

June 21, 1958

### College Presidents Differ On Senate Bill

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Presidents of two Southern Baptist colleges differed here over bills in Congress which would grant income tax credit for money spent for college tuition.

J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., said that he favored tuition tax credit legislation because "it would encourage voluntary support" as contrasted with direct federal aid to education.

But Harwell G. Davis, retiring president of Howard College, Birmingham, said "I'm opposed to the income tax feature."

Edmunds and Davis were in Nashville for meetings of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools and the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission.

They made their comments during a brief discussion on "The Implications of Federal Aid to Education."

Edmunds said that several bills were before Congress covering income tax credit for tuition payment. He said that such legislation would provide tax credit for only a part of a student's tuition.

But another educator said that tax credit legislation would provide credit in full for all tuition payments.

Edmunds said "When the federal government gets its foot in the door---even in the name of emergency---it's going to weaken our colleges." He continued, "I'm afraid of anything that implies that the federal government can solve problems the people should solve."

Davis said that income tax credit for college tuition costs would be legislation "for relief of those who need no relief." He said that if full tuition credit were given, a man paying \$5000 a year to send his son to an expensive private college could subtract the full \$5000 from what he owed in income taxes that year.

"It works for the man with the high income," Davis asserted. "And it works against the man with the low income."

He said that many parents sending their children to a Baptist college are not making enough income to benefit from a tax credit on tuition payments.

Edmunds said passage of tuition tax credit legislation would permit Baptist colleges to increase their tuition charges without additional cost to the student or parent who may be paying the student's tuition.

"The increased tuition charges," according to Edmunds, "would allow us to increase faculty salaries."

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### Senate Bill Would Aid Education Facilities

NASHVILLE--(BP)--Walter Pope Binns, prominent Southern Baptist educator, told fellow Baptist college officials here that a bill is pending in the United States Senate to grant and loan millions of dollars of federal tax funds to institutions of higher education.

Binns, president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., and chairman of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee, discussed the implications of

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federal aid to education.

He said, however, "I do not carry a torch on the subject." Binns emphasized that he was bringing out certain facts and issues, rather than giving his opinion on them.

He said the Senate bill, supported by a large group of Senators and backed by the Administration, is "in the nature of an emergency measure."

While acknowledging that the primary responsibility for education lies with states and other local groups, the Senate bill says federal aid is essential on an emergency basis to bolster education in subjects related to national defense.

These subjects include chemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, and modern foreign languages.

Binns said features of the bill, if passed, would provide hundreds of millions of dollars as grants to improve science-teaching facilities and train teachers for science, mathematics, and languages. It would also provide many millions for national defense scholarships, student loans, and work-study programs.

He said Baptist colleges would not violate separation of church and state by registering a student who had received a federal scholarship. He said that he is opposed to Baptist colleges accepting "a building as a gift from the government."

"There are differentials of opinion among Baptist educators about accepting federal grants for certain perishable equipment (such as laboratory utensils)," Binns continued.

He added that Baptist colleges should not forget their responsibility for liberal arts courses during an emphasis on science education. "Liberal arts education is not going out," Binns stated. "It is more important than it ever was before.

"We must be interested in speeding up programs in natural sciences and modern foreign languages, but in the battle for the minds of men, we must not abandon liberal arts," Binns declared.

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Gallman New Extension  
Association President

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Extension Education Association has elected Lee Gallman, Jackson, Miss., director of the Seminary Extension Department of Southern Baptist seminaries, as president.

He succeeds Davis C. Woolley, Birmingham, director of the extension program of Howard College.

Harris Anderson, Macon, Ga., director of Mercer University extension program, is the association's new vice-president. William H. McCammon, DeLand, Fla., director of the extension program for Stetson University, is new secretary-treasurer.

W. A. Whitten, Jackson, Miss., associate director of the Seminary Extension Department of the seminaries, is reporter.

Members of the association studied curricula for extension courses and exchanged promotional techniques now used by Baptist colleges and seminaries having extension programs.

The association is composed of extension directors and workers of colleges, schools, and seminaries related to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Enthusiastic commitment" to the goals of the Convention's "30,000 Movement" was given. The movement has as its objective establishing at least 30,000 new churches or missions from 1959 to 1964.

The association pledged to help provide facilities for training leaders of the new churches and missions.

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Christian Education  
Annual Theme Announced

NASHVILLE--(BP)--"The Financial Needs of Southern Baptist Schools" will be the theme for the annual emphasis on Christian higher education in April, 1960.

This was announced at a joint session of the Southern Baptist Education Commission and Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools here.

The association voted to ask the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Order of Business for time to introduce the theme at next year's session of the Convention in Louisville.

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Southern Association  
Elects Eddleman Head

NASHVILLE--(BP)--H. Leo Eddleman, president of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., has been elected president of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools.

He succeeds J. I. Riddle, president of Judson College, Marion, Ala.

The president of Bluefield (junior) College, Bluefield, Va.---Charles L. Harman---was elected vice-president of the Association. H. I. Hester, vice-president of William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., was re-elected secretary and treasurer.

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Education Commission  
Elects Phelps Chairman

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention has elected Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., president of Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, Ark., its chairman.

