



-- BAPTIST PRESS

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February 26, 1988

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PAC, BJC Told:
'Work It Out'

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has declined to act on a proposal that would dissolve SBC institutional and financial ties to the Washington-based Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Executive Committee also recommended the SBC reduce its annual contribution to the Baptist Joint Committee budget by \$48,400. But it allocated budget increases to two SBC entities that are stepping up their Washington profiles.

The dissolution/funding issue culminated last fall, when the SBC Public Affairs Committee, a standing committee of the convention that relates to the BJC, voted 8-4 to seek the split. The PAC also requested \$485,200 to fund itself as the SBC agency "to deal with First Amendment and religious liberty issues." Both measures require Executive Committee approval to be presented to the full convention.

Recent relations have been stormy between Southern Baptists and the BJC, a religious liberty organization comprised of nine Baptist conventions. Detractors have said the BJC is too liberal, faulting it for not supporting school-prayer and anti-abortion amendments. They have called for the SBC to defund the BJC, cutting off SBC annual contributions of about \$450,000.

Consequently, the SBC/BJC relationship has been the focus of two Executive Committee studies in the past two years.

A fact-finding committee report to the SBC last summer suggested membership of the PAC -- the SBC's delegation to the BJC -- be restructured. That suggestion was approved, increasing the SBC's representation on the 54-member BJC from 15 to 18 members and increasing the at-large membership of that group from five to 12.

The fact-finding committee report also empowered the PAC to act on SBC motions and resolutions upon which the BJC cannot and/or does not support.

However, questions of finances surfaced when the restructured PAC first met in August. Participants asked two primary questions: Is the BJC's Southern Baptist budget allocation to be channeled through the PAC, with the PAC having discretion concerning how much goes to the BJC and how much it keeps for its own needs? And if the PAC has no discretion over BJC funds, does the PAC have access to other funds to support its newly expanded functions?

Those questions prompted the Executive Committee, which met in September, to create a second study committee to consider the financial issue.

But in October PAC members expressed frustration with their ability to be accountable to the SBC. They met with the full BJC, which denied the PAC independent access to staff correspondence, itemized expense accounts for the past five years and staff interviews. Subsequently, the PAC reconvened and requested the dissolution of ties.

When the Executive Committee met Feb. 22-24 in Nashville, the funding issue surfaced first. The committee approved a four-part recommendation that noted:

-- The fact-finding committee's report did not call for, nor prohibit, a change in the funding procedure through which SBC funds are sent directly to the BJC.

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-- The PAC, as an SBC standing committee, should request its own funds by following the standard three-part procedure that applies to all SBC entities.

-- The SBC treasurer should continue to send the BJC's funds directly to that agency during the 1987-88 fiscal year.

-- The BJC should make its SBC budget requests, as adopted by the full committee or its executive committee, through the PAC to the Executive Committee. The procedure includes the understanding that the Executive Committee and its budget subcommittee may request representatives from the PAC and the BJC to provide budgeting information and that the PAC would be free to make recommendations concerning the requests, based on the PAC's perspective.

Later, the Executive Committee considered the PAC's dissolution request. The original motion would have put the issue to a vote of messengers to the SBC annual meeting this summer.

But opponents of that measure said the PAC and BJC had not had time to resolve their situation. They cited the work of the two study committees and noted, for example, that the funding issue had been resolved only hours earlier.

James E. Baucom of Martinsville, Va., and Frank C. Ingraham of Nashville drafted the substitute motion that prevailed. It referred to the work of the study committees and noted, "There has not been adequate time for implementation and evaluation of the effectiveness of the changes called for in these studies."

It concluded the "Executive Committee refrains from any further action pertaining to this relationship."

Speaking to the motion, John C. Cothran of Greenville, S.C., said, "They need to work together." He was echoed by SBC President Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., who said the action says to the PAC and the Baptist Joint Committee: "Let's give it time. ... Work it out."

Those sentiments surfaced again, when the Executive Committee discussed potential changes in the policy regulating exhibitors at the SBC annual meeting. According to the regulations, an entity such as the BJC that is not exclusively Southern Baptist cannot be an exhibitor unless the exclusively SBC entity that performs the same type of work ratifies the exhibit request.

