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June 23, 1987

87-93

Former WMU National Headquarters
Sold To Birmingham Firm

By Karen Benson

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—The former national headquarters building of Woman's Missionary Union has been sold to LTC Joint Venture, composed of Land Title Company and Colonial Properties Inc. of Birmingham.

The building is located on the corner of 6th Avenue North and 20th Street in downtown Birmingham. It served as WMU national headquarters for 33 years, from 1951 to 1984.

WMU officials placed a historical marker on the building June 2.

"I am glad that the building will be in the hands of an old, established, Alabama company," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of national WMU. "I feel good that it is now owned by such a stable respected company."

The \$2 million payment has been applied to the \$5 million debt which resulted when the national staff relocated in 1984 from the downtown facility to the new headquarters complex atop New Hope Mountain on the outskirts of Birmingham.

WMU's new building was financed with an unsecured loan from AmSouth Bank N.A. in Birmingham.

Contributions to a Centennial Thank Offering are expected to retire the remaining debt when WMU centennial is celebrated in 1988. When individuals contribute to the offering, they are also asked to write a brief statement of why they are thankful for WMU. Those messages will be placed in a time capsule for opening at a future celebration.

The final Centennial Thank Offering will be taken at the WMU Centennial Celebration May 13-14, 1988 in Richmond, Va., WMU's founding site. WMU officials expect to be debt free by the end of the centennial year.

The new owners of the downtown headquarters building intend to use the facility for corporate headquarters of Land Title Company. They will also lease space to several Birmingham based firms.

LTC owners plan to restore the building to "the beautiful image WMU had."

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by WMU, SBC.

High Court Strikes Down
Creation Science Law

By Stan Hastey

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6/23/87

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Supreme Court, acting in its most publicized church-state case of the current term, has struck down a Louisiana law mandating the teaching of creation science in the state's elementary and secondary schools when evolution also is taught.

In a 7-2 decision announced June 19, the high court rejected the contention of Louisiana officials that the law's purpose was secular, not religious. Rather, the court held, the law's stated purpose was a "sham."

The decision marked the end of a protracted battle to save the law, whose primary sponsor, state Sen. Bill Keith, is a former Southern Baptist foreign missionary and director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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Although state legislators who voted for the 1981 law argued throughout a six-year legal battle over its constitutionality they were motivated by a desire to promote academic freedom, the nation's highest court rejected the contention. "The Act actually serves to diminish academic freedom by removing the flexibility to teach evolution without also teaching creation science, even if teachers determine that such curriculum results in less effective and comprehensive science instruction," the seven-justice majority held.

Beginning with its landmark 1973 ruling in *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, the court has used a three-part test to determine if laws such as Louisiana's violate the Constitution. The court held then that to pass the test, a law must have a secular purpose, must not have the primary effect of either advancing or inhibiting religion, and must not excessively entangle church and state.

Justice William J. Brennan Jr., who wrote the majority opinion, ruled the Creationism Act violated the First Amendment's ban on an "establishment of religion" because "the pre-eminent purpose of the Louisiana Legislature was clearly to advance the religious viewpoint that a supernatural being created humankind." As such, it was designed "to change the science curriculum of public schools in order to provide persuasive advantage to a particular religious doctrine that rejects the factual basis of evolution in its entirety," Brennan wrote further.

The court's senior justice concluded, "The Act violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment because it seeks to employ the symbolic and financial support of government to achieve a religious purpose."

Dissenting for himself and Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Justice Antonin Scalia charged the court majority had ruled in effect "that the members of the Louisiana Legislature knowingly violated their oaths and then lied about it." Rarely in the past, he noted, has the Supreme Court invalidated a law because it failed the "secular purpose" test.

"Striking down a law approved by the democratically elected representatives of the people is no minor matter," Scalia wrote, adding, "The people of Louisiana, including those who are Christian fundamentalists, are quite entitled, as a secular matter, to have whatever scientific evidence there may be against evolution presented in their schools."

Besides objecting to the outcome in the Louisiana case, Scalia said he favored scrapping the purpose test altogether.

The case, *Edwards v. Aguillard*, caught the fancy of members of the national media, many of whom labeled it "Scopes 2" — a reference to the celebrated 1925 trial and conviction of John Scopes, a public school science teacher who defied a Tennessee law forbidding the teaching of evolution in favor of the biblical doctrine of creationism.

Both Brennan and Scalia referred to the earlier debate over evolution, with Brennan suggesting a similarity between the Tennessee law and that enacted by Louisiana legislators. Scalia, on the other hand, called the majority ruling "an illiberal judgment, (a) Scopes-in-reverse."

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Mabe Named Southern's
Development Executive

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—Thomas F. Mabe, 52, vice president of the Baptist Medical Center Foundation in Kansas City, Mo., has been named vice president for development of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

A graduate of the University of Richmond (Va.) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., Mabe previously was director of development and denominational relations for Virginia Baptist Hospital. Mabe also has been executive director of Lynchburg (Va.) Baptist Association and on the staff of several Virginia Baptist churches.

As vice president, Mabe will direct the seminary's development programs, including capital funding, annual giving and estate planning.

Mabe and his wife, Betty, are members of Holmeswood Baptist Church in Kansas City.

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Subcommittee Begins Hearings
On Unrelated Business Income

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)—On the first of five days of hearings, members of a House subcommittee heard testimony by Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department officials on the unrelated business income of tax-exempt organizations.

