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April 29, 1987

87-65

Public Affairs Committee
New Members Are Proposed

N-10
By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP)--The membership of a restructured Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee has been proposed by the 1987 SBC Committee on Boards.

The names of people who would serve on the restructured committee were released April 28 by T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., chairman of the 54-member committee that nominates people to serve on the boards of the 24 national entities of the SBC.

This year's Committee on Boards will prepare dual lists of people to serve on the Public Affairs Committee, the group that relates to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a religious liberty-separation of church and state organization composed of nine Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada.

One list will include people who would serve if messengers to the 1987 SBC annual meeting adopt a revision of Bylaw 18, which governs the appointment of standing committees of the SBC. The second list will name people who would serve if messengers reject the revision.

Pinckney told Baptist Press seven people are nominated to go on the PAC if the bylaw is adopted. He said the seven were selected by an eight-member subcommittee of the Committee on Boards from among 19 people nominated by the committee.

"The bylaw revision was adopted only a short time before we met, and members of the committee did not come prepared to nominate persons for the Public Affairs Committee," Pinckney said. "We discussed it, and the subcommittee was given the authority to select the seven members from among those who were nominated from the states."

If the bylaw revision is rejected, Pinckney said, the subcommittee will select three people from among the seven who will serve.

The BJCPA has been under fire in recent years from some Southern Baptists, and a motion was made during the 1986 annual meeting that would withdraw Southern Baptist support from the Joint Committee. A special committee has been studying the relationship between the BJCPA and the SBC during the year and has proposed a revision in Bylaw 18 which governs standing committees of the convention.

Under the bylaw as it is currently written, 15 people serve on the Public Affairs Committee, seven of whom are permanent members by virtue of office: the chief executive officers of the Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Baptist Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission, Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union. Two other agency executives also serve, currently the Annuity Board and New Orleans seminary.

Currently, the president of the SBC serves by virtue of office and the other five members are at-large posts. The at-large members and "general agency" representatives are eligible to serve only one four-year term.

All 15 members of the Public Affairs Committee automatically are members of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. In times past, the PAC has not met as a separate organization but has served as a conduit through which funds and representatives are channeled to the BJCPA.

The revision in Bylaw 18 was adopted by the Executive Committee in February and will be recommended to messengers at the annual meeting.

If the revision is adopted, membership on the PAC will be increased to 18. BJCPA directors in October of 1986 adopted a plan revising the way the nine Baptist bodies are represented which creates a 54-member board and grants the SBC 18 members. The plan specifies no member denomination may have more than one-third of the membership.

The SBC revision — which would become effective immediately if messengers adopt it — limits the number of agency executives who serve by virtue of office to five: the chief executives of the Executive Committee, Sunday School Board, Annuity Board, Home Mission Board and Foreign Mission Board. The SBC president also retains a seat on the committee and the executive officer of the Christian Life Commission becomes a non-voting, ex-officio member.

The revision specifies there will be 12 at-large members who may serve two four-year terms. The new bylaw also specifies that "no fewer" than seven of the members shall be "church or denominationally related" and that "no fewer" than seven members be laypersons.

If the new bylaw is adopted, the membership will be:

The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, currently Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn.; and the presidents of the Executive Committee (Harold C. Bennett); Foreign Mission Board (R. Keith Parks); Home Mission Board (Larry L. Lewis); Sunday School Board (Lloyd Elder); and Annuity Board (Darold H. Morgan) would be ex-officio members. N. Larry Baker, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, will be the non-voting ex-officio member.

New members to serve partial terms would be William L. Stone, pastor of First church, Litchfield Park, Ariz., to serve a term expiring in 1988, and Mrs. Dudley J. (Bonnie) Hughes, a former television talk show hostess and member of First church, Jackson, Miss., to serve a term expiring in 1989.

