



- - BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Mary Knox, 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

October 17, 1986

86-153

Senate Confirms New Ambassador To Holy See

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—During a flurry of end-of-the-session votes, the U.S. Senate Oct. 15 confirmed the nomination of Frank Shakespeare Jr. as new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See.

The Oct. 15 action came despite protests from a number of religious and church-state organizations, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole, the Baptist Joint Committee asked the Senate to delay its confirmation vote until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether to review a pending case.

That case, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. v. Reagan, would test the legality of such a diplomatic appointment to the Holy See, also known as the Vatican. The Baptist Joint Committee has filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the high court to review the case.

In the Dole letter, Oliver S. Thomas, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, wrote, "Because the court has not yet ruled on the petition for review in this case, we urge you to postpone this important vote until after the November recess. Baptists throughout the nation would be grateful for your delaying this vote until the court has reached its decision."

The joint committee's opposition to a U.S. ambassador to the Holy See is based on its stance the First Amendment demands government impartiality toward various faiths and such an appointment confers upon the Roman Catholic Church a status not enjoyed by any other religious group.

Shakespeare, who currently is U.S. ambassador to Portugal, will replace William A. Wilson, who resigned the Vatican post May 19. President Reagan's appointment of Wilson in January 1984 ended a 117-year period during which the United States was forbidden by Congress to establish formal diplomatic ties with the Holy See. When the Senate repealed the 1867 ban in November 1983, it cleared the way for re-establishment of such ties.

Dozens of religious bodies and individual taxpayers challenged the Wilson appointment in a suit filed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Pennsylvania. That panel, however, ruled in May 1985 that plaintiffs had no legal standing to bring the suit. Even if standing had been granted, the panel indicated the plaintiffs would have lost because the Constitution confers on the president the authority to conduct foreign policy, including the appointment of ambassadors.

Last March, a three-judge panel of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia affirmed the lower ruling. In making a final appeal to the nation's high court, the plaintiffs agreed their chances would be better if Americans United were not the lead petitioner. Thus, the case was re-fashioned as American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. v. Reagan.

During his confirmation hearing—which was held three days following announcement of his nomination and attended by only two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—Shakespeare, a Catholic, was asked whether the U.S. ambassador should relate to the Vatican on a political or religious basis.

"I have nothing to do in representing the United States where the pope is the leader of the Catholic Church but, rather, as the chief executive officer of the Holy See," Shakespeare said. "It is my very strong view, both my personal view and my professional assignment, as I see it, to represent in the Vatican not the United States' Catholics, of whom I happen to be one, but the secular society of the United States, the government and the people of the United States to the Holy See."

Rogers Affirms Missions
As 'Bottom Line' For SBC

By Craig Bird

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—"Foreign missions is the bottom line of everything else that exists in the Southern Baptist Convention," SBC President Adrian Rogers told Foreign Mission Board trustees Oct. 15.

Describing himself as "thrilled and excited" by what he had seen during a Monday to Wednesday visit to the board, Rogers challenged the trustees and the staff to remain faithful to their God-given command to tell the world that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

"I don't know how he found the time in his schedule to spend three days with us, but we are grateful he did," said Robert Smith, chairman of the board's trustees.

Rogers, elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention last June, is pastor of the 17,000-member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

In addition to delivering the closing address at the board meeting, Rogers attended a Monday night service recognizing 67 retiring missionaries, a Tuesday night appointment service for 37 new missionaries, sat in on committee meetings and held a press conference while he was in Richmond.

"What I have seen is so exciting it is almost electrifying what God is doing," he told reporters. He urged local churches to become aware of the needs and complimented the board "for giving people concrete opportunities to get involved (through short-term, volunteer projects).

"When you tell people we need a school teacher here, an evangelist there and a bricklayer over here—then someone can say 'yes, I can do that.'"

