

November 22, 1958

Baptist Leader Takes High Federal Office

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A prominent Southern Baptist educator has been appointed to the newly-created post as specialist for college and university organization with the U. S. Office of Education here.

The educator is R. Orin Cornett of Nashville, who has been executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Education Commission for eight years. His appointment was announced by Commissioner of Education Lawrence Derthick.

The Office of Education is a part of the government's Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Cornett is being granted a leave of absence from the government post until sometime in January, when his resignation as a Southern Baptist leader is effective.

Cornett's office will be in Washington. The new post was created because of the rising tide of enrolments in the nation's colleges and universities.

As specialist for college and university organization, Cornett will make his services available to both public and private schools. He will help schools with their internal organizational needs---assisting them in making the most effective use of personnel and space as their enrollment grows.

The administrative committee of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention is expected to meet in December to appoint a committee to nominate Cornett's successor there.

Cornett, who has 15 years of experience in administration at college and university level, was the first executive secretary of the Education Commission after it attained commission status among Southern Baptist agencies.

His experience includes eight additional years as college professor---four at Harvard University and four at Oklahoma Baptist University. He was executive vice-president of OBU at the time he accepted the Southern Baptist office.

A scientist of note, Cornett is a graduate of OBU, University of Oklahoma, and University of Texas. He has been author or co-author of college textbooks in mathematics, electronics, and physics.

His teaching subjects have included these fields, plus astronomy and photography.

Cornett is presently gathering material for a popular-style book on how to develop skills of the mind. Basis for the book is a series of lectures Cornett delivered to college freshmen enrolling at OBU on "Your Magic Mind."

The development of skills of the mind has long been an area in which Cornett has worked. He has what many claim to be a "photographic memory" although Cornett himself says that his talent is the result of mind-training.

Cornett's college-teaching career began when he was 20 years old. After getting his bachelor of science degree at June commencement in 1934, OBU employed the young science major to teach in its summer school.

-30-

President of Belmont College Will Retire

NASHVILLE--(BP)--R. Kelly White, president of Belmont College here, a four-year school owned by Tennessee Baptist Convention, has announced he will

-more-