New members to serve terms expiring in 1990 would be Roy R. Gean Jr., an attorney and member of First church, Fort Smith, Ark.; Richard Land, special assistant to the governor of Texas and member of First church, Dallas and Thomas E. Pratt Jr., pastor of Calvary church, Brighton, Colo.

A new member to serve a full term, expiring in 1991, would be Norris W. Sydnor Jr., pastor of Riverside church, Oxon Hill, Md.

Les Csorba III, executive director of Accuracy in Academia and member of First Church, Alexandria, Va., would fill the unexpired term — expire in 1988 — of Don Turner of Fort Worth, Texas, who resigned.

If adopted, two current members would be eligible for nomination to second terms. They are Samuel Currin, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina and member of Hayes-Barton church, Raleigh, N.C., and Albert Lee Smith, an insurance executive and member of Southside church, Birmingham, Ala.

Current members who would continue to serve would be J.I. Ginnings, an oilman and member of First church, Wichita Falls, Texas (term to expire in 1988); Bill Gunter, insurance commissioner for the state of Florida and member of First church, Tallahassee; and Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, both of whose terms expire in 1989.

The committee also recommended that Currin continue as chairman of the expanded Public Affairs Committee.

If messengers decline the bylaw revision, the membership would be:

The SBC President and the chief executive officers of the Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Christian Life Commission would continue as ex-officio members. The chief executives of the Annuity Board and New Orleans Seminary would remain as well.

Ginnings and Gunter would complete their terms and the Committee on Boards subcommittee would decide which of the persons would replace Currin, Smith and Turner and would name a new chairman in the event the revision is defeated.

Committee Names
Seminary Trustees

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--Trustees for the six Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated seminaries have been nominated by the SBC Committee on Boards.

The nominations, included in the 1987 report of the Committee on Boards released April 28 by Chairman T.C. Pinckney of Alexandria, Va., must be acted on by messengers to the 1987 annual meeting, scheduled June 16-18 in Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis.

Under convention bylaws, seminary trustees serve five-year terms and are eligible to serve two terms.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY (63 members): 12 nominations considered; 4 new members, 8 renominations.

New members to replace people ineligible for renomination include Mark Coppenger, pastor of First church, El Dorado, Ark., replacing Emil Williams of Jonesboro; Robert R. Gillchrest, pastor of First church, Los Alamos, N.M., replacing John P. Preston of Farmington; and Gene Russell, pastor of Eisenhower Road church, San Antonio, Texas, replacing James M. Hancock of Canyon.

Nominated to a five-year term as a local member, replacing a person ineligible for renomination is P.A. Stevens, a fire protection contractor and member of Lyndon church, Louisville, Ky., replacing Leonard V. Hardin of Louisville.

Nominated for second terms are Jerry R. Day, Tucson, Ariz.; Jess C. Moody, Van Nuys, Calif.; Alton Butler, Pensacola, Fla.; Martha Layne Collins, Versailles, Ky.; R. Edward Walker, Miami, Okla.; and John Lee Taylor, Jackson, Tenn.

Nominated for a second term as a local member is Fred Pfannenschmidt, Louisville, Ky. Nominated for a second term as an at-large member is Robert D. Beddingfield, South Lyon, Mich.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY (37 members): 10 nominations considered; 6 new members, 4 renominations.

Nominated for five-year terms replacing people ineligible to be renominated include M. Grady Roan Jr., pastor of First church, Vidalia, Ga., replacing Robert Joe Potts of Columbus; Don E. Taylor, an insurance executive and member of Merriman Avenue church, Asheville, N.C., replacing W.J. Smith of Charlotte; and O. Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest church, Houston, Texas, replacing Ralph W. Pulley Jr. of Dallas.

Named to a term to expire in 1992 is Roger W. Freeman, pastor of First church, Gahanna, Ohio, replacing Phillip A. Jones of Columbus, who moved.

