

June 27, 1958

More Security Benefits For Retiring Ministers

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A change in the social security act makes it possible for retiring ministers to receive higher social security benefits.

Under the change in the law, the rental value of a parsonage furnished a minister as part of his compensation, rental allowance, or room and board is considered earnings in determining social security benefits.

Congress made the change so that ministers would receive social security credit for earnings derived in the form of lodging which were previously disregarded in computing their earnings for social security purposes.

"As a result of the change, retiring ministers, generally, can now qualify for much higher social security benefits based on their higher earning records," the social security administration of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reports.

Under the social security act, all earnings which are counted for benefit computation purposes are also counted toward the \$1200 earnings limitation for retirement test purposes.

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Hays Addresses Rural Development Conference

MEMPHIS--(BP)--The church's responsibility toward the small farmer was the subject of a talk by Rep. Brooks Hays (D., Ark.) here.

Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, addressing the Rural Development Program Conference, said:

"The nation has a stake in his (the small farmer's) survival, and the churches have an interest in the small farmer's problem from the standpoint of human values themselves. The church is privileged to join in the efforts to find a solution."

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Baptist Young People Needed As Teachers

NASHVILLE--(BP)--If Baptist colleges are to continue to have a high percentage of Baptists in their faculty, more Baptist young people must be recruited to teach, a denominational educator said.

"Unless a concerted effort is made to attract more qualified Baptist young people, the percentage of Baptist faculty in our Baptist colleges is likely to drop to 50 per cent in the next 15 to 20 years," R. Orin Cornett, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission, declared here.

With the backing of the Commission and the encouragement of Southern Baptist college officials, Cornett is seeking to expand a teacher placement service now in operation by the Commission.

"We plan to employ a personnel officer on a full-time basis as soon as funds are available," Cornett said. He estimated that \$15,000 a year will be needed for the expanded placement service. The Commission, he said, spends \$2,000 a year at present on its placement activities.

Cornett said that approximately 75 per cent of the faculty members at Southern Baptist-related colleges and universities are members of a Baptist church.

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A decline in the percentage is likely, he continued, because "we will in a few years need nearly twice as many new teachers as we used to need." This will be due to spiraling enrolments which are expected at colleges in the near future.

"The first and most important step to prevent a reduction in the percentage of Baptist faculty members at Baptist schools is to employ a personnel officer, full-time," he said.

Many qualified, potential Baptist teachers for Baptist colleges want to teach and at the same time many Baptist colleges are seeking qualified Baptist faculty members, but too often, neither group is in contact with the other, according to Cornett.

He said that a personnel officer would help these qualified persons and Baptist colleges contact each other.

Cornett reported that "one of the difficulties that Baptist colleges are facing now" is the "severe shortage of teaching personnel in all fields but religion."

A personnel officer would spend from one-third to one-half his time on the field, visiting campuses where prospective teachers are enrolled.

There the personnel officer would secure from Baptist leaders and others the names of Baptist young people who are good prospects for teaching vacancies. At the same time, Cornett added, the personnel officer would contact the Baptist students themselves, presenting the needs and opportunities in Baptist colleges.

The responsibility for employing a personnel officer lies with the Education Commission for two reasons, according to Cornett:

1. "Any need of our Baptist schools that can be met most effectively through a central agency is interpreted to be a proper responsibility of the Education Commission," and
2. "Baptist college presidents themselves look to the Education Commission to fill this need. These presidents feel that an expansion of our placement service appears to be the only feasible way to secure enough qualified Baptist teachers in their schools."

Cornett said that presently, the placement service of the Education Commission can not meet the demands of the Baptist colleges. Therefore, the colleges turn to secular placement agencies which are not concerned with the spiritual qualifications of teaching prospects.

"If we could serve the Baptist colleges adequately," Cornett said, "most Baptist college presidents would depend on us almost entirely to fill their vacancies."

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BP Folks and Facts.....

.....John W. Raley is entering his 25th year as president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. He has been in his administrative office longer than the presidents of any other Oklahoma colleges. Valuation of OBU campus is \$7 million, about 17 times its worth in 1934, and enrolment is three times greater now than then.

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June 27, 1958

Baptist Press Features

Sons Follow In Their Father's Footprints

DALLAS--(BP)--One Dallas father and pastor, R. B. Cooper, has more than moral support from his family when he preaches his Sunday sermon---his two sons are also preaching in the same city.

The three Coopers are all active pastors in Dallas, and are all graduates of the same Texas Baptist college, Howard Payne at Brownwood.

R. B. Cooper Sr. is pastor of North Oak Cliff Baptist Church; R. B. Cooper Jr. is pastor of Home Gardens Baptist Church, and James Cooper is pastor of the First Baptist Church of Oak Cliff.

Parent Cooper said he "never tried to exert any influence on the boys to become preachers. I felt it was their decision to make but of course I am happy that they are ministers."

