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October 13, 1989

89-147

Lawyer threatens suit
against SWBTS trustees

By Dan Martin

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)--An Atlanta lawyer has threatened to sue individual trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary if the try to fire President Russell Dilday during an Oct. 16-17 board meeting.

Dilday, who has headed the 4,800-student seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for 11 years, has been under increasing fire from conservatives for "political activities," including a May appearance before a moderate political organization in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In August, trustee officers met with Dilday and considered calling a special meeting of trustees to deal with the matter. The officers decided not to call a special meeting but said it would come up in the regular fall meeting.

Trustee Chairman Kenneth Lilly, a medical doctor from Fort Smith, Ark., has asked for an executive session of trustees and Dilday Oct. 17. Lilly also mailed an 85-page memo to trustees detailing what he called the "whole problem of political activity" by Dilday.

Certified letters were mailed to the seminary's 36 trustees Oct. 6 by Hugh W. Gibert of the Atlanta lawfirm of Arnall, Golden and Gregory, threatening litigation against individual trustees if action is taken against Dilday.

Gibert did not return telephone calls to Baptist Press, but did tell Ed Briggs, religion writer for the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch: "I didn't threaten to sue them; I sent a letter to members of the board at Southwestern. I expressed the views that my clients wanted them to be aware of."

In the letter -- copies of which were mailed to state Baptist newspapers -- Gibert wrote that the "firm has been retained by a group of members affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention," but declined to identify his clients to Briggs.

He wrote: "Their (the clients') concern focuses particularly upon the threats that they perceive to the presidents of seminaries, the head of Baptist Press (the denominational news service), the president of the Foreign Mission Board and other personnel employed by the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities.

"The most immediate concern is related to threats perceived against Dr. Russell Dilday, his position as president ... and to his rights as a Christian, as a leader of the denomination and as an American citizen."

Gibert goes on to say neither Dilday nor other SBC personnel "initiated or are parties to this communication."

In the two-page letter, the attorney said that when Dilday and others "were chosen to serve in their positions, there was no suggestion that it would be required that their views conform to those of other persons or groups."

"Needless to say, such requirements would have been unacceptable to them, nor would they have accepted their respective positions. They are not willing to allow such requirements to be imposed upon them, nor are the Baptists whom we represent. Furthermore, requirements of conformity in denominational views would have been, upon their employment, and even now would be inimical to Baptist polity," he writes.

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He adds the "restrictions against speech imposed upon any denominational employee must be applied evenly and equally to each trustee ..."

"For these reasons, our clients seek that diversity within the denomination be tolerated in a spirit of Christian charity and in accordance with the best traditions of the denomination. They further hope that those who come to occupy, however temporarily, positions of power within the denomination will not attempt to use that power to force conformity with views not historically embraced by Southern Baptists."

Gibert goes on to write that if the "hopes prove to be ... unfounded" and an "attempt is made to remove Dr. Dilday from his position because of denominational views that he may express, our clients would, regretfully, but without regard to expense, defend Dr. Dilday's rights."

The letter notes litigation will not be filed against the SBC or any of its entities, but "would be taken against individual trustees of the entities whose personal positions will be challenged and whose fortunes will be placed at stake."

Baptist Press was unable to contact trustee Chairman Lilly but did talk with three other trustees.

James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and former president of the SBC, said the letter "would not be a factor in any decision I might make. If we are going to be men of conviction, we must stand by that conviction no matter what threats may be made.

"I think it was a very unfortunate move on the part of people to attempt to threaten that (lawsuit). I also think the letter will be a major contributing factor to a very difficult trustee meeting. This will just make it more so."

Draper supported the move for an executive session with Dilday, noting "trustees need time with the president so we can talk together and deal with some issues we feel need to be dealt with. I normally am against an executive session, but the atmosphere in a open session would be like a circus."

John McNaughton, a Fort Worth rancher, told Baptist Press that what will happen at the trustee meeting "is anybody's guess. Personally, I am hoping that somebody will spread some oil on the waters and calm this thing down.

"This has been blown all out of proportion. It seems like the trustees and the administration have so many important things to do that the Lord must be very disappointed in the way we are doing his business."

He added he hopes "somebody puts the quietus on this. I hope we can set this aside, decide there are differences but they don't have anything to do with our salvation or responsibilities."

