

In its statement, the student council closed with an affirmation of "...the members of the faculty and administration...as being knowledgeable promoters of higher theological education and also as being faithful representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Be it further known that the Student Council affirms Southeastern seminary as an institution of academic excellence and integrity that is committed to equipping students for every good work in ministry."

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Controversy Erupts
Over Peace Report

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
2/21/86

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Controversy erupted over the work of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee after chairman Charles Fuller gave a report to the SBC Executive Committee's February meeting.

After Fuller's report on the work of the Peace Committee had been unanimously received by the Executive Committee, Paul Pressler of Houston asked if "all Southern Baptists should have access to the Peace Committee...without fear of intimidation or discipline or anything like that?"

Pressler asked Fuller: "What should one do if he finds out that some individuals are intimidated, threatened with disciplinary action and generally being attacked...just because they wanted to meet with the Peace Committee?"

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Fuller twice said he was "aware of no incident" concerning intimidation or threats. "I do not know of the disciplinary action of which you speak," Fuller told Pressler, but Pressler declined to be more specific, saying once he was "asking generally" and another time he was "asking in a vacuum."

The only controversy which has taken place concerning the visits of Peace Committee subcommittees to SBC agencies occurred at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., where members of a campus organization, the Conservative Evangelical Fellowship, met with three of the four members of the subcommittee.

Although the meeting has resulted in formal statements from the SEBTS Student Council and a counter statement from the CEF, seminary officials say there has been no official action taken against anyone involved.

One seminary official said the matter was discussed during the President's Forum at Southeastern, during which President Randall Lolley "expressed concern."

"It was a pretty tense meeting, but most of the conversation was between the students. As far as I know that is the only thing that happened. I am not aware of any discipline, or intimidation or threats," the official said.

Lolley was not available to respond directly to the allegations.

Although Fuller was unaware of any incident, he did respond by telling Pressler: "If I knew someone was attempting to reach us or talk to us...and was being restrained from it, I would say they ought not to be. I would attempt to correct it."

He did say an attempt by an organization within an agency or institution trying to contact the committee "may be of a different variety," but said, "We have said all along that any individual can approach us."

After several minutes of questioning, Pressler asked Fuller: "Isn't the whole purpose of the Peace Committee so that Southern Baptists can express themselves and have an avenue for correction of grievances and we should do that in the context of freedom and no intimidation?"

Fuller responded by noting it is "also our responsibility to keep faith with the assignment we were given and that is that in our deliberations and approaches, recommendations and so on, we will honor the trustee structure and the structure of the agencies."

Pressler attempted to introduce a resolution but was ruled out of order by Chairman David Maddox of Fullerton, Calif., who told the Houston appeals court judge he could introduce the action later.

In the miscellaneous business period at the end of the meeting, Pressler introduced a resolution, which he said was "carefully worded" and "one which all of us can get together on."

The resolution noted the purpose of the Peace Committee "is to discover any causes of discontent that are existent among Southern Baptists," and said "free access" to the committee is necessary if the group is to do its job. It also added it is "necessary for all Southern Baptists to function in an atmosphere of freedom and be able to express themselves without fear of intimidation...."

Pressler's resolution said "there have been reports that there have been some efforts by some Southern Baptist agency employees to intimidate ones from appearing before the Peace Committee or discipline those who have expressed their freedom...."

It called on the Executive Committee to "affirm the right of all to have free access...and...advise all employees of the agencies of the SBC that they should allow this free access, and if such is denied to anyone, the trustees of the agency involved should take a proper disciplinary action against the one denying it."

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The resolution drew immediate objection. Alvin O. West of Washington, D.C., said he was concerned the resolution was "not specific. I could not vote for a resolution couched in such terms, saying some action had been engaged in by someone, but not knowing who that someone is."

Richard Patton of Portland, Tenn., pointed out all members of the Executive Committee were "equally elected. I wonder why, if this is a real concern, all of us were not contacted, rather than just a few."

William Ricketts of Watkinsville, Ga., said "some matters have been brought to my attention by members of the Peace Committee and they disturb me."

The resolution, however, drew the strongest objection from Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, who urged the committee to rule the resolution out of order because the Peace Committee is an organization of the Convention and not the Executive Committee.

"I do not appreciate all the questions Mr. Pressler asked earlier, nor the implication of the resolution," Elder said, and referred to a "mysterious cloud" which has been cast over the work of the Peace Committee.

"I plead with you not even to consider the merits, but if you do, I would like to request 20 or 30 minutes to report and summarize (the visit between the BSSB) and four excellent members of the Peace Committee," Elder said.

After Elder's remarks, Frank Ingraham of Nashville, Tenn., moved that the resolution be tabled, and the motion was adopted 36-8.

After the action, Pressler commented: "Certainly in no way was I criticizing the Peace Committee for anything. I just wonder what redress can individuals have if they are disciplined for exercising their free right as Southern Baptists and a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ for going before the Peace Committee."

Milton Ferguson, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., said the Peace Committee "established very clear guidelines" before their visits and there exist "very clear guidelines about the way in which the agencies operate."

"In any of those agencies, any individual member...has a right to access to the Peace Committee as an individual and should be encouraged to exercise that avenue. But there are clear guidelines concerning administration, staff, faculty, student body, and particularly student body organizations, as to how they relate their concerns and or grievances to the agency involved.

"It is very important both sets of guidelines be respected, affirmed and followed. I strongly encourage the dissemination of the understanding that any individual Southern Baptist who is a member of a congregation whose messengers are seated is encouraged and affirmed in communication with the Peace Committee.

"Any employee of any agency should both affirm and work within the established guidelines of those agencies and institutions," he added.

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