Cooper and his wife, Bonnie, tell friends that "we raised the boys in the shadow of the church."

Both of the younger Coopers were valedictorians of their high school graduating classes, both members of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, both members of Alpha Chi, national honor society, both president of their college Baptist student unions, and both married Dallas girls.

The three Coopers have pastored in Dallas for a combined total of 28 years and have recorded more than 2,500 baptisms in their ministries.

"One of the worst things about having two sons in the ministry is that people are always telling you your sons can outreach you," the elder Cooper said.

"However, I tell them it is the background that counts," he said.

R. B. Jr. said he "grew" into the ministry, as his dad, older brother, and three uncles all were Baptist preachers. James made the decision to enter the ministry while attending Howard Payne.

After graduation from Howard Payne, James graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. His brother is attending the seminary at the present time, in addition to his pastoring.

Cooper Sr. is the fourth oldest Dallas Baptist pastor in seniority, having preached in the city for 22 years. Cooper says in 41 years of preaching he has never been without a pastorate.

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June 27, 1958

Baptists Request News About Religious Liberty

WASHINGTON--(BP)--From all over the Southern Baptist Convention territory a flood of requests has come for information about religious liberty and the work of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Post cards, letters, telegrams and phone calls dumped 1241 requests for tracts into the Washington office. From churches large and small, on important-looking letterheads and on bits of scrap paper, from people who could write legibly and from others who could barely scribble, the requests came.

Some wrote early. Others waited until the last minute and urged prompt attention to their requests. The plea "please rush" was frequently included in their communications. Practically all of them made it clear that they wanted the "free" literature.

Occasion for this sudden manifestation of interest was a Training Union program in the Adult department in Southern Baptist churches. The subject was "A Voice for Baptists," which was a discussion of the Washington office maintained by six national Baptist groups, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

In filling the orders from the churches samples of three pieces of information were included. One piece was an analysis of the constitution of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Another tract contained questions and answers about the work of the Washington office. The third was a copy of the "Report from the Capital" which is a monthly newsletter on public affairs relating to religious liberty.

A grand total of 34,955 pieces was sent to the churches. C. Emanuel Carlson is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and W. Barry Garrett is associate director.

In commenting on the rising tide of interest in religious liberty Carlson says that it indicates that Baptists are again turning their attention to their distinctive area of insight into the nature of Christianity. He said that "our Baptist editors are playing a significant role in alerting the people to the problems involved in religious liberty and separation of church and state."

"When Baptists become fully aware of the significance of their insights, and when these principles are applied to specific situations, a new day for the cause of religious liberty will emerge in our nation and in the whole world," Carlson concluded.

Catholics Want Whole
Truth About Colombia

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Congress has been told that the whole picture about religious persecution in Colombia has not been presented.

Rep. Victor L. Anfuso (D., N.Y.) told the House of Representatives that "occasionally our press will publish letters protesting alleged persecution of non-Catholics in Colombia, South America. Some members of Congress have also received similar letters urging that the United States Government make representations to the Government of Colombia regarding this matter."

Then, "in the interests of good will," Anfuso introduced two recent articles published in America, a National Catholic Weekly Review, concerning the Colombian situation. The articles were printed in the Congressional Record as "a good documentation in the matter."

Anfuso was knighted in 1946 by Pope Pius XII, because of his humanitarian work. He is also a commander of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The first article in the Congressional Record is "Showdown in Colombia" by Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, and a frequent visitor to Latin America.

The other article is a letter from Baltasar Alvarez Restrepo, Bishop of Pereira, Colombia, and it deals with Protestant activity in the parish of Supia and his dealings with the U. S. diplomatic and consular authorities in Colombia.

Ligutti in 1953 proposed that a team of social scientists be employed to make an objective study of the Colombian situation. He now renews his proposal and says, "The truth never hurts any person or institution, and if we are real Christians we must be ready to face the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

In explaining the Colombian Catholic attitude toward Protestant missionaries Ligutti states that "Catholics consider heresy as the greatest sin." He said that many Colombians think that Protestants are terrible and that "they are persecuting us." They accuse Protestants of insulting the Blessed Virgin and the saints, of speaking disrespectfully of His Holiness, the Pope, and of calling Colombians ignorant.

Ligutti says that "the uncouth conduct of U. S. tourists, the display of riches and their ostentatious spending" has caused much resentment against North Americans.

He further asserted that many Catholics in Latin America firmly believe that Protestant missionaries are supported by the U. S. Government and that the "Protestantizing" of Latin America is but a starting point toward domination from the North.

Ligutti pointed out inconsistencies in the Protestant principle of separation of church and state. He said, "Protestants (including Baptists and Adventists) in British East Africa accept and use Government support for their hospitals and schools. What principle of church-state relations does that imply? Is it principle or local necessity that decides the meaning and sinfulness of taking Government money, or is it wrong only for Catholics and allowable for Anglicans and the Scandinavian Protestant churches?"