Ron Lewis, church growth consultant from Nashville, told Baptist Press: "I think the letter is in extremely poor taste. I do not know anybody who is personally threatening to fire Russell Dilday. I do not know that his job is in jeopardy.

"But this kind of threat You kind of wonder what we have degenerated into when this kind of mudslinging occurs."

Dilday said he thinks it is "tragic the controversy has come to a point where brethren would feel a need to resort to this kind of legal action. It just shows that we are a seriously divided denomination. We need to find some way to get back together or there will be destruction of what we are about."

He said he is not familiar with the Atlanta lawfirm although he was pastor in Atlanta for nine years prior to assuming the Southwestern presidency.

"I do know a number of Baptists -- some of them in Atlanta -- who would feel this strongly about their SBC agencies. I know some who would feel this is one of the few recourses they have to turn the convention back in the direction that is normative and to unity and our main purpose and to correct some of the things they feel are upbaptistic," he said.

He added he "personally would not use this (a lawsuit) because I do not think it is the way to get the job done. It just indicates that all of us in places of responsibility are accountable and our work is being carefully reviewed by our Baptist constituency."

The letter is the latest development in the controversy over Dilday and his presidency of the world's largest evangelical seminary. Other developments include:

-- An "ad hoc group" of students circulated a petition of support for Dilday and by mid-morning Oct. 13 had more than 600 signatures.

The petition thanks faculty, administration and staff of the seminary and says: "We especially thank Dr. Russell Dilday for his lifestyle of ministry and servanthood and for his leadership of this seminary. We encourage and pray for him during this difficult time."

According to the students, there is no plan to present the petitions to trustees, but to present it to Dilday Friday, Oct. 13.

-- Reports have circulated that "1,000 west Texas Baptists" will be bused to Fort Worth Oct. 17 to indicate support for Dilday and his presidency. The reports coincide with other rumors about a "silent vigil" at the seminary during the trustee meeting.

-- Letter-writing efforts have been launched, both to Dilday indicating support and to Lilly indicating opposition to any effort to terminate or censure Dilday.

Trustee committees will meet Oct. 16. Four general sessions of trustees are scheduled for Oct. 17. Lilly has asked for the executive session at the second session at 11 a.m.

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SEBTS trustees OK, overturn
Drummond 'exigency plan'

By Marv Knox

N-10

Baptist Press
10/13/89

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees approved and then overturned an "exigency plan" for operating the school if President Lewis A. Drummond becomes incapacitated during his bout with cancer.

Doctors at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., discovered a malignant tumor in Drummond's colon in late August. Durham is a few minutes' drive from Wake Forest, N.C., where the seminary is located.

Since his tumor was discovered, Drummond told trustees, he has spent five days in the hospital receiving chemotherapy, had three weeks of rest from the medication and spent five more days in the hospital receiving both chemotherapy and radiation treatments. He now is in the middle of a five-week cycle of receiving five minutes of radiation therapy each morning. He expects to undergo surgery to remove the tumor in early December.

Drummond feels well and is optimistic about his future, he said: "I believe God is going to do some great things. I want him to be glorified. ... I've found out one thing -- the grace of God is sufficient. There truly is a peace that passes understanding."

Jesse P. Chapman, a retired physician from Asheville, N.C., told fellow trustees they would be wise to formulate an "exigency plan ... should Dr. Drummond be incapacitated" during his illness and treatment.

Chapman proposed that Cecil Rhodes, a retired physician from nearby Wilson, N.C., be designated as the seminary's acting chief executive officer "during the time Dr. Drummond is undergoing active medical treatment" in the hospital.

W. Dade Sherman Jr., a pastor from Monroe, N.C., protested, noting seminary documents provide for administration by the school's three vice presidents in the president's absence. "I feel we would be usurping the authority of very capable administrators," he said.

William D. Delahoyde, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., noted seminary bylaws allow trustees to determine contingency plans, such as Chapman's proposal.

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Trustees approved the measure 14-10.

But they continued to discuss the issue after L. Russ Bush III, the seminary's academic vice president, asked for a clarification. "We are happy to work any way the board wishes, but we do need to know how to proceed," he said, noting the three vice presidents assumed hospitalization would constitute the president's "absence," a provision already covered by seminary documents.