Ouachita College is operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Phelps succeeds W. F. Yarborough, professor of religious education at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

J. A. Barry, president of Coker College, Hartsville, S. C., is vice-chairman. The Commission re-elected George Thornton, attorney from Kosciusko, Miss., recording secretary.

R. Orin Cornett is executive secretary of the agency, with offices in Nashville.

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Association Recommends  
Change In Tuition Aid

NASHVILLE--(BP)--The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools went on record here favoring tuition aid to students on the basis of ability and financial need rather than on the basis of vocational interest.

Implementation of their position is left to the discretion of each college.

Composed of presidents of Southern Baptist-related colleges, universities, and other educational institutions, the association adopted this statement:

"That the (school) administrations recognize ability and need as the basis for all unfunded scholarships and thereby discontinue such scholarships to any group on the basis of vocational interest or as a traditional or vested right."

It was understood the action concerned tuition aid to students preparing for church-related vocations who have been receiving such aid regardless of their scholastic ability or financial need.

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The association's action is not binding on any college or school. Colleges and schools are operated by and responsible to the individual state Baptist conventions or boards of trustees.

However, the agreement of the association's members was that all would implement the suggestions at an early date, if the policy is approved by the trustees and conventions involved. Each college reserved the right to implement the change in a manner best suited to itself.

The term "unfunded," the association said, referred to scholarships paid out of the general fund of the college. Special trust funds and endowments set aside to aid certain vocational groups in the student body would not be affected.

J. Ollie Edmunds, president of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., reported that the executive board of Florida Baptist Convention has already voted to grant tuition aid on the basis of need rather than vocational interest.

The association recommended that action on tuition aid changes be taken by the president and trustees working with the executive secretary and executive board in each state convention.

The association took notice of "hardship cases" and urged consideration of some plan whereby these students may be helped and "educational opportunity not be denied any worthy student due to change in policy regarding beneficiary tuition scholarships."

Baptist colleges generally have granted tuition "discounts" to ministerial students, mission volunteers, and sons and daughters of Baptist pastors. It is students in these classifications who would be affected most by the suggested tuition aid change.

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## God's Method Employed In Operation Biography

NASHVILLE--(BP)--God used biography to present the story of Abel, whose sacrifice was acceptable. He used biography again to tell about Enoch, who walked in such close communion with God that Enoch was translated to heaven.

The biography of Abraham opens the account of the great nation of Israel. The stories of Moses, Gideon, and David are used to carry forward the growth and development of that nation.

The biography of Jesus, God's son, is the message of salvation because it reports his death for man's sins on the cross and his resurrection from the grave.

God continued to use biography to depict the development of Christianity in the years immediately after Christ. Stephen's outstanding witness as a deacon and Christian martyr, and the conversion and missionary activities of Paul are biographies.

While the Bible reveals in much detail the biographies of many devoted servants of God, it does not forget the contributions of others. The Israelite slave girl who told Naaman to see the prophet of God about cleansing from leprosy is remembered, as is the woman who broke an expensive box of perfume and anointed Jesus with it.

God used the life stories of people to give his message to future generations.

Biography has been used throughout the centuries to record for the future the problems, temptations, sacrifices, experiences, defeats, and victories of men and women.

This was especially true through the 19th century. But from 1900 to 1935, fewer biographies were published than perhaps in any other period of history. However, within the last 25 years there has been a rebirth of interest in biography.

Southern Baptists prior to 1910 published their share of biographies, containing life sketches of Baptist leaders of other days. But since 1914, Southern Baptists have been so occupied with expanding and growing that they have forgotten to gather and make available biographies of Baptists.

If 100,000 of the best Southern Baptist men and women--whether ministers or lay people--were to die in the next three months, the needed-to-be-known facts of their lives for adequate newspaper accounts of their Christian service could not very reliably be found.

Operation Baptist Biography is the first effort Southern Baptists have ever made to use the method that God employed in the Bible to preserve the inspiring stories of Abraham, Moses, David, the servant girl, Stephen, Paul, and even God's son, Jesus Christ.

Malachi 3:16 reports that "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon his name."

Norman W. Cox, Nashville, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, believes that "Unmistakably God is calling us in Operation Baptist Biography to secure resource materials for a massive book of remembrance of the life and labors in Christ of our people."

It is a movement to guarantee that Southern Baptist churches will accumulate essential facts about the lives of their pastors, deacons, and officers and teachers of their Sunday schools, Training Unions, Woman's Missionary Societies, Brotherhoods, and other church organizations.

Operation Baptist Biography provides that this information shall be kept by the churches and copies of it passed on to their state Baptist historical collections and to the library of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission.

Biographical facts of the average pastor's life are unknown to many in the church, or to the people in his community and his fellow Baptists. The biographies of one or more leading lay persons--men or women--in each church should be preserved, no matter how young or small the church is, and larger churches would want to provide biographies of many more.

What church would not find most helpful in years to come resource material for a book of remembrance of its own people? Operation Baptist Biography provides them a means to have such material and to share it with others at the same time.

Having such biographical information available in churches, states, and Southern Baptist libraries will provide vital information for many books, stories, and articles that will be written portraying the Christian witness of people from all places and all walks of life.