In the second article reproduced in the Congressional Record, Bishop Alvarez Restrepo tells of the activities of Mrs. Janette Troyer of Chippewa Falls, Wis., a member of the Gospel Mission Union of Kansas City, Mo. She is in Supia, Colombia, as a missionary to that predominantly Catholic community.

The letter from the Pereira bishop reveals the dissatisfaction of the Catholic community with the presence of Mrs. Troyer, her determination to remain in the city, a bombing incident, the efforts to persuade Mrs. Troyer to leave, and the dealings of the bishop with the U. S. Ambassador in trying to ease the situation.

Alvarez Restrepo's letter reveals misunderstandings and misinterpretations both from the viewpoint of Catholic Colombians and of Americans residing in that country. The letter ended with the fact that Mrs. Troyer remains in Supía, at present is unmolested because the Mayor has received orders to protect her, "but the possibility of further violence seems only too real."

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Senator Calls On Youth To Build World Peace

DES MOINES, Iowa--(BP)--It is possible to outlaw war and establish peace on the basis of justice, declared Sen. Frank Carlson (R., Kan.) in a speech to a Baptist youth rally.

Carlson addressed a Sunday afternoon youth rally sponsored by the Baptist General Conference of America (Swedish) which met here recently.

An active Baptist layman, Carlson grew up in a church affiliated with the Conference. He is now a member of the Concordia, Kans., Baptist church, and attends the First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., when Congress is in session.

Speaking on "Youth and Its Opportunities" Carlson said that the possibility of putting an end to the era of human slaughter on earth is the big opportunity of youth in the atomic age.

"I believe," Carlson declared, "that in our time we will succeed in doing the seemingly impossible. I believe that it is within our power to make the greatest contribution to human progress and safety in history by creating the design of a workable world peace."

The kind of peace desired by the American people is not a hand-cuffed or a goose-stepped peace, he continued. Americans want a peace "which guarantees the independence and integrity of all nations large and small, a peace in which progress and freedom are possible, a peace which doesn't mean human decay or dry rot, but the growth and betterment of individual human beings throughout the world."

The requirements for such peace are to be found within the framework of world law, the Senator asserted. This is a job not for any single nation alone but is one for the whole world.

On the other hand, Carlson observed, "when something has to be done, it is the individual who has to do it." At this point he urged Christian young people to consider the profession of politics as "a field in which a Christian may most appropriately exercise his ministry, working for truth and justice and mercy."

In his introductory remarks Carlson said that "the cornerstone of the American life rests on a strong spiritual foundation." He pointed out that in the Declaration of Independence, "the charter of our freedom," there are "four explicit references to our dependence on God."

"If we are to preserve and save our sacred freedoms," we must have a strong, courageous and God-fearing people. We must have a strong, militant church and a total mobilization of all the moral forces of the country."

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Baptist Press

Proposes Memorial And
Mother's Day Same Date

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Mother's Day and Memorial Day will be combined, if legislation now being considered in Congress is made into law.

Rep. Eugene Siler (R., Ky.) has introduced H. J. Res. 631 which provides that the second Sunday in May shall continue to be Mother's Day and that together with the immediately preceding Saturday the observance shall be Memorial and Mother's Day. If approved, these two days will be declared legal holidays.

The purpose of the observance is "a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country, and in honor of the deceased members of the Armed Forces of the United States from all wars, including the deceased members of the armed forces of the Confederate States of America, and the deceased members of every family in the United States."

Heretofore Mother's Day has been the second Sunday in May and Memorial Day has been May 30.

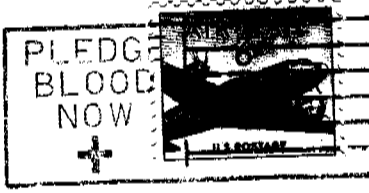
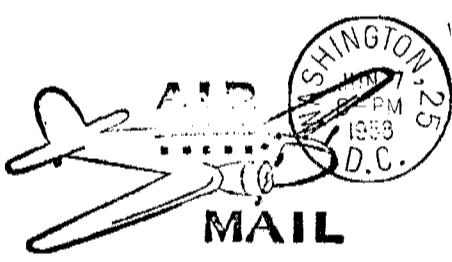
WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - The National Baptist Convention, Inc., today announced that it will support a bill to amend the National Firearms Act to prohibit the sale of automatic weapons to anyone under the age of 21.

The convention, which meets in Washington today, is the largest of the Baptist churches in the United States. It has about 10 million members.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Charles McNary (D-Ind.), would require the purchase of an automatic weapon to be made by a person who is at least 21 years of age and who is a resident of the United States.

The convention's support of the bill is part of its long-standing opposition to the sale of automatic weapons to anyone under the age of 21.

Through the support of the convention, the bill is expected to pass the House of Representatives.



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