After trustees voted to reconsider the issue, James W. Bryant, a pastor from Fort Smith, Ark., noted he was uncomfortable with the original motion. "The body's not only not cold in the grave; it's not even in the hospital," he said.

Incoming Chairman James R. DeLoach, associate pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston, noted the procedure of designating a trustee from near the campus to be on standby for Drummond had been suggested by Robert Cooley, president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in suburban Boston and the person designated by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada to help Southeastern while its accreditation status is being studied.

"In the event of a crisis, Dr. Rhodes would be available to provide some stability," Delahoyde added.

Bush said his questioning "in no way" reflected negatively on Rhodes. But he insisted, "We need to know what criteria would be needed" to call on Rhodes.

Trustees voted on Chapman's motion again, and it failed 4-18.

Outgoing Chairman Robert D. Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., said the three vice presidents -- Bush; George Worrell, external affairs; and Paul Fletcher, internal affairs -- would carry on in the possible absence of Drummond, with Bush taking the lead.

In other action, the seminary trustees:

-- Elected DeLoach as chairman, succeeding Crowley. DeLoach won a 15-10 ballot vote over Jack May, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

Other officers, all elected by acclamation, are Delahoyde, vice chairman; Kenneth L. Stevens, pastor of Orchard Hills Baptist Church in Novi, Mich., secretary; and Rhodes, treasurer.

-- Heard Drummond's president's report, which covered a range of issues related to the seminary.

Drummond said he had hired his "second echelon" of staff to complete the administration. Also, the three faculty members hired this summer -- two permanent, elected professors and another temporary, appointed professor -- are on campus, and another appointed professor is to arrive in the spring.

Enrollment is a "good news-bad news" situation, he noted. The bad news is that enrollment is down to 650 for the fall semester. That compares to previously reported enrollments of 848 students last fall and 1,046 students in the fall of 1987. The good news is that Southeastern led the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries in the percentage of approved new students who arrived this fall, with 94 percent showing up, he said.

Southeastern students need a world vision, Drummond said, reporting on his recent contacts with Yugoslavian and Korean Baptists. "We've been too North Carolinian, too Virginian, maybe too regional, and I want our students to see the world to win to Jesus Christ," he said, calling for exchanges of professors and students with overseas Baptist schools.

Southeastern needs to strengthen its off-campus educational program, he added, reporting 85 students waiting for a Southeastern center to open in Florida, with others waiting in Denver and in Lynchburg-Roanoke, Va.

Drummond also reported that hundreds of people have participated in the seminary's continuing theological education program, and that the school finished the fiscal year in the black, "with a bit of a surplus."

He extended thanks to the five other SBC seminary presidents who initiated a proposal -- passed by the SBC Executive Committee -- to freeze the convention's seminary funding formula for the next five years. The formula, which involves a three-year average of "full-time equivalent" students, would have reduced Southeastern's SBC allocation due to the school's recent enrollment decline. But the presidents' proposal fixed the allocation for the next five years at the period ending with the 1989-90 school year, ensuring Southeastern will get more money than it would have under prevailing rules.

He also thanked the SBC Executive Committee for its recent resolution affirming trusteeship at Southeastern. "We are affirmed by the Executive Committee," he said, calling the resolution "a landmark move that's unprecedented."

Focusing on his health, Drummond told trustees, "I plan to get well." He outlined his treatment plan and credited prayer for his strength.

And he asked trustees for their help in student recruitment and financial development, promising to fulfill his long-range goals for seminary growth and expansion of curriculum.

-- Voted to send letters of thanks to the five other SBC seminary presidents for recommending that the seminary funding formula be frozen for five years and to send similar letters to the SBC Executive Committee for ratifying the plan.

"This is one of the most magnanimous things I have seen," Crowley said. "It wouldn't happen in 'the world.' You wouldn't see GM and Ford helping out Chrysler. It is a compassionate and courageous gesture."

-- Authorized writing a letter to Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham, for recommending that the SBC Executive Committee affirm the Southeastern trustees.

-- Approved a statement that says, "No matter what an individual trustee may have said to students, the board has never given a student or students the encouragement to 'go after faculty with impunity.'"