Previously, the BJC has exhibited under the auspices of the PAC. Until this year, PAC approval has not been a question, since the PAC had only functioned as the SBC contingent to the BJC. However, the newly revised PAC has been more autonomous and to date has not approved the BJC's exhibit request.

An amendment by Ann M. Smith of Greensboro, N.C., to make an exception for the BJC failed 18-40. Rogers called the amendment "Pandora's box." Noting one exception to the rules would lead more exceptions, he said, "There are others who have entities they'd like to include."

Rogers earlier "came to our rescue," when a subcommittee discussed a similar exception for the BJC, said G. Nelson Duke of Jefferson City, Mo. He reported Rogers had suggested contacting PAC leaders to request that they allow the Baptist Joint Committee to exhibit. "I cannot assure anything. We will only appeal to the Public Affairs Committee," Rogers said.

The BJC did not fare so well in budget considerations. The Executive Committee voted to recommend the SBC reduce its annual contribution to the BJC budget from the current \$448,400 to \$400,000 for the 1988-89 fiscal year. The change represents a 10.79 percent reduction.

The decision was part of the Executive Committee's recommendation for allocations of the 1988-89 SBC Cooperative Program unified budget. The Cooperative Program funds a variety of SBC missionary, evangelistic and educational ministries worldwide.

When the budget was discussed, John Sullivan of Shreveport, La., asked why the BJC allocation was reduced. Cothran, who chaired the budget subcommittee, said, "In the wisdom of the committee, in trying to find funds to give to other needs ... we needed to take some away."

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"The committee didn't have any concept that we were taking money from one place and giving it to another," said William F. Harrell of Martinez, Ga. "We were starting from ground zero."

Furthermore, the BJC reduction is consistent with the fact-finding committee's determination that the BJC's other member denominations should carry more of a load, said Paul Pressler of Houston. The Cooperative Program provides 70.26 percent of the current BJC budget. It is set to provide 59.69 percent of the 1988-89 budget.

Ingraham moved to amend the budget to restore the \$48,400 to the BJC by taking that amount proportionately from eight other Cooperative Program recipients. He noted several Baptist state conventions had threatened to alter their Cooperative Program contributions if the BJC budget were cut and predicted, "I think we're going to lose in excess of \$48,400 in cooperative money."

His amendment failed, 18-42, and the original budget recommendation passed. Although Cothran and others noted the "ground zero" nature of the budgeting process prevents direct links between one entity's gain and another's loss, several Executive Committee members noted significant increases went to the two organizations that are stepping up their Washington operations.

The PAC, which previously was funded only for one meeting a year and this year received funds for an additional meeting, was marked to get an additional \$24,200. That amount is to fund PAC meetings, a quarterly newsletter and a national public affairs conference.

And the SBC Christian Life Commission, which last fall approved "an expanded presence in Washington" to address moral concerns, received a \$65,050, or 8.18 percent, increase. The average Cooperative Program increase is 4.25 percent.

In a final PAC/BJC-related action, the Executive Committee cited a 1976 SBC action and "tradition long honored by Southern Baptists" in affirming the convention's position of "non-endorsement of candidates for political office."

That action was taken in response to a PAC vote last summer to endorse Robert H. Bork for Senate appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

As originally worded, the action would have affirmed "non-endorsement of candidates for political or appointive office." But members voted 36-17 in favor of Pressler's amendment to strike "or appointive" from the motion.

PAC, BJC Leaders
Respond To Actions

N-CO
By Marv Knox

Baptist Press
2/26/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--Leaders of two Baptist religious liberty organizations looked to the future as they responded to Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee actions affecting them.

Samuel T. Currin, chairman of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, reacted to news the Executive Committee had denied a PAC request for the SBC to dissolve its institutional and financial ties to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

James M. Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, reacted to an Executive Committee vote to reduce the SBC's annual contribution to the BJC by \$48,400.

The BJC is a Washington-based religious liberty organization comprised of nine Baptist denominations, including the SBC. The PAC is the SBC's delegation to the BJC and also is empowered to act on SBC motions and resolutions upon which the BJC cannot and/or does not support.

Last October, PAC members expressed frustration with their ability to be accountable to the SBC for the work of the BJC. When the BJC denied them access to staff correspondence, itemized expense accounts for the past five years and staff interviews, they voted 8-4 to request the dissolution of ties.

But when the Executive Committee met Feb. 22-24 in Nashville, it approved a recommendation that cited two recent studies of the SBC/BJC relationship. The recommendation noted lack of "adequate time for implementation and evaluation" of changes brought about by the studies. And it said the Executive Committee "refrains from any further action pertaining to this relationship."

Currin told Baptist Press: "I certainly have no problem with that, particularly in light of the fact that they have provided us with some additional funds (\$24,200) and reduced funding for the Baptist Joint Committee. I feel we're on the right track.

"I think there is strong majority sentiment within the Southern Baptist Convention for the Public Affairs Committee to represent Southern Baptists on church-state issues. But we ought to take our time about how we go about making these institutional changes.

"We're on the right track. The Executive Committee has implicitly stated they're giving the Public Affairs Committee increasing responsibility to represent the SBC on church-state issues."

Dunn applauded the Executive Committee's decision not to recommend dissolving SBC/BJC ties. "The Executive Committee rightly rejected the appeal of the PAC to recommend defunding the BJC and disaffiliating," he said.

However, he expressed regret concerning the budget: "The decision to cut \$48,400 (10.79 percent) from this year's budget level places the Baptist Joint Committee in an extremely difficult position. Since 96 percent of the BJC budget is fixed expenses, and the nine-member staff includes the Washington bureau of Baptist Press, the staff of the magazine, "Report from the Capital," and the office of the general counsel, the choice we face is dismissing staff or relying upon commitments from conventions, churches and other sources."

Indeed, the BJC apparently is counting on help from this sector. According to documents presented to the Executive Committee, 1988-89 anticipated revenue from "state conventions and other sources" is expected to be \$103,600. That amount is a gain of \$69,600, or 204.7 percent, over the current budget.

"We must depend upon those who have a deep belief in the jointness of the work with eight other conventions and the distinctiveness of this shared witness to the Baptist way regarding religious liberty and its corollary, separation of church and state," Dunn said.

In yet another matter regarding the BJC and the PAC, the Executive Committee said the BJC must gain PAC approval in order to have an exhibit at the SBC annual meeting this summer.

The BJC is ineligible on its own, since it is not exclusively Southern Baptist. But it can have a booth if it gets approval from the PAC, which is exclusively Southern Baptist and parallels the BJC's religious liberty assignment.

Executive Committee members declined to make an exception for the BJC, but several of them suggested the PAC be requested to cooperate with the BJC in the matter.

Currin later reported the PAC "is definitely going to have an exhibit" but said the PAC is more likely to share space than grant the BJC its own exhibit.

"I would want to check with my officers, but my personal feeling is that the Baptist Joint Committee should share a booth with the Public Affairs Committee," he said. "I would wait to hear from the Baptist Joint Committee concerning what they have in mind. I would work with them.

"Since they are not a Southern Baptist agency, I would feel it is more appropriate that they share.

"The Public Affairs Committee would want assurances that they would not use the booth to advocate any positions that are not in the mainstream of Southern Baptist thought or that they would criticize the SBC or positions taken by the SBC."

SBC Presidents Issue
Statement Of Beliefs

N-C
By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE (BP)--The current president and two former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention met with news media Feb. 24 to "make a clear statement" about themselves.

"There have been so many misstatements as to who we are, what we believe and who speaks for us, that we felt we needed to make a clear statement, one more time," said Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., and current SBC president.

Joining Rogers in the news conference were James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, president 1982-84, and Bailey E. Smith, an Atlanta evangelist, president 1980-82. Rogers said Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, president 1984-86, agrees with the statement and wished to be present but is ill.

On several occasions during the hour-long meeting, Rogers referred to "others who have been speaking for us," and said, "We have failed to say who we are as a group ... we felt we must say what makes our hearts beat, who we are and what we really, really want for the SBC."

Rogers read a statement agreed to by the four presidents, entitled "A Conservative Southern Baptist Affirmation," which included nine affirmations, six "prayerful desires" and five goals.

Prior to reading the statement, which Rogers said "has been on my heart for a long time," he said: "So many others have been speaking for us that I want to say clearly what the issues (in the SBC) are not.

"The issue is not J. Frank Norris Fundamentalism. There is a vast difference between J. Frank Norris (an early 20th century Fundamentalist leader) and those of us who work inside the SBC, who support the convention with our lives and our money." He said he does not answer to the name "fundamentalist," since the "word has been identified with extremism," and requested if anyone "has to call me anything, let them call me a Bible-believing Christian."

The conservative movement in the SBC, he said, "is not a part of the New Right secular politics," adding editorials and news specials "more and more seem to infer that what motivates us is some kind of political agenda generally called New Right politics."

He added: "The issue is not some particular interpretation of Scripture such as premillennialism or Calvinism. We have been accused of trying to impose on the convention a particular type of eschatological interpretation. But this is not a matter of some particular interpretation of Scripture but rather what Scripture is of itself."

Rogers said the "issue is not an attempt to force our views on someone else. We couldn't if we would and we wouldn't if we could. We believe in the total freedom of all 5 billion people on earth in matters of religion and faith. I will fight with all of my body, soul, mind and spirit any attempt to impose any religious view on anybody. Period."

Rogers also said: "Sometimes we have been caricatured as being anti-women. I guarantee that is not true. The issues have been skewed."

He also noted some have said he and the other presidents believe in "state-mandated prayer. I don't believe in mandated prayer in the Sunday school, much less in the public school. I don't believe anybody, anywhere, should be forced to pray. But I do believe it is the right of every free-born American to pray anywhere he well pleases."

Rogers said, "Anybody who says we favor state-mandated prayer as individuals or as a group is either ignorant or dishonest."

In the written statement the presidents say they "believe that this statement is representative of the heartbeat of most conservative Southern Baptists." It goes on to say that "as leaders elected by Southern Baptists, we sincerely feel that we should not and could not appoint anyone to positions of leadership who does not embrace the essentials outlined herein."

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Two of the affirmations relate to biblical inerrancy. The first says the presidents "affirm the Baptist right to set parameters for the institutions and agencies which are supported by Baptists." It notes they "affirm doctrinal unity in functional diversity."

The second agrees with and affirms Article One of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 on the Scriptures, "as interpreted ... as meaning the inerrancy of the original autographs." It also affirms the Glorieta Statement of the presidents of the six SBC seminaries, "that the Bible 'is not errant in any area of reality.'" Also, the presidents affirm the "overwhelmingly adopted" SBC Peace Committee report "including the delineation of the nature and extent of our confidence in the accuracy and authority of the Bible."

The statement also affirms evangelism, the cooperative method of world missions and the autonomy of the local church.

One affirmation says: "We affirm the separation of the institution of the church and the institution of the state. We believe, however, in the inseparability of religious convictions and political issues such as abortion, gambling and pornography."

Another says, "We believe in the institutions and agencies of the SBC as they understand and comply with the beliefs enunciated above and as they respect local church autonomy."

Another adds: "We believe in the priesthood of every true believer, the competency of each individual to know and experience God for himself and the absolute freedom of religion for all people. We recognize no official distinction between laity and clergy while at the same time recognizing the distinctive call of God to the ministry."

An affirmation relating to the priesthood of the believer notes the presidents "affirm that this cherished belief ... guarantees access of all men to God through the blood of Christ appropriated in faith. We further affirm that the same doctrine underscores the Christian's responsibilities in intercessory prayer and witnessing. We also affirm that to interpret this precious doctrine as license to believe anything and still be considered a Baptist is to misconstrue this liberty altogether."

The final affirmation says Jesus Christ "is the center of all faith," and adds, "There is no salvation outside of faith in Christ."

The presidents say one of their "prayerful desires" is "for the institutions and agencies ... to work and teach in accord with the Baptist Faith and Message" statement especially concerning the article on Scripture.

A "further prayerful desire is that nothing will ever be done intentionally in and by the institutions and agencies ... to shake anyone's confidence in the full reliability and infallibility of the Bible."

The presidents also say they desire institutions and agencies to "recognize local church autonomy in fact, as well as in theory," and add a desire is for the institutions and agencies to emphasize and prepare the convention "for the task for worldwide evangelism."

The presidents also "prayerfully desire ... fair and balanced treatment in the denominational press."

"Finally," they write, "our prayerful desire is that those who represent Southern Baptists on the boards of institutions and agencies be selected from among those who affirm Article One of the Baptist Faith and Message (statement) as set out above."

The statement lists five goals:

-- "Our goal is to have our prayerful desires ... come to realization.

-- "Our goal is to be cooperative with the institutions and agencies of the SBC without being forced to support what we consider unconscionable. At the same time we recognize the right and privilege of every Southern Baptist to believe as led by his conscience.

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-- "Our goal is to make Southern Baptists ever more aware of the dangers of neo-orthodoxy, liberalism and the misuse of the historical-critical method to the basic doctrines of the Christian faith and to the worldwide mission outreach.

-- "Our goal is for the SBC's institutions, agencies, churches and people to be used and blessed by God to lead a nationwide revival and spiritual awakening.

-- "Our goal is for the foreign and home mission efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention to be used and blessed by God to lead the worldwide expansion of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ through spiritual awakening and revival."

Presidents Field Queries
On Politics, Creedalism

By Dan Martin

N-CO

Baptist Press
2/26/88

NASHVILLE (BP)--The current Southern Baptist Convention president and two former presidents fielded questions about creedalism, political candidates, appointments and who speaks for the conservative cause at a news conference in Nashville Feb. 24.

Adrian P. Rogers, current SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., told more than 100 people attending the news conference he and the other two former presidents present had called the news conference to make a "clear statement" about "who we are, what we believe and who speaks for us."

Participating with Rogers were James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, president 1982-84, and Bailey E. Smith, an Atlanta evangelist and president 1980-82. Rogers said a third former president, Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta and president 1984-86, concurred with their actions but is ill and could not attend.

On several occasions during the hour-long conference, Rogers made reference to "others who have been speaking for us," and although he was not specific about his statement during the formal presentation, he was more specific during a question-and-answer session. He was asked whether the four presidents "were putting distance" between themselves and other high visibility conservative leaders by the disclaimer.

"We are not attempting to put distance between us and anyone, but it is an attempt to bring into perspective who we are. I thank God for every conservative, Bible-believing Southern Baptist. There is not one of us who has not made some mistakes. We are not here to penalize anybody for anything or to defend any statement that any individual made," he said.

"This is not an attempt to put distance between us and Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, for example," he said, referring to Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, and Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, generally regarded as the chief architects of the conservative resurgence. Neither man had been mentioned in the question.

Rogers jokingly said he is only interested in the "written page and the Apostle Paul," but then added: "I thank God for Paige and Paul and all of the people who have been part of the conservative resurgence.

"I have felt there has been an effort by some to single out certain individuals who have a high profile and give them a higher profile, thereby saying these are the de facto spokesman for the presidents and others. They are not. They are spokesmen for themselves."

Rogers said each of the presidents is a spokesman for himself individually, but noted: "I have felt that we have failed to be spokesmen for ourselves; we have failed to say who we are, individually and as a group. That is the purpose of this press conference."

Rogers also was asked about a mid-February meeting of conservative leadership in Atlanta and whether the Feb. 24 statement was a major topic at that gathering of some two dozen people.

"Yes, we did have a meeting, but this (the statement) was not a major reason for that meeting. This (the statement) is something that has been on my heart for some time," Rogers said. "That was a quasi-fellowship meeting on the heels of two Bible conferences, one in Jacksonville (Fla.) and the other Bailey Smith's Real Evangelism meeting in Atlanta.

"We talked about some concerns ... about misrepresentations and distortions which have been placed in the hearts and minds of some conservatives about who we are and what we want."

Rogers said the recent announcement by Homer Lindsay Jr. that Jerry Vines is his choice for the presidency of the SBC also was discussed. Lindsay, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, told a pastor's conference Feb. 15, that Vines is his candidate to be president of the 14.7 million-member SBC, succeeding Rogers, who cannot seek another term.

"Homer unilaterally and not too subtly stood up in the Bible conference and announced who his candidate was: Dr. Jerry Vines," Rogers said, adding when the announcement was made "there was a rip-roaring standing ovation. Dr. Jerry Vines is deeply loved."

Rogers, noting Lindsay had done the same thing in announcing his (Rogers') possible candidacy in 1986, said he "understands all Jerry has said is that he will pray about it."

In 1986, Rogers said, Lindsay said Rogers was the man conservatives wanted to run for president. "I told him I would pray about it," Rogers said. "He asked me if he could say I was the man they wanted, and I told him they could say anything they wanted, but that I had to get a word from God.

"I believe Jerry Vines will have to get a word from God as to whether he wants to be nominated. That is his decision," Rogers added.

The presidents also were asked whether the Peace Committee report, adopted by the 1987 annual meeting, is being used as a creed by insisting the four specific examples of what "most" Southern Baptists believe about the Bible be used as a standard in hiring practices for the 20 national agencies, including the six seminaries.

"The Peace Committee report is not meant to be creedal," Rogers said. "It does define those beliefs most commonly held. We (the Peace Committee) did not write a creed, but we did agree Baptists have a right to set parameters for those who will work for them."

He added he does not believe "Baptists will support" teaching of such things as that the Bible is not historically accurate, that the stated authors did not write the books of the Bible, that the miracles did not happen or that Adam and Eve were not real people.

"To me not to believe that the miracles happened, not to believe that the Bible is historically accurate, not to believe that the stated authors did indeed write the books or not to believe that Adam and Eve were real people is outside the parameters of who we are, rank and file, Southern Baptists," Rogers said.

"I believe we have a right and, indeed, a responsibility to set parameters of what we want taught," he added.

Draper, also a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said the presidents "keep hearing that we are trying to tell people what to believe. Not at all. But we do have a right to determine parameters if our cooperative efforts are to be successful."

He added the presidents support the great doctrines of the priesthood of the believer and soul competency, but said on the "other hand, there have to be guidelines for any kind of successful operation."

"The seminary (trustees) has a right to say professors can believe what they want, but to instruct them they must teach in accordance with and not contrary to the Baptist Faith and Message statement," he added.

Rogers, in response to a question about the video and audio taping of the news conference, said plans are to "try to get it (the news conference) distributed as widely as possible, so that we can say clearly and plainly who we are, what we believe."

"We are recording it so that we can enlarge this meeting," he said.

Cooperative Program Aims
At \$145.6 Million Target

N-CO

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee has proposed a record \$145.6 million budget for the 1988-89 SBC Cooperative Program.

Messengers to the convention's annual meeting will vote on the budget proposal when they meet in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16. If approved, the budget -- a 4 percent increase over the current \$140 million budget -- will go into effect Oct. 1.

The Cooperative Program is the combined SBC budget that supports evangelistic, missionary and educational ministries worldwide. Funds originate from church members, and they pass through congregations to state conventions and on to national and international causes. The \$145.6 million budget represents the amount targeted beyond the state level.

Allocation of the budget is divided into three sections: a first-phase basic operating budget of \$137,610,000, a capital needs budget of \$6,899,000 and a second-phase operating budget of \$1,091,000. Funds will not be allocated to the capital needs budget until the first-phase basic operating budget is met, and funds will not be allocated to the second-phase operating budget until all current and previous capital needs budgets are met.

The first-phase basic operating budget targets funds to 19 convention entities. It represents a 4.25 percent increase over the current \$132 million first-phase budget.

The capital needs budget includes allocations for eight SBC entities. It represents a 6.96 percent increase over the current \$6.45 million capital needs budget. However, because funds are not channeled into this portion of the budget until the first-phase budget is met. The convention still is working on more than \$1.7 million from the 1986-87 capital needs budget. It is not expected to fulfill those obligations and the current year's obligations before the next fiscal year begins.

The second-phase operating budget will target funds to the same 19 entities as the first-phase budget. It represents a 2.96 percent reduction from the current budget.

(Note to Editors: The only discussion on the budget involved the Baptist Joint Committee. News copy on that situation is carried in "PAC, BJC Told: 'Work It Out,'" carried in today's BP.)

In other matters, the Executive Committee also approved:

--Ecumenical meetings: acknowledged "the appropriateness for the executive staff ... to attend for observation and when appropriate to participate in certain interdenominational and interreligious meetings in order to conduct the work of the staff and the Executive Committee, it being understood that attendance at such meetings must be exercised with discretion and responsibility."

--Bylaws: approved recommendations which would revise bylaws concerning the conduct of business at annual meetings. In the first, the committee recommended a new bylaw setting the quorum for conducting business at the annual meeting at a "minimum of 25 percent of those duly registered and seated messengers." In the second, the committee recommended a change to bylaw 23, which regulates the time business may be introduced, by defining "early days of the convention" to mean business shall be introduced by the end of the morning session of the second day.

--Representation: approved applications from three state conventions for expanded representation under bylaw 32, which was revised at the 1987 annual meeting to allow a "tiered" system of representation for newer state conventions.

The approved applications note three conventions -- Alaska, Nevada and Pennsylvania-South Jersey -- have topped the 20,000 member mark, thus entitling them to seats on the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and the Baptist Sunday School Board.

--Replacements: elected replacements for members of the 1988 Committee on Nominations.

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Herman Marks, a layman from Grace Baptist Church, Parkersburg, W.Va., was named to replace Melvin C. Hobson, a layman from Vienna, W.Va., who became ineligible when he was ordained as a minister of the Gospel. A. William Merrell, pastor of Country Estates Baptist Church in Midwest City, Okla., was elected to replace Rex M. Horne Jr., who resigned an Oklahoma pastorate and left the state. Frank Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Laurel, Md., was elected to replace Robert W. Hudgins, who resigned a Maryland pastorate and left the state.

--Correct dates: corrected dates of the 1993 and 1994 annual meetings, which were incorrectly reported at the 1987 annual meeting. The correct dates are June 15-17, 1993 in Houston, and June 14-16, 1994 in Orlando, Fla.

--Program statements: approved changes in the program statements of the Annuity Board and Home Mission Board.

The changes in the program statement of the Annuity Board will allow the Dallas-based agency to begin a property and casualty insurance program for Southern Baptist churches and agencies. The Executive Committee also approved recommendations which would create subsidiary corporations to allow the Annuity Board to comply with the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and a for-profit managing general agency to offer the casualty and property insurance programs.

The changes in the HMB program statement allows revision of evangelism programs to create four programs in place of three. The new programs relate to church evangelism development, associational evangelism development, personal evangelism and mass evangelism.

-- TV update: received a report concerning payments on a \$10 million loan the Executive Committee previously authorized for the SBC Radio and Television Commission and its ACTS network. Members approved a notation that said the payments "are current and that the current expenditures are in line with income received to date."

But they also warned: "The loss of income may affect the quality and quantity of programming. An effective capital fund-raising formula has yet to be demonstrated. The current financial report does not represent a greatly improved Radio and Television Commission."

-- Expressions of appreciation: ratified resolutions affirming the SBC Woman's Missionary Union on the occasion of its centennial and Raymond M. Rigdon of Nashville and Jack U. Harwell of Atlanta upon their retirements. Rigdon will retire July 31 as executive director of the SBC Seminary External Education Division; Harwell retired last Dec. 31 as editor of the Christian Index, Georgia Baptists' weekly newsjournal.

Members also approved a plaque to be hung in the Executive Committee offices in Nashville in honor of Porter W. Routh, the committee's executive secretary-treasurer from 1951 to 1979, who died Nov. 7, 1987.

-- Presidential address: heard a challenge from SBC President Adrian P. Rogers to come to the point of tears for a world without Christ. The pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., called them to "sincere, steadfast, sacrificial concern for the lost."

But that concern will not come, he admonished, until Southern Baptists humble themselves before God and genuinely seek to lead others to faith in Christ.

"Day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year, we need to always be at it, and we need to all be at it," he said. "I am determined that we as Southern Baptists -- and this Southern Baptist in particular -- are going to get back to this business of winning men, women, boys and girls to Jesus Christ."