Most of the questions during the press conference, however, dealt with the strife in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rogers said he was "moderately optimistic" about the prospects for peace. "I feel a willingness to talk about issues, we are hearing less of controversy and when fires do flare up, they seem to go out more quickly."

Repeating his belief that "90 to 95 percent of us (Southern Baptists) are brothers under the skin" and share common beliefs about the Bible, Rogers disavowed any attempt to "force anyone into a straitjacket" and promised to fight for anyone's right to believe whatever he wants, "even if it's that you have to believe the moon is made of green cheese or you have to be baptized upside down in oil" to be saved.

However, he stressed, people who work in Southern Baptist agencies "ought to believe what the majority of the people who pay their salary believe."

Among beliefs he said he feels are not acceptable to "the vast preponderance" of Southern Baptists are refusal to accept Adam and Eve as real people who were the ancestors of all mankind; to say that some of the miracles of Jesus did not really happen but are simply parables; to disavow that Peter wrote the New Testament books of First Peter and Second Peter or to say that David did not write the Psalms; and that the devil is not a real person.

"Obviously the Bible is literature and it contains poetry and symbolism," he said. "I don't know of anyone who is contending for wooden literalism of the Scriptures—but just because the Bible speaks of something symbolically, that doesn't mean it isn't literal."

The description of Satan as a "great red dragon with multiple heads" is symbolic, Rogers explained. "That doesn't mean he is literally a dragon—but it does mean he is a literal, personal devil, not just some spirit of evil.

"I think 99.44 percent of Southern Baptists believe there is a personal devil—most of us have done business with him."

—more—

Rogers said he hasn't thought much about how far down the organizational charts of SBC agencies such uniformity of theological positions should go, but noted it definitely should include "the opinion makers, the leaders, primarily those who teach our students."

He said once a "safety net" was in position as to the place and reliability of the Scriptures, "then we can be free to talk" about areas where there can be legitimate diversity such as "Calvinism, hyper-Calvinism, Armenianism, pre-millennialism and post-millennialism."

A primary goal of his presidency is to depoliticize the annual SBC meeting, "so we can gather to do business instead of to do battle." He has not reached a decision about whether he will run for re-election when the convention meets next June in St. Louis.

"I know if I do run, some people will see that as divisive but I also know that if it is perceived that I was intimidated into not running, some would think that was divisive too," he said.

—30—

(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Trustees Hear Dilday Report On Year
At Southwestern, Elect Two To Faculty By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
10/17/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heard President Russell Dilday's annual report on an "outstanding year" and elected two new faculty members at their fall meeting Oct. 13-15.

In addition, trustees of the Fort Worth, Texas, school adopted a motion by a vote of 19-11 commending Dilday for "the obvious restraint which he has manifested over the last two years" in addressing the Southern Baptist Convention controversy.

Trustees unanimously elected Terrell M. Peace as instructor in foundations of education and Royce Alan Rose as assistant professor of administration.

Peace currently teaches at Bauder College in Arlington, Texas, and is interim minister of education at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas. He previously taught on Southwestern's adjunct faculty. Peace has been on the staff of North Fort Worth Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church in Bryan, Texas. He is a graduate of Clemson University and Southwestern Seminary.

Rose is director of independent study education with the Southern Baptist Seminary External Education Division in Nashville, Tenn. He has been an associational director of missions and minister of education in Texas. Rose is a graduate of Howard Payne University and Southwestern Seminary.

Trustees also approved two new chairs, the Fred M. and Edith M. Hale Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation and the Ralph M. and Bess Smith Chair of Preaching.

Hale and his late wife, Edith, were honored last spring with Southwestern's B.H. Carroll award. He is the retired chairman of the board of Henderson Clay Products in Henderson, Texas.

Smith is pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. He was instrumental in securing Southwestern's largest cash gift in August, \$2.47 million from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McEachern. The Smiths were recognized at a luncheon during the meeting. Trustee chairman Drew Gunnells said Smith "illustrates what it means to be a great Bible-believing, Bible-teaching preacher."