The statement, offered by the trustees' student development committee, was a response to a report from an "exit interview" with seminary leaders conducted by a visiting committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which is studying Southeastern's accreditation.

-- Tabled until their March meeting a response to the SBC Peace Committee. That committee presented a 10-part report to the SBC annual meeting in 1987, part of which called for a response from SBC entities, including the seminary.

A portion of the pending response notes that Southeastern's statement was delayed because of a change in administration within a year of the Peace Committee's report.

After noting that they had received the proposed response when time already had expired for their fall meeting, trustees voted without dissent to table the issue.

-- Agreed to participate in the seminary's annual fund by each contributing \$1 per day or \$30 per month to the cause.

-- Voted to publish Outlook, the seminary newsletter, quarterly instead of six times per year and to publish the seminary catalog every two years instead of every four years.

GGETS land sale fails;
loan to cover expenses

By Eddy Oliver & Herb Hollinger

N-(O)
(GGETS)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees heard a report on development of the seminary's property and approved a loan to cover related costs during their fall meeting Oct. 11-12.

The Mill Valley, Calif., seminary is facing a cumulative budget deficit for a three-year period of more than \$300,000 because of a portion of the Mill Valley campus that was to be bought by a private developer has not sold, trustees were told.

Consequently, the seminary lost \$580,000 in income from potential sale proceeds for the 1989-90 fiscal year, said Gordon Fercho, vice president for business affairs.

"We are hoping the sale will go through before the end of this year but are taking steps in case it doesn't happen," he said.

Seminary staff identified \$635,199 in reductions from the seminary's \$5.6 million budget. Several open positions will remain vacant to help with the shortfall, Fercho explained.

Trustees also approved borrowing almost \$2.1 million to cover costs related to the property development project.

In other action, the trustees:

- Approved name changes for its religious education degree programs.
- Voted to close its doctor of philosophy program, with the last class to be admitted in May 1990.
- Approved a self-study report required by accrediting agencies who will visit the campus in February 1990.
- Accepted resignations of trustees Clark Johnson of Phoenix, Ariz., and Jim Rives of Van Nuys, Calif.
- Adopted a recommendation from the student relations committee to study the feasibility of a student internship program.
- Encouraged seminary administrators to seek volunteer labor to do necessary emergency maintenance.

"I am personally pleased with the conduct our trustees demonstrated in dealing with sensitive, potentially divisive issues," said President William O. Crews. "They handled themselves in an orderly, Christian manner to reach an agreement without compromising individual principles."

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HMB, Louisiana leaders
plan New Orleans effort

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(Lx)

Baptist Press
10/13/89

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--Southern Baptist leaders have set the stage for what one called the "most significant and perhaps the greatest opportunity" to impact the New Orleans area with the gospel message.

New Orleans area pastors and leaders met with Louisiana Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board workers at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The group gathered to prepare details for an evangelism emphasis during the 1990 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans June 12-14.

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Leaders outlined the "Sharing Hope with Greater New Orleans" plan to assist 250 churches within 100 miles of New Orleans in an evangelism effort June 8-10. The plan seeks to enlist Southern Baptists from across the country to lead one-day soul-winning workshops. The workshops will be followed by door-to-door witnessing visits by Baptist teams, similar to the effort at Las Vegas, Nev., during the 1989 annual meeting.

"This represents one of the most significant and perhaps the greatest opportunity we've ever had in the New Orleans area," Louisiana Evangelism Director Charles Harvey told Sharing Hope steering committee members and others at the meeting.

"We believe God is going to use this," Harvey said. "It could be the golden opportunity we've looked for and prayed about for a long time. I believe it ought to be a burden and a concern to us like never before. We've never had an opportunity like this. I believe this is going to be catalytic in winning persons to Christ in the Crescent City."

About half of the state's 4 million residents live in the targeted area. Home Mission Board workers stressed the importance of outreach in such an area.

"We should never go to a town with 20,000 messengers and not have an impact on that city," said Tom McEachin, associate director of mass evangelism at the board. "Some people say it won't work in New Orleans. But they were saying the same thing about Las Vegas this year."

HMB Personal Evangelism Director Howard Ramsey stressed the need for Baptists to work together in the effort. He emphasized the need to involve the 400 black Baptist churches in the area: "We feel like (in) having our black churches involved, we'll reach this city. We feel like (in) not having our black churches involved, we're just spinning our wheels here."