Named to fill unexpired terms -- expiring in 1990 -- are Lyle Seltmann, pastor of Cherryland church, Traverse City, Mich., replacing Truman B. Smith of Clio, who moved, and Pat Campbell, pastor of Ridgecrest church, St. Charles, Mo., replacing Rheubin L. South of Jefferson City, who died.

Nominated for second terms are Delmar G. Morris, Seymour, Ind., and Wallace B. Palmer, Leesville, La. Nominated for second terms as at-large members are John McKay, Fort Worth, Texas, and Bill G. Grubbs, Dallas.

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY (37 members): 9 nominations considered; 6 new members, 3 renominations.

Nominated to five-year terms to replace people ineligible for second terms include Kenneth C. Kohl, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and member of Capitol Hill Metropolitan church, Washington, D.C., replacing William E. Norman of Gaithersburg, Md.; Edward D. Johnson, pastor of First church, Ocala, Fla., replacing Joseph P. DuBose of Graceville, and Marvin L. Cudd, pastor of First church, Huber Heights, Ohio, replacing Darrell Gabbard of Perrysburg.

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Nominated to fill an unexpired term — expiring in 1990 — is Albert M. Burt, pastor of Baring Cross church, Flint, Mich., replacing David B. Ray of Pontiac, who moved.

New local member nominated for a five-year term to replace a person ineligible for renomination is Charles G. Rhinehart, a civil engineer and member of First church, Kenner, La., replacing Max McCabe Ainsworth of New Orleans.

New local member nominated for an unexpired term — to expire in 1988 — is Fred L. Lowery, pastor of First church, Bossier City, La., replacing Carl A. Hudson of Bunkie, who resigned.

Nominated for second terms are Richard T. Stiltner Jr., Hope, Ark.; Paul G. Moak, Jackson, Miss.; and Bill R. Shelton, Albuquerque, N.M.

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY (30 members): 7 nominations considered; 5 new members, 2 renominations.

Nominated to five year-terms to replace people ineligible for renomination include James W. Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue church, Fort Smith, Ark., replacing William T. Flynt of Fayetteville; Walter R. Lonis, a retired policeman and member of South Wadsworth church, Denver, Colo., replacing O. Charles Horton of Orlando, Fla.; and Wesley A. Dans, director of capital improvements for an oil products company and member of Pinecroft church, Shreveport, La., replacing Arthur Achord of Houma.

Named to fill an unexpired term -- expiring in 1991 — is Kenneth L. Stevens, pastor of Orchard Hills church, Novi, Mich., replacing David G. French of Warren, who resigned.

New local member named to a five-year term to replace a person ineligible for renomination is Cecil D. Rhodes Jr., a retired physician and member of First church, Wilson, N.C., replacing J.E. Collette of Winston-Salem.

Nominated for a second five-year term is Kenneth W. Bush, Eufaula, Ala. Nominated for a second five-year term as a local member is Mrs. A. Harrison (Christine) Gregory, Danville, Va.

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY (35 members): 9 nominations considered; 4 new members, 5 renominations.

Nominated to five-year terms as local members to replace people ineligible for renomination are Stoney W. Shaw, pastor of Parkway church, St. Louis, Mo., replacing Clyde Cantley of Overland, and Richard L. Proctor, an attorney and municipal judge and member of Wynne church, Wynne, Ark., replacing Gerald L. Young of St. Joseph, Mo.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term — expiring in 1989 — is Lewis Adkison, pastor of Circle Drive church, Colorado Springs, Colo., replacing Mrs. Carolyn S. Snider of Pagosa Springs, who resigned.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term — ending in 1988 — as a local member is Allen R. Bartlett, pastor of First church, Fulton, Mo., replacing James A. McCullen of Manchester, who moved.

Nominated for second terms include T. David Simpson, Greenwood, Ind.; Graydon K. Kitchens Jr., Minden, La.; Lloyd G. Minter, Bartlesville, Okla.; Lester P. Branham Jr., Lake City, S.C.; and Jerry Davenport, Sheffield, Texas.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY (36 members): 9 nominations considered; 5 new members, 4 renominations.