Unrelated business income is any trade or business that is carried on regularly by a tax-exempt organization and is not substantially related — aside from a need to raise funds — to the organization's tax-exempt purposes.

Congress first enacted a tax on most unrelated business income in 1950 primarily out of concern over unfair competition between exempt organizations and non-exempt businesses. In 1969, Congress expanded the law to apply to all exempt organizations, including churches.

The law contains exemptions for activities in which all work is performed by volunteers; which are performed by a charitable organization primarily for the convenience of members, employees, patients, students, etc.; and which involve the sale of donated merchandise.

House Oversight Subcommittee Chairman J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, said no major review of the unrelated business income tax has been conducted since 1969. He said the scheduled hearings are designed to identify who is or should be paying unrelated business income tax, the types of commercial activities in which tax-exempt organizations are engaging, whether the law is being administered effectively, and whether the application and structure of the unrelated business income tax are correct.

During his testimony, IRS Commissioner Lawrence B. Gibbs said a number of exemptions, exclusions and limitations have been enacted by Congress over the years on an "ad hoc basis," frequently to overturn IRS tax determinations. He listed examples including the exclusion of income received by a religious order from operation of a commercial television station and the exclusion of income from many bingo games.

"While I have no quarrel with the right of Congress to exempt certain income from tax, I would hope that in the future an attempt could be made to define unrelated business income in a way that would avoid the impression of a piecemeal repeal of the unrelated business income tax," Gibbs told the subcommittee.

O. Donaldson Chapoton, Treasury Department deputy assistant secretary for tax policy, offered a detailed history of the tax and a list of recommendations for "further debate."

Several subcommittee members raised questions relating to the current PTL investigation.

When asked about the application of unrelated business income tax to various television evangelists, Gibbs said the IRS must take into consideration whether an organization considers itself to be a church. He added that in determining whether such organizations are churches, the IRS must look at each organization individually.

Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., asked why churches are not required to file financial information forms with the IRS, especially "when there is good indication that these people are thieves" and "against everything we believe as a nation."

Rangel rejected Gibbs' contention that requiring churches to file such forms could raise First Amendment issues.

The subcommittee is scheduled to hear additional testimony from more than 100 witnesses, including representatives of tax-exempt organizations and small business groups.

**Bennett Named Provost
At Southern Seminary**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—G. Willis Bennett, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., has been named provost of the seminary.

The appointment, which became effective June 15, was announced by President Roy L. Honeycutt at Southern seminary's annual alumni and friends luncheon during the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis.

Bennett, dean of the school of theology since 1963, will serve as the seminary's chief academic officer. Most of those responsibilities had been retained by former Provost Honeycutt after his election as president in 1982.

Bennett, 67, is a native of Candler, N.C. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., the University of Louisville and Southern seminary. After serving as pastor of Southern Baptist churches in North Carolina and Kentucky, Bennett has taught in the areas of Christian ethics and church and community since joining the seminary faculty in 1959.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Southern seminary.

**Campus Ministers
Receive Challenge**

By Tom Miller and Ray Furr

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ST. LOUIS (BP)—Almost 200 people attending the two-day annual meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers at the Mayfair Hotel were challenged to help college students with their spiritual struggles.

In the opening session, Glenn Hinson, professor of church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., urged the ministers to "look and listen to God" in all types of situations and places and be ready to accept it. ... Don't try to manipulate grace. It is a gift from God. We need to let down like a swimmer to discover the buoyancy of God's presence, power and love."

In another major address Scott Walker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston, S.C., asked the campus ministers to help college students develop dreams and define those dreams: "Help college students struggle with the concept of the will of God" in their lives, he suggested. "God is the source of creative energy that brings us into being and sustains the world."

Bob Ford, president of the association, told members the future of campus ministry is bright: "While the storms of controversy rage around us, we must be a haven for those who are committed to campus ministry. We must not let controversy detract us."

Observing that ministry to college students "is resurgent in the churches," Ford, who is campus minister at Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala., urged his fellow members to "maintain ministries that develop citizens of the world who will share Jesus Christ with their world."

Officers elected for 1987-88 include Arliss Dickerson, Jonesboro, Ark., president; Hal Burke, Orlando, Fla., president elect; Adam Hall, Martin, Tenn., vice president for membership; Sylvan Knoblock, Charleston, Ill., vice president of administration; Bob Hall, Knoxville, Tenn., vice president of publications; and Raye Nell Dyer, Galveston, Texas, vice president for programs.

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Black SBC Messengers
Applaud New Materials

By Sherri Brown

ST. LOUIS (BP)—The introduction of new Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission materials was met with applause June 15 at the fellowship dinner of Black Southern Baptist messengers in St. Louis.

"We are committed to all our churches," said James Smith, executive director of the Memphis, Tenn.-based commission. Smith showed covers of new men and boy's literature which all included illustrations of ethnics, Blacks and anglos.

"We exist for the purpose of helping all churches involve men and boys in missions," he explained at the dinner.

Also speaking to the 100 messengers at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board-sponsored meeting was Milton Boyd, associational director of Black church relations for Montgomery Baptist Association, Montgomery, Ala.

"We have more women than men in our churches. Until we turn those men around to win other men, our churches and communities are in trouble. Brotherhood organizations are on way to bring men to an involvement that helps them feel fulfilled in the church," said Boyd, who also serves as pastor of two churches in Montgomery.