To aid in that area, steering committee members voted to include three National Baptist pastors in the planning group.

The Sharing Hope plan calls for the Home Mission Board to enlist workshop leaders from across the nation. About 100 people already have indicated interest in the project. The leaders and other outside team members will pay for their own lodging and meals during the effort. Local churches will provide transportation.

Meanwhile, the Louisiana Baptist Convention will seek to enlist 250 churches in the greater New Orleans area. The churches will indicate how many outside team members they wish to come to their churches for the effort. Workshop leaders will enlist team members, depending on the requests.

Workshop leaders and team members are scheduled to arrive in New Orleans June 8 for orientation and an afternoon rally. HMB President Larry Lewis is scheduled to address the rally.

On Saturday, leaders will conduct two-hour evangelism workshops at the churches. Team members will be instructed on how to use tracts and a religious questionnaire supplied by the board.

Following the workshop, team members will be sent on door-to-door witnessing visits. They will report back to the churches later in the afternoon.

On Sunday, the workshop leaders and others will help in a Sunday school "Harvest Day" in the churches. Leaders hope churches will include all older children, youth and adults in a unified service. Leaders and team members also may be involved in morning worship services.

Following the convention effort, leaders are hoping local pastors will continue to meet with their witnessing teams, using follow-up materials.

Harvey noted the importance of prayer for the effort. Leaders have developed a prayer support plan that involves individual prayer commitments, associational prayer rallies and state coordination of prayer efforts.

"Prayer will determine the success of this effort," Harvey asserted. "Something of this magnitude has to be of God. It's beyond ourselves."

In one other development, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists have announced plans to conduct youth rallies in New Orleans, Slidell, Baton Rouge, Hammond and Houma June 9. The rallies are being promoted in Sharing Hope materials but are not being funded or planned by the leaders of the evangelism effort.

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HMB adopts change to assist churches in rural associations

By Mark Wingfield

N- HMB

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA (BP)--With an appeal from Larry Lewis to evangelize America "from the cities to the silos," trustees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorsed a new plan to assist three-fourths of the denomination's associations in strategy planning.

At their fall meeting, trustees approved changing the name of the rural-urban missions department to the town and country missions department. HMB President Lewis said the name change signals a new approach in helping Baptist associations in areas with populations of less than 50,000 people.

In other action, the board elected Margrette Stevenson as vice president in charge of the services section, responded to motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, adopted a \$76.8 million budget for 1990, further refined the agency's organizational structure and approved 19 people for missionary service.

In addition to the town and country name change, the HMB associational missions division will launch a new Town and Country Thrust that will do for smaller associations what Metro Thrust has done for metropolitan associations, Lewis said.

Town and Country Thrust will be a joint strategy planning process between the board, state conventions and district associations.

"Town and Country Thrust will assist more than 900 of the 1,250 Baptist associations that are rural-oriented," Lewis explained. "Because of the challenge of the cities, we have put heavy emphasis on helping associations in the metropolitan areas in strategy planning. Now we are saying as clearly and forcefully as we can that associations made up of churches in small towns and the country have not been forgotten.

"The development of Town and Country Thrust means that within the next decade every association in the nation will have an opportunity to develop grassroots mission strategy in cooperation with the Home Mission Board and state convention."

In his speech to trustees, Lewis also clarified the board's approach to bivocational ministries. At the last full meeting of trustees, the position of national consultant for bivocational ministries was among 28 positions deleted in a cost-cutting move.

"Some have assumed that this was an indication that bivocational ministries is being pushed back or is a low priority," Lewis said. "I want to say as forcefully as I can that is not the case."

Instead of having one consultant responsible for bivocational work nationwide, the board will move toward placing three to six regional consultants across the country, he explained. These regional consultants will be bivocational ministers who work part time with the board.

"We will put a much stronger emphasis on enlisting bivocational ministers as church planters in new-work areas of the country. We realize that we may never have the financial resources to fund enough full-time church planters to accomplish our church-starting goals," Lewis said.

Stevenson, who currently is associate vice president of the services section, will replace Robert Bingham, the current section vice president who will retire Dec. 31.

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She is the first woman elected a vice president of the board. However, she is not the first woman to serve in such an administrative post within the SBC.