Trustees voted to award four couples the B.H. Carroll Founders Award on Founders' Day, March 12. They are Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Berry of Blytheville, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chavanne of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cox of Fort Worth; and Mr. and Mrs. Jay Heflin of Little Rock, Ark.

The board also named three rooms. One will honor Rex and Katherine Good of Dallas. The Scott L. Tatum Preaching Chapel and Joe Davis Heacock Curriculum Lab will honor a preaching professor and a former dean of the school of religious education.

—more—

Dilday presented the annual report at a dinner Oct. 12. He based his presentation on Philippians 3:14, the theme of Southwestern's five-year strategic plan, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

"We want to keep before us the right goal," Dilday said. "We are all contributors to that one goal." Dilday listed accomplishments of the past year. These include:

- Ongoing renovation of Scarborough Hall, the main classroom wing for the school of theology;
- Preparation for construction of a continuing education conference center;
- Studies on an addition to Cowden Hall, which houses the music school;
- Installation of a computerized energy management system;
- Progress toward raising \$50 million by 1990;
- Endowment for five of 10 academic chairs needed by 1990;
- Curriculum revision studies underway in all three schools;
- Conducting 52 continuing education events;
- Full academic accreditation without notations for the A. Webb Roberts library;
- Adoption of a strategic plan for Hispanic Seminary;
- Implementation of the annual church membership certification for current students;
- Awarding degrees to 947 students, including 51 doctorates.

Drew J. Gunnells, pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., was re-elected board chairman. Wallace Palmer, pastor of First Baptist Church, Leesville, La., was elected vice chairman. John McNaughton, a layman from Fort Worth, was re-elected secretary.

—30—

Trustees Commend Dilday,
Reject Attempt To Silence Him

By Mark Wingfield

Baptist Press
10/17/86

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have voted 19-11 to approve a motion praising seminary President Russell Dilday for restrained and "judicious" leadership.

The motion of praise was made by Davis Cooper, pastor of University Hills Baptist Church in Denver, during the trustees' meeting Oct. 15 on the seminary campus in Fort Worth, Texas. It replaced a motion by Ralph Pulley, an attorney and member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, which attempted to silence Dilday's opinions on controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cooper's motion praised Dilday for "the obvious restraint which he has manifested over the last two years" of the SBC controversy and encouraged him to "continue this judicious style of leadership."

Pulley's original motion asked Dilday to "refrain from writing ... criticizing the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention" and to "evidence positive support of convention leadership and trustees of this institution."

The motion requested Dilday "refrain from further public comments orally or in writing that the issue before the Southern Baptist Convention is political and not theological."

—more—

Furthermore, the motion called for Dilday to refrain from "any joint seminary presentation to the (SBC) Peace Committee" and to "cease public involvement in any dispute in the Southern Baptist Convention."

Dilday and the five other Southern Baptist seminary presidents have promised to present a proposal for peace within the denomination when they meet with the Peace Committee Oct. 20-22 in Glorieta, N.M. Earlier in the trustee meeting, Pulley expressed concern over Dilday's participation in talks with other seminary presidents and the Peace Committee.

Pulley's motion also would have required involving trustees from the beginning stages of discussion with any prospective faculty member.

The motion called on administrators to invite the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to speak on campus each year and to allow trustees to approve all speakers for commencement exercises, revivals, seminars and other "significant events" on campus.

Pulley recalled his unsuccessful attempt in 1984 to ask trustees to restrain Dilday from addressing convention politics. Even though trustees did not pass that motion, Pulley said, he thought Dilday "would feel the tenor of the trustees' comments" and abide by that.

Instead, Pulley said, Dilday continued to speak and write against the fundamental-conservative movement in the convention. Most recently, Pulley said, he had been concerned with Dilday's column in the July/August 1986 issue of Southwestern News, the seminary's monthly newsmagazine.