Nominated to a five-year term to replace a person ineligible for renomination is Kenneth D. Hall, pastor of Maplewood church, Cahokia, Ill., replacing Dale R. Rowley of Vandalia.

Nominated to a five-year term is Stephen P. Davis, pastor of First church, Russellville, Ark., replacing Don Moore of Little Rock, who declined a second term.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term -- expiring in 1988 -- is David Sheppard, pastor of Hillcrest church, Carlisle, Ohio, replacing Lawrence H. Langford of Cincinnati, who resigned.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term -- expiring in 1988 -- as an at-large member is Marvin E. Burford, branch manager for an appliance manufacturer and member of Hall Boulevard church, Tigard, Ore., replacing Clinton M. Ashley of Pullman, who resigned to become president of the new Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term -- expiring in 1992 -- as an at-large member is Robert L. Zinn, pastor of Immanuel church, San Bernardino, Calif., replacing William O. Crews of Riverside, who resigned to become president of Golden Gate seminary.

Nominated to second terms are W. Carl Petty, Flushing, Mich.; Robert C. Harris, Del City, Okla.; and John R. Lincoln, Columbia, S.C. Nominated to a second term as an at-large member is Cecil J. Pearson, Fresno, Calif.

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Trustees Nominated
For SBC Agencies

N-LO
Baptist Press
4/29/87

NASHVILLE (BP)--Nominations for trustees to serve the commissions and committees of the Southern Baptist Convention have been released by the 1987 SBC Committee on Boards.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FOUNDATION (35 members): 8 nominations considered; 7 new members, one renomination.

New agency representatives to represent the Home Mission Board, Southwestern seminary, Southeastern seminary, the American Seminary Commission and the Stewardship Commission will be named by the Committee on Boards subcommittee in St. Louis.

New at-large members include Gorman J. Roberts, senior vice president of a trust company and member of Crescent Hill church, Louisville, Ky., replacing W.H. Coles Jr., of Nashville, who resigned; and John O. Ellis, retired banker and member of First church, Nashville, replacing Stanley M. Smith of Nashville, who declined a second term.

Nominated to a second term is Lloyd G. Minter, Bartlesville, Okla., representing Midwestern seminary.

AMERICAN SEMINARY COMMISSION (16 members): 4 nominations considered; 2 new members, 2 renominations.

Nominated to a four-year term is C. Richard Dendler, real estate company office manager and member of Hall Street church, Owensboro, Ky., replacing Ralph F. Carter of Statesville, N.C., who declined a second term.

Nominated to replace a person ineligible for renomination as a local member is O. William Long, senior vice president of a bank and member of Crievehood church, Nashville, replacing Hoffman C. Harless of Nashville.

Appointed to second terms are J. Thomas Randall, Union Springs, Ala., and Rochelle Davis Jr., Detroit, Mich.

EDUCATION COMMISSION (21 members): 5 nominations considered; 3 new members, 2 renominations.

Nominated to replace people ineligible for renomination include Paul J. Rea, a retired educator and member of Royal Palms church, Phoenix, Ariz., replacing Jerry N. Purkapple of Showlow; Van D. Quick, vice president of Mississippi College and member of First church, Clinton, Miss., replacing J. Ralph Noonkester of Hattiesburg; and Fred A. Holt, pastor of Catherine Lake church, Richlands, N.C., replacing Dwane R. Campbell of Charlotte.

Nominated to a second term is James H. Roach Sr., Shreveport, La. Nominated to a second term as an at-large member is W.H. Hinton, Houston.

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BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION (37 members): 12 nominations considered; 6 new members, 6 renominations.

New members replacing people ineligible for renominations include James Michael Melloan, a Realtor and auctioneer and member of Yellow Creek church, Owensboro, Ky., replacing G.T. Cowan Jr. of Winchester; Robert E. Hill, pastor of Calvary church, Cleveland, Miss., replacing Norris L. Stampley of Jackson, and Joseph S. Lennon, a retired hospital administrator and member of Warrenton church, Warrenton, N.C., replacing Donald E. Greene of Hickory.

New at-large member replacing a person ineligible for renomination is Thomas H. Knotts, director of associational missions and member of First church, Belvedere, S.C., replacing Joel Waddell of Summerville.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1989 is Kenneth L. King, director of associational missions and member of First church, New Braunfels, Texas, replacing Cecil O. Sewell Jr. of Sugarland, who moved. Nominated to a term to expire in 1990 is Rick M. Frazier, pastor of Altizer church, Huntington, W.Va., replacing Harry Clifton Davis of Princeton, who resigned.

Nominated for second terms are Billy E. Summerlin, Gadsden, Ala.; Roscoe Orten Jr., Washington, Ill.; Leslie D. Albro, Jeffersonville, Ind.; and Robert E. Gaultney, Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Nominated for second terms as at-large members are Miles L. Seaborn Jr., Fort Worth, Texas, and Charles C. Lowery, Dublin, Ga.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION (31 members): 9 nominations considered; 5 new members, 4 renominations.

New members replacing people ineligible for renomination include Curt Scarborough, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Missouri and member of First church, Ferguson, replacing Edwin E. Peoples of Kansas City; Carl Ben Mitchell, pastor of Middle Valley church, Hixon, Tenn., replacing David C. George of Nashville; and Mrs. Don (Skeet) Workman, a homemaker and member of Calvary church, Lubbock, Texas, replacing Jarrell McCracken of Waco.

New at-large member replacing a person ineligible for renomination is Mrs. Orman W. (Marilyn) Simmons, a homemaker and member of First church, Little Rock, Ark., replacing Mrs. Robert M. (Pat) Ayers of San Antonio, Texas.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term -- to expire in 1988 -- is Earnest J. Cook, pastor of Starlight Park church, Phoenix, Ariz., replacing James E. Harvey of Glendale, who moved.

Nominated to second terms are Rudolph C. Yakym Jr., Mishawaka, Ind.; Coy C. Privette, Kannapolis, N.C.; C. Nolan Phillips, Middletown, Ohio; and Mrs. Alma Ruth Morgan, Bartlesville, Okla.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (33 members, being reduced to 32): 11 nominations considered; 6 new members; 4 renominations, 1 not replaced.

New members replacing people ineligible for renomination include Mrs. Sophronia Ann Robbins, a pastor's secretary and member of Forest Park church, Farmington Hills, Mich., replacing Mrs. John Chester of Livonia; Dale E. Lawson, pastor of Mulberry church, Charlotte, N.C., replacing Marion D. Lark of Henderson;

William E. Bell Jr., dean of the school of religion and philosophy at Dallas Baptist University and member of First church, Euless, Texas, replacing Leon McBeth of Fort Worth; and Mrs. W.T. (Anne R.) Davis, owner of a tour guide company and member of Bethel church, Tabb, Va., replacing William L. Lumpkin of Norfolk.

Nominated to a full term is Theodore D. Wilson, an attorney and member of Eastern Heights church, Indianapolis, Ind., replacing Hollie S. Miller of Brownsburg, who declined appointment to a second term.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term — expiring in 1989 — is Slayden Yarbrough, associate professor of religion at Oklahoma Baptist University and member of First church, Shawnee, replacing Richard T. McCartney of Oklahoma City, who moved.

Nominated to second terms are John V. Platt, Lancaster, S.C., and Fred S. Rolater, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Nominated to second terms as local members are William E. Rudolph and Joseph H. Hamilton, both of Nashville.

Bernes K. Selph, Benton, Ark., rotates off the board and is not being replaced.

RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION (27 members): 9 nominations; 7 new members, 2 renominations.

New members replacing people ineligible for renomination include Thomas Blackwell, a broadcaster and member of Central church, Inglewood, Calif., replacing W. Duane Barrett of Fresno; James Raymond Hawthorne, sales and marketing executive and member of First Southern church, Evansville, Ind., replacing Gary W. Jossa of Newburgh; and E.L. Helton Jr., an electronic technicians manager and member of Highland church, Grove City, Ohio, replacing Walter D. Garrett of Dent.

Nominated to full terms to replace people who declined to accept a second term are August C. Peters, pastor of Hillsdale church, Hillsdale, Mich., replacing James L. Hatfield Jr., of Flint; and Mrs. Sara Diaz Warren, owner of a television station and member of Coronado church, El Paso, Texas, replacing Frederick E. Roach of Dallas.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term — to expire in 1989 — is Neil G. Arveschoug, a broadcaster and member of Pines church, Spokane, Wash., replacing Richard L. (Danny) Cochrane of Renton, who died.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term — to expire in 1990 — is James M. Castleberry, pastor of Ridgecrest church, Birmingham, Ala., replacing Wallace Henley of Birmingham, who moved.

Nominated to second terms are Jewel R. Morris, Hot Springs, Ark., and James C. Sims Jr., Washington, D.C.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION (27 members): 9 nominations considered; 5 new members, 4 renominations.

New members replacing people ineligible for renomination include Harry E. Litton Sr., a property manager and member of First Southern church, Tucson, replacing Lowell B. Parker of Phoenix, and Gary D. Collins, a certified public accountant and member of First church, Jefferson City, Mo., replacing Billy T. Hargrove of Jefferson City.

Three positions will be filled when the subcommittee meets in St. Louis. They are for replacements for Harold T. Kitchings of Clinton, Miss., who died; Glenn A. Brown of Oklahoma City, who resigned; and R.V. Haygood of Brownsburg, Ind., who resigned.

Nominated for second terms are Jack J. Eassa, West Palm Beach, Fla.; Levi A. Parish Jr., Burton, Mich.; John D. Wallace, Morristown, Tenn.; and S.E. Hathaway III, Buckhannon, W.Va.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS (6 members): 2 nominations considered, 2 new members.

New members replacing people ineligible for renomination are Dwight (Ike) Reighard, pastor of New Hope church, Fayetteville, Ga., replacing Stan Coffey of Amarillo, Texas, and Clayton D. Spriggs, associate pastor and business administrator of San Jacinto church, Amarillo, Texas, replacing Jay Strack of Fort Myers, Fla. The committee also nominated Thomas D. Elliff, pastor of First Southern church, Del City, Okla., as chairman.

DENOMINATIONAL CALENDAR COMMITTEE (6 members): 2 nominations considered, 2 new members.

New members to replace people ineligible for renomination are Leon B. Hataway, pastor of Central church, Clifton, Colo., replacing Fred Powell of Atlanta, and Harold Finch, a businessman and member of Emmanuel church, Overland Park, Kan., replacing James C. Waits of Laurel, Miss.

The committee nominated James A. Greene Jr., pastor of First church, Jal, N.M., as chairman.

BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (11 Southern Baptist representatives): 1 nomination considered, 1 new member.

Bailey E. Smith, an evangelist and member of First Southern church, Del City, Okla., was nominated to fill the unexpired term — to expire in 1990 — of Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., who died.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP (15 Southern Baptist representatives): 1 nomination considered.

The subcommittee will name a replacement to fill the unexpired term -- to expire in 1990 -- of Owen Cooper of Yazoo City, Miss., who died.

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N-BJC

Court Rejects Challenges To
Child Pornography Convictions

By Stan Hasteley

Baptist Press
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WASHINGTON (BP)--The Supreme Court has rejected challenges by two men convicted of violating a federal child pornography law, despite the pair's contention they were deprived of due process of law.

In a 7-2 order, the court rejected claims by James E. Smith of California and Leland E. Stevenson of Nevada that they were denied due process because their convictions came before Congress in 1986 specifically included a ban on the interstate transportation of undeveloped film and videotape depicting sexually explicit conduct by children. Two federal district courts and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals earlier had rejected the claims.

Smith was convicted in December 1985 of photographing three 13- and 14-year-old girls in various stages of nudity and of transporting the film from Hawaii to Maryland for developing. When employees at the Maryland photo lab processed the film, they called U.S. Postal Service inspectors. Smith received a 10-year prison term.

Stevenson was convicted of taking obscene photographs and film footage of numerous young boys while on a trip to Sri Lanka and India and, later, of transporting the materials from his Nevada home to Hollywood, Calif., for developing. When technicians at the Hollywood laboratory developed the 30 rolls of videotape and five rolls of film, they called the Los Angeles Police Department. Stevenson was sentenced to five years in prison.

The federal child pornography statute under which both men were convicted was first enacted in 1978 and prohibited the interstate transportation of any "obscene visual or print medium" in which children under age 18 were used in depicting sexually explicit conduct.

The Supreme Court, in the 1982 case of *New York v. Ferber*, held the First Amendment does not protect works that visually depict sexual conduct by children, even if the works are not legally obscene.

In 1984, Congress recognized the ruling by deleting the obscenity requirement in the 1978 law and incorporating the more general term "visual depiction" in place of the former "visual or print medium" language. Although the term "visual depiction" was not defined in the 1984 amendment, Congress in 1986 specifically included undeveloped film and videotape in a new amendment defining the phrase.

Smith and Stevenson challenged their convictions on grounds they were brought to trial before the 1986 clarifying amendments were enacted.

Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall indicated they would have reversed the convictions. (86-1257, *Smith v. U.S.*)

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Palm Bay Shoot-out
Evokes Fear, Concern

By Greg Warner

N-100
(F10)

PALM BAY, Fla. (BP)—Valerie Wright faced a gunman through the locked doorway of Publix supermarket in Palm Bay, Fla. He fired at her but missed, striking the wall beneath a window.

Unable to enter the Palm Bay store, the gunman wheeled and opened fire in the parking lot. "He started shooting around at anything that moved," Valerie said. "I saw three people go down. One man was killed."

Valerie, a 16-year-old Publix employee, stared helplessly out the glass storefront as the sniper shot randomly into the scurrying crowd of shoppers: "He was shooting little kids. It made me sick. It was like taking something and stabbing me right through the heart. There was nothing I could do but watch out the window."

A member of Central Baptist Church in Melbourne, Fla., she was one of the fortunate ones. Six people were killed and 14 injured when William Cruse allegedly went on an early-evening shooting spree in two shopping centers in Palm Bay, a city of 48,000 people 35 miles south of Cape Canaveral.

While Valerie took cover in Publix, her sister, April, 18, called police from two doors away at Eckerd Drugs, where she worked. Most of the victims were felled by the heavily armed gunman while he made his way from Publix to a Winn-Dixie supermarket across the street.

Norma and Ansel Adams, both members of Central Baptist, were on their way out of Winn-Dixie as the gunman approached. They hustled back into the store to find cover, but before the store manager could lock the door the gunman shot his way in.

Although the gunman killed one shopper and kidnapped another, the Adamses and others hid from him and later escaped out a back door. They crouched in a ditch until they could be rescued. In a neighborhood directly behind Winn-Dixie, Fred and Sharon Wright waited anxiously for their two daughters to come home. From their front yard they watched the rear door of Winn-Dixie, where the stand-off continued. Through the swamp that bordered their back yard, they could see the home of Cruse, who already had been identified by news reports as the gunman.

Earlier Sharon Wright had heard about 50 shots and seen the smoke of gunfire from Cruse's house, where the gunman began firing before driving to the shopping centers.

As police worked to capture Cruse, who reportedly began his rampage after a dispute with neighborhood children, shoppers and store employees huddled behind locked storefronts for up to seven hours.

Valerie called her parents to report she and her sister were safe and, like hundreds of others, were being evacuated in armored trucks and buses.

The Wrights, meanwhile, watched as Winn-Dixie's lights went out in response to the gunman's demands. Fearing Cruse would try to flee out the back of the store and escape through the swamp to his house, the Wrights decided to leave.

They eventually went to city hall, where evacuees were giving statements to police. There they met their pastor, Gary Fagan of Central Baptist, who comforted the family.

Fagan and other pastors had been invited to city hall to minister to families involved in the shooting spree. Steve Belden, pastor of Lockmar Baptist Church in Palm Bay, showed up in his softball uniform after news of the shooting interrupted a church softball league nearby. Other pastors and staff members went to Holmes Regional Medical Center, where the injured were treated.

Many area Southern Baptists were at the shopping centers or otherwise caught up in the tragedy, but none were killed or injured. The one most prominent in the shooting and aftermath was Palm Bay Police Chief Chuck Simmons, also a member of Central Baptist. Fellow church members described Simmons, a former Marine, as a sincere Christian with a no-nonsense approach to police work. "If I were stuck, I would want him to get me out," said Tim Ellis, minister of music and youth at Central Baptist.

Simmons directed the police response to the shooting, including the tear-gassing of Winn-Dixie and subsequent arrest of Cruse, who tried to escape out the rear door of the supermarket.

The alleged gunman, who says he remembers nothing of the shooting, reportedly was intoxicated at the time. He has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder, 14 counts of attempted murder and kidnapping.

Finally Valerie and April Wright arrived at city hall and were reunited with their parents.

"I thank God for a miracle," Fred Wright said. "I was scared. I felt like I might never see them again."

Wright's daughters, including Denise, 15, were instrumental in his Christian conversion last August. That experience helped him trust God during their recent ordeal, he said.

"When we felt like we didn't have any place to turn, I knew I could trust in my belief and somehow God's will would be done in all these things," he said. "That gave me strength to get through these trying times."

Valerie said she drew strength from Fagan and others who prayed for and consoled her: "It was comforting to know there were people out there praying for us. I feel closer to God than I ever have before."

Fagan said he and other ministers were "treated as helpers" by rescue workers and officials. Area pastors were asked to notify victims' families. Many ministers worked until 5 a.m.

Fagan said his most frustrating task was trying to comfort a group of Florida Institute of Technology students from Kuwait. "They are from the Middle East, where we are afraid to go because of terrorism, and here their friends are shot at a shopping center," he explained.

Pastor Belden of Lockmar Baptist said the tragedy was a shocking reminder of the "fragileness and brevity of life. My own wife was on her way to Winn-Dixie to buy some milk, and for some reason things happened at home to prevent her from going."

Bill Whedbee, pastor of First Baptist Church of Palm Bay, was one of several pastors who set up a stress center in a hospital parking lot and provided counseling and food to victims' families on the night of the tragedy.

Although the shooting claimed no victims among members of First Baptist, it did have a tragic side effect. Dot Elliott, an elderly member, had an attack of emphysema at her home during the shoot-out, Whedbee said. Because all the ambulances in the area were involved in the rescue operation at the shopping centers, the woman was unable to receive help. By the time an ambulance arrived an hour and a half later, she was dead.

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(BP) photo available upon request from the Florida Baptist Witness.

ADDITION: Please add a line to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting program, printed in Baptist Press 2/3/87. The 9 a.m. item for Thursday morning, June 18, should now read:

9:00 Business

Resolutions Committee (final report)

Thanks,

Baptist Press

CORRECTION: Please replace the 17th graf of the story mailed 4/27/87 and titled "Historical Commission OKs Budgets, Bylaw, Pamphlets" with the following:

Of those women who work in denominational positions, their careers are not "merely 9-to-5 jobs," Blevins said. "They are crucial forms of ministry."

Thanks,

Baptist Press