Stevenson began her work with the board in 1975 as director of employee benefits. She also has been director of business services and director of the personnel division. She previously worked with the SBC Annuity Board and several Texas churches, including First Baptist of Dallas.

The \$76.8 million budget adopted for 1990 is \$8.4 million less than the \$85.2 million budget originally adopted for 1989. It is \$2 million less than the \$78.8 million adjusted budget for 1989.

The 1989 mid-year budget adjustment was made in March to bring expenditures in line with projected income for 1989 and 1990.

The approved refinements to the board's organizational structure relate to elimination of the national consultant category, which was approved during the board's June meeting. The two categories of field personnel now being used are national missionary and field staff.

To bring staff into compliance with these new categories, eight national consultant positions and two national missionary positions were changed to field staff positions. One national consultant position was changed to a national missionary position.

Ann Putnam, national consultant for ministry to the disabled, was transferred to a new position as an associate director of the church and community ministries department. Kendale Moore, national missionary in literacy missions, was transferred to the position of associate director of church and community ministries department, replacing Mildred Blankenship, who is retiring.

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Florida Baptist efforts fail
to gain tighter abortion laws

By Greg Warner

N-CO
(Fla.)

Baptist Press
10/13/89

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)--Despite the efforts of Baptists in the state, Florida lawmakers refused to tighten legal restrictions on abortion during a special legislative session Oct. 10-11.

Florida Baptists were visible among the 7,000 to 8,000 pro-life demonstrators who marched on the Capitol before the session, among the dozens of citizens who testified before Senate committees and among the legislators who tried to persuade their colleagues to enact new abortion laws.

But in the end, lawmakers were more willing to preserve the right to choose an abortion than to extend legal protection to the unborn.

All eight of the major anti-abortion proposals handled by the Senate were defeated in committee. Even a modest proposal to tighten licensing requirements for abortion clinics, which a Baptist legislator tried to resurrect on the floor of the Senate, failed to receive the two-thirds vote needed to overrule its rejection by committee.

By 9-3 margins, the Senate health and rehabilitative services committee defeated three bills proposed by Sen. John Grant, a Republican and Baptist layman from Tampa.

The proposals would have required a seven-day waiting period and "objective" counseling for any woman seeking an abortion; prohibited the use of public funds, employees or facilities in performing abortions; and prohibited most abortions if a mandatory test showed the fetus could survive outside the womb.

The committee defeated 8-4 a fourth proposal to set up a state adoption center. Although all committee members spoke in favor of the idea, a majority said action on the proposal during the abortion session was either unnecessary or unwise.

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By 5-2 margins, the Senate health care committee also defeated four other abortion-related bills. Two bills designed to tighten regulation of abortion clinics were introduced by Sen. Richard Langley, a Republican and Baptist layman from Clermont. Also defeated were a third clinic-regulation bill and a new tax to fund prenatal and post-natal care of poor pregnant women.

The Senate dispensed with the bills even before committees of the House had considered most of them. The full Senate was called back into session for the purpose of adjourning the afternoon of Oct. 11, 25 hours after the special session had opened.

But Langley asked Senate colleagues to reconsider his Abortion Clinic Licensure Act, one of the bills rejected in committee. Langley said the bill would not restrict abortions but only protect the "health, safety and welfare" of women seeking the procedure.

The need for the bill, he said, had been demonstrated by recent clinic abuses uncovered by state investigators and committee testimony from state officials that they lack sufficient power to regulate clinics.

"Barbers, beauticians and veterinarians are better regulated than abortion clinics," Langley said. Noting his proposal was based on guidelines of the National Abortion Foundation, he added, "We're just adopting what the abortionists say is safe."

Opponents, however, said state officials are not using the regulatory power they already have, that clinic regulation was not the purpose of the special session and that Langley's bill was only intended to save face for Gov. Bob Martinez, who had called the session but was going away empty handed.

For more than an hour and a half, senators debated Langley's motion. Although most observers considered the necessary two-thirds margin unlikely, the motion served another purpose -- to get legislators on record on an abortion-related issue.

"Back home the people expected us to take a vote," said W.D. Childers, a Democrat and layman from Pensacola. "This is going to be interpreted as a symbolic vote on this session ... either pro-choice or pro-life."

One opponent of the motion offered a substitute that would have appointed a committee to investigate the need for stricter regulations, while allowing senators to avoid a vote on Langley's motion. "If you don't want to vote on this, you can go to the restroom or something," Langley argued.

The substitute was withdrawn when lawmakers learned it too would require a two-thirds vote. Senators then voted on Langley's motion, which gained 22 of 18 votes but fell five votes short of the needed two-thirds. The motion to form an investigation committee then was reintroduced and approved without opposition.

The Senate quickly adjourned. The House then reconvened and adjourned within five minutes, bringing an end to pro-lifers' hopes that Florida would be the first state to tighten abortion laws after the U.S. Supreme Court's Webster decision opened the door.

The Webster decision had invigorated Martinez and other abortion opponents in the state. The Florida Baptist Convention called its own special session in September to adopt an anti-abortion statement and urge new legal restrictions.

Pro-life fervor climaxed in a rally in Tallahassee Oct. 9, on the eve of the legislative session. Florida Baptists accounted for up to half of the estimated 7,000 to 8,000 demonstrators who paraded about half a mile that night to the Capitol, carrying placards and chanting slogans.

The crowd flooded the Capitol plaza and cheered denunciations of abortion from the governor and leaders of Florida Right to Life and James Dobson's Focus on the Family.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, called abortion "barbarous, inhuman and idolatrous." In offering the invocation, Land prayed, "Stay your hand of judgment a while longer ... as we eradicate this evil."

Martinez told the crowd the Florida Supreme Court "painted itself liberal" Oct. 5 when it ruled that a law requiring a minor to get parental consent for an abortion violates the state's constitutional right to privacy.

"Last week another group lost rights, and that's the parents of these children," said Martinez, a Republican and Roman Catholic. He said a state that requires parental consent for a minor's tonsillectomy should require consent for an abortion.

The crucial parental-consent ruling also was criticized by Ken Connor, a pro-life lawyer and Baptist layman from Tallahassee who helped organize the rally.

"When the state Supreme Court elevates the right of privacy over the right to life, we have trivialized human life in this state," Connor, president of Florida Right to Life, told demonstrators. "The right of privacy means nothing to a corpse."

Connor later testified before both Senate committees handling the proposed abortion legislation. Afterward, he said he is not surprised the Senate refused to act, but he added, "I'm disappointed for the unborn children."

Grant, who sponsored much of the failed legislation, said pro-life advocates will not retreat: "About two-thirds of the people in this state support additional restrictions on abortion. The (abortion) issue will drive the 1990 election and I think, in most districts in this state, the pro-life vote will prevail."

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(BP) photos available upon request from Florida Baptist Witness

7 Southern Baptist schools
make magazine's 'best' list

By Tim Fields

N-CO
(Ed. Comm.)

Baptist Press
10/13/89

NASHVILLE (BP)--Seven Southern Baptist universities have been named to a list of America's best colleges by U.S. News and World Report magazine.

Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, N.C.; the University of Richmond in Richmond, Va.; Stetson University in Deland, Fla.; and William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., were named to the list of America's best schools in the "variety and vitality" category of regional colleges and universities. The 60 schools in this category were cited as the best at mixing research and liberal arts and catering to students seeking professional and occupational degrees.

The listing published in the national news magazine's Oct. 16 edition, placed Wake Forest as No. 1 in regional colleges and universities in the South and the University of Richmond as No. 2. Stetson University captured eighth place among the 15 schools listed in the South.

Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee; and Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., were among 32 colleges and universities named to the magazine's list of best "up-and-coming" educational institutions.

The listing of "up-and-coming" schools was based on a reputational survey of 2,348 college presidents, deans and admissions officers at 1,294 four-year colleges. Respondents were asked to choose five schools in their own academic category based on recent educational innovations and improvements, the magazine said.

Samford was listed among the five top regional colleges and universities in the South, and Grand Canyon and Oklahoma Baptist were named the two best "up-and-coming" regional liberal arts colleges in the West.

The survey of "up-and-coming" colleges highlighted "those schools whose images may not yet have caught up to their campus realities," the magazine said.

The rankings of schools in all categories took into consideration academic reputation, student selectivity and retention, faculty quality, financial resources and institutional leadership.

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"Southern Baptist colleges and universities continue to capture high honors in national educational surveys and ratings each year," said Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission. "This is a testimony to the fact that while providing the distinctive of an education based on Christian values, Southern Baptist colleges and universities can also compete in the academic arena with the best educational institutions in America."

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Indiana Baptist, Braidfoot
fight casino gambling in Gary

By Tammi Ledbetter

N-CO
(Ind)

Baptist Press
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GARY, Ind. (BP)--Indiana residents fighting establishment of casino gambling in Gary received encouragement from Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission General Counsel Larry Braidfoot during legislative hearings Oct. 10.

While Gary Mayor Thomas V. Barnes depicted casino gambling as an ideal opportunity for economic revitalization, Braidfoot countered with testimony that casinos have driven up property values and taxes, forcing residents and businesses out of Atlantic City, N.J.

Braidfoot was introduced to the legislative study committee by American Baptist Pastor William Booth, president of You Rally Against Gambling. The coalition of religious leaders is campaigning to defeat the non-binding casino referendum to be considered Nov. 4 by Gary residents.

The author of "Gambling: The Deadly Poison," Braidfoot described casino gambling as "a predatory activity that strikes very much at the family and home," noting also the dramatic increase in criminal activity in Nevada and Atlantic City following its introduction.

Braidfoot quoted a New Jersey casino association president as saying, "This is a town noted for taking suckers, ... but it's the biggest sucker of all."

"If all of this is true, who stands to benefit from casino gambling?" Braidfoot asked the legislators. "Not Gary, Indiana. Not the citizens of the region. Not the churches and human services organizations who will have to live with the broken lives. Not the businesses which will lose money to this new parasite. Who will benefit? The casinos."

Following the hearing, Mark Coppenger, executive director/treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, praised Braidfoot for helping the opponents of casino gambling to realize "they are not alone in their fight and there is a network to fellow Christians who lift them up in prayer and see themselves as members of a nationwide struggle against these life-draining forces."

Concerned pastors and laymen from Southern Baptist churches in central Indiana have contributed funds to the campaign to halt casino gambling in the northwestern region of their state, Coppenger said.

Representatives of the black community criticized legislators for selecting Gary as the location of proposed casinos. "Have we stooped to a level that we will accept anything?" one resident asked. "Why is the black community -- the oppressed victims -- sold out again and again by well-meaning visionaries and opportunists."

Casino developers were present to lobby for the measure. A vice-president of Bally's Hotel and Casino suggested Gary is capable of handling problems casinos have brought to other cities.

"It is morally offensive to me to see on a daily basis, young men and women walk out of schools with no direction and self-esteem," she stated, offering her own ascent to financial success as evidence of jobs created by casinos.

A local pastor disagreed, saying, "The city is headed for destruction."

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N-BJC

House passes own version
of child-care legislation

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a comprehensive child-care measure as part of fiscal 1990 budget-reconciliation legislation.

The legislation includes plans designed by two House panels, the Education and Labor Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

Both plans call for an expansion of the Head Start program, funding for school-based before- and after-school programs and state child-care standards for providers receiving federal funds.

The Ways and Means plan includes an expansion of the earned income tax credit, which would assist low-income working parents. Sponsors of the Education and Labor plan have said they support the tax-credit provision.

But sponsors of the two plans have been unable to work out a compromise on how to provide additional funds to assist with child-care services.

The Education and Labor measure would establish a new grant program that would provide funds for day-care programs for infants, toddlers and children under 13. The funding would be distributed through the states, which in turn would give funds to eligible child-care providers.

In contrast, the Ways and Means proposal would increase the existing Title XX Social Services Block Grant. The increase would be earmarked for child care and could not be used to take the place of federal and state funds already being used for that purpose.

Conflicts between the two approaches are expected to be worked out during the House-Senate conference process.

House members also turned down two proposed child-care substitutes.

The first proposal, sponsored by Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Okla., would have relied solely on an expansion of the earned income tax credit. It was defeated 285 to 140.

The second substitute, introduced by Rep. Charles W. Stenholm, D-Texas, was similar to the Ways and Means plan, except it would not have required states to set child-care standards. It was rejected 230 to 195.

The House's child-care legislation now must be reconciled with that already approved by the Senate.