In that issue, Dilday cited a "leadership vacuum" in the Southern Baptist Convention, which he said institutions like Southwestern Seminary would fill in the future. The column, Dilday said, was taken from a 1984 conversation with Billy Graham. Graham had said he believed religious leadership in the future would come not from individuals but from great institutions.

Pulley said he presented his motion to allow a "healthy discussion" with the president. "I feel after two years the trustees should make a definitive written statement to the president regarding current convention matters," Pulley said. "If we continue our present course, this seminary will be hurt, and hurt permanently."

Bill Grubbs, a layman and member of First Baptist Church of Dallas, supported Pulley's motion. Speaking particularly to the proposed prohibition on Dilday's interaction with other seminary presidents and the Peace Committee. He said he feared Southwestern would go on record supporting Southern, Southeastern and Midwestern Baptist theological seminaries.

Cooper, who described himself as a fundamentalist, said, "I am more fundamental than the fundamentalists, but I am a strong supporter of Russell Dilday." He said the seminary president had been "very judicious in the way he has responded" to the controversy during the past year. "It is evident he has restrained himself."

No one spoke to the substitute motion, and the vote, cast by hand, was 19-11 in favor of Cooper's proposal. Two of 32 trustees present—Chairman Drew Gunnells, pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., and one other—abstained from voting.

The afternoon before, Dilday had told trustees of his "personal and deliberate decision this year not to be involved at a public level" in the controversy. "I have turned down every interview," he said. "I have refused speaking engagements. I have not addressed the convention issue directly in publications.

"Frankly, that goes against my grain," Dilday said. "I've had to bite my tongue when this institution has been slandered."

Later, trustees voted unanimously to "affirm our support for the elected leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Peace Committee."

—more—

After the vote on Cooper's motion, trustees who identified themselves with both factions in the convention praised Dilday. Some said that although they had voted against the substitute motion, they were not voting against Dilday. Others expressed frustration because they felt discussion on the original motion had been cut off prematurely.

"I'm for Russell Dilday," said Jimmy Draper, former SBC president and pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, who voted against the motion. He explained the substitute motion put him in a "difficult position" of appearing to vote against the president.

Draper said he voted against the substitute motion because he wanted the original motion to be discussed.

At Dilday's suggestion, the board continued its Wednesday morning session through chapel time so everyone would have the opportunity to raise concerns. Board members carried on a frank dialogue with Dilday, who attempted to clarify what he called "misconceptions" presented by others in the meeting.

Trustee John McKay, music evangelist from Fort Worth, criticized having Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Seminary, as the May 1986 commencement speaker. Dilday said Honeycutt was invited to speak five years ago and it is not unusual to have presidents of the other Southern Baptist seminaries speak at such occasions.

McKay asked if there is a "moratorium on conservative speakers" being asked to speak at the seminary. Dilday said every SBC president since 1979 has spoken at Southwestern during his term. He noted current SBC President Adrian Rogers is scheduled to speak Nov. 18.

Some asked Dilday why he thought the seminary was "under attack." Dilday responded that leaders of the fundamental-conservative movement have "openly acknowledged the takeover effort. They've claimed victory.

"When I say there's a takeover attempt, I'm not accusing any of you," he said. The fact of a takeover plan is "publicly in print."

Others questioned why Dilday continued to say the convention controversy is political in nature. "The Peace Committee has said there are political problems," Dilday responded. "That's not just my personal opinion."

Dilday concluded by telling the board he had recently experienced a "convincing conviction that God has called me to this place. I have reaffirmed what I think is God's direction for my life."

At the beginning of the Wednesday morning session, Chairman Gunnells urged the board to keep its meeting open, which it did.

"An open meeting is much better for all of us," he said. "It will show our convention we have nothing to hide."



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

SO. BAPT. LIB. & ARCH.
901 COMMERCE SUITE 400
NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION