

November 23, 1958

NOTICE TO EDITORS: TRIPP RETIREMENT TO BE HELD FOR RELEASE UNTIL DECEMBER 1.

Retirement Of Tripp
Recalls Valued Service

NEW ORLEANS--(BP)--The man who directed the Southern Baptist Convention in its successful effort to pay off indebtedness during depression years, and who more recently has been executive secretary of its Hospital Board, plans to retire.

Dr. Frank Tripp of New Orleans said:

"I have requested the board of directors of Southern Baptist Hospitals to relieve me of my responsibilities June 1 of next year. Mrs. Tripp and I have purchased a home at Montgomery, Ala., where we expect to live during the time of our retirement."

The executive committee of the board of directors has been asked to recommend Tripp's successor at the annual meeting of the Hospital Board Jan. 22.

During his retirement Tripp plans to be available as a hospital consultant, consultant in church building fund financing and fund-raising, and for pulpit supply.

He has been executive secretary of the Hospital Board---which carries with it the office of superintendent of hospitals---since May 1, 1947. During that time the agency's assets have increased from \$2 million to \$10 million.

The Hospital Board operates a hospital here and in Jacksonville, Fla. The Jacksonville hospital was opened about three years ago.

His many places of service in Southern Baptist circles have included presidency of the Executive Committee of the Convention, from 1936-1939. He also was first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1935.

Other offices have included president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, 1928-29; president of the Alabama Baptist Convention, 1945-47, and member of the SBC Home Mission Board, 1926-27.

Tripp also has been active in community and civic affairs in the cities where he has lived. He was a member of a governor's commission to establish a state industrial school for girls at Alexandria, La., and while living in Alabama, was appointed by the governor of that state as chairman of the executive committee of the state reform school for Negroes.

He was pastor of Montgomery's First Baptist Church when he accepted the call to the Southern Baptist hospital administrative office. In Montgomery he was president of the city's Charity and Welfare Council and president of Montgomery County Hospital Association.

The Southern Baptist Executive Committee recognized Tripp's leadership last year by presenting him an "Award of Appreciation." It is "in grateful recognition of Dr. Frank Tripp, the founder of the Hundred Thousand Club, which made a significant contribution to Southern Baptist life at a critical time in its history."

The Hundred Thousand Club was the organization, which during the depression years of the 1930s, led the denomination's debt-paying movement. The campaign was successful, resulting in payment of approximately \$7 million of accumulated indebtedness of the agencies of the Convention.

Tripp is a native of Arkansas but grew up in Oklahoma in the days when it was Indian Territory. He entered the ministry when he was 17. He attended Oklahoma Baptist University and Ouachita College.

His pastorates have been in Yale and Idabel, Okla.; Monroe and Minden, La.;

St. Joseph, Mo., and Montgomery. Mercer University and Ouachita---both Southern Baptist-related colleges---presented him with honorary degrees.

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Hays Says He May
Not Run For Office

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--"I'll probably never run for office again although one should not renounce politics," Congressman Brooks Hays told over 700 persons assembled in his hometown here for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

It was Hays's first address to a Baptist group in Little Rock since voters here rejected his bid for a ninth straight term in Congress as their representative.

While the convention was a statewide meeting, it was estimated that perhaps half those present when he spoke lived in his Congressional district.

The convention made no move to give a vote of commendation to Hays, as have seven sister Baptist state conventions, but one of the speakers---President Robert E. Naylor of Fort Worth's Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary---directed words of praise at Hays.

"I am not removing myself completely from the political field," Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, continued. "But I do not have any political plans at this time. There is room in the same heart for the patriot and the internationalist."

The audience gave Hays a standing ovation when he was introduced by State Convention President T. K. Rucker before his address. Loud applause also followed Hays's address. Hays was visibly overcome by the reception.

Hays spoke in First Baptist Church here, where the convention held its sessions. First Church is one of three Baptist churches in Little Rock being used by Ouachita College---state Baptist university---for temporary high school classes, classes which were in session even as Hays spoke. Public high schools are closed by order of Gov. Orval Faubus.

It was Hays's efforts to bring about a reconciliation between state and federal governments in the local school segregation issue that many political observers believe led to Hays's defeat Nov. 4 by a write-in candidate.

Hays said that his political loss has enabled him to speak more freely.

"I have profited from defeat. The older ones of you will know I'm used to it but I've gotten a little out of practice," Hays said.

"It looks like I am stuck with the designation of being a moderate," he continued. "The only Scripture reference I can find to this was said by Paul to the Philippians: 'Let your moderation be known unto all men.'"

Hays declared that "moderation in itself is not always a virtue. When one is a moderate out of expediency that is not to his credit."

Continuing, he said:

"If the world needs anything it is the awareness of God's direction and his compassion.

"The responsibility of the Christian in these days of great change, danger, and peril is to promote the mission of reconciliation, the meeting of people with people as distinguished from government conversations."

He said that "Christians of different nationalities may meet on a human basis and promote good will and understanding." Hays also praised the denomination's Cooperative Program for its being a blessing upon the individual in giving him a chance to share in a world mission program.

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In his address, Seminary President Naylor referred to Hays as God's "chosen leader for our denomination" during this period. He described the nation as having suffered a "great loss" by Hays's not being returned to office, but added that he (Naylor) believed God would open "even greater doors of service" to Hays than if he had been re-elected.

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Hays Gets Support At Kentucky Meet

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky.--(BP)--A resolution voicing support of Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was adopted by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky here.

It was the seventh such vote of confidence given by state bodies of Southern Baptists in their annual sessions during November.

The Kentucky resolution noted Hays's service to the Southern Baptist Convention and said he had demonstrated "unusual Christian virtues in difficult circumstances."

The general association went on record giving Hays a vote of appreciation and a "pledge of continued love and prayer."

A resolution proposing that the general association study the need for establishing a Baptist home for the aged was referred to its executive board.

The association adopted a \$2,300,000 budget for 1959, highest ever. One third of this figure will go to support Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

The 1870 messengers registered for the 1958 associational session--most of them attracted by discussion of the future of Christian higher education by state Baptists---was a record. Total registration, including visitors, was 2,435.

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Arkansas Hospital Lease Plan Approved

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Arkansas Baptist Hospital here has been authorized to negotiate with the City of North Little Rock if city officials there offer to lease it a hospital.

The hospital, with between 100 and 200 beds, will be built with money from a city bond sale, augmented by federal funds obtained through the Hill-Burton Act.

North Little Rock city government officials have made no formal offer to lease the hospital---construction of which will start soon--- to Arkansas Baptist Hospital.

However, there has been an indication that city officials are considering leasing it to some religious group. At least three other denominations have also expressed an interest in operating the hospital if it is leased by the city.

Permission to negotiate was granted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in its annual session here. In other action the convention:

Re-elected T. K. Rucker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Forrest City, Ark., president.

Voted to permit Ouachita College at Arkadelphia to borrow money to erect two new dormitories which college officials say are urgently needed.

Adopted a 1959 budget of \$1,700,000, of which \$576,000 goes to support Southern Baptist Convention agencies through the Cooperative Program.

Decided to hold their 1959 meeting with Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock.

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Stands On Religious
Liberty, Sunday Vote

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.--(BP)--Arkansas Baptists reaffirmed here their support of the Baptist position, "A free church in a free state," and declared themselves in favor of "absolute and complete separation of church and state."

The action was in a resolution adopted by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

In another resolution, Arkansas convention expressed its "staunch disapproval" of any effort to make Sunday a national election day.

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Odle Declines Call
By Indiana Group

JACKSON, Miss.--(BP)--Joe T. Odle, associate executive secretary of Mississippi Baptist Convention here, said that after "much prayer and consideration" he has declined a call become executive secretary of the new State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

The convention was organized this year by messengers from 111 churches formerly affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky.

The Indiana convention plans to have its offices in Indianapolis.

"I recognized the great opportunity of service offered by the Indiana convention," Odle said. "It was only after much prayer and consideration that I declined. I appreciate very much their vote of confidence."

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Illinois Association
Joins In Hays Praise

CARBONDALE, Ill.--(BP)--The board of Directors of Illinois Baptist State Association here adopted a resolution commending President Brooks Hays of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The resolution stated:

"Whereas in recent days . . . have appeared press reports with unfortunate implications regarding Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and his stand with reference to the racial integration issue;

"Now therefore, be it resolved that the board of directors of Illinois Baptist State Association hereby commends the president of the Southern Baptist Convention for his Christian statesmanship and denominational leadership."

The Illinois Association held its annual meeting on Oct. 21, about two weeks prior to the defeat of Hays in Little Rock, Ark., where he was trying for a ninth term in Congress. Seven of the state Baptist bodies which have met subsequent to Nov. 4 have adopted resolutions commending Hays.

The board of directors transacts association business between the annual sessions. In another matter of business, the board elected Arthur E. Farmer, pastor, First Baptist Church, DuQuoin, Ill., its chairman.

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Alabamans Troubled
By Candidate's Faith

BIRMINGHAM--(BP)--Alabama Baptists said here that "religious freedom for all citizens . . . could be jeopardized by the election of an individual as President of the United States whose religion teaches him his church should be supported by the state and be above the state."

It did not call any denomination by name. It was believed to refer to the possibility of the religious affiliation of a candidate being an issue in the 1960 Presidential election.

The Alabama Baptist Convention, in its annual session, called on the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission and on the Baptist Joint on Public Affairs "to give vigorous and timely expression to our fundamental position on . . . separation of church and state and religious freedom for all citizens."

The statement was adopted upon recommendation of the state Christian life commission. The statement said also:

"This matter of such serious religious concern (should) be dramatically called to the attention of those in national political leadership."

A resolution by the convention asked the Southern Baptist Convention not to permit its Southern Baptist Foundation to do business in Alabama, which has a state Baptist foundation.

The resolution was similar to one adopted by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Both were patterned after a model resolution which state Baptist foundation secretaries were asked to introduce at their convention sessions this fall.

The Alabama resolution was presented by Leslie Wright, Birmingham, president of convention-operated Howard College. Before moving to Howard, Wright was state foundation secretary. The state foundation post has been vacant since Wright left.

The resolution "requested the newly-created Stewardship Commission and the program committee of the Executive Committee (of the SBC) . . . to promote the total program of Baptist foundations on a southwide basis, giving proper recognition to the requirements and needs of both Southern Baptist Convention institutions and agencies and state convention-sponsored institutions and agencies."

Copies of the foundation resolution were to be sent to the president and secretary of the SBC; to the chairman and executive secretary of its Executive Committee; to the chairman of the Committee to Study Total SBC Program; to the chairman of the Stewardship Commission (which actually is not yet a separate agency), and to the chairman of the Executive Committee's program committee.

November 23, 1958

Baptist State Bodies
Act On Varied Issues

By Theo Sommerkamp
Baptist Press Staff Writer

Demonstrated in many states by record attendances, messengers to Baptist state conventions this fall took action on a wide variety of matters relating both to internal Baptist affairs and to public issues.

Before this fall, there were 25 Baptist state conventions (or general associations as they are called in a few states). But Indiana Baptists organized themselves into an independent convention to increase it to 26.

Some of the trends apparent after surveying the action of all the conventions include:

1. A continued confidence in the leadership of Brooks Hays of Little Rock, Ark., as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in spite of his defeat in his bid for a ninth term in the U. S. Congress.
2. A desire on the part of messengers to be about their business, evidenced by the fact that church fires or bomb threats failed to delay and interrupt conventions in two states.
3. The fact that Baptists are aware of the Christian responsibility in public affairs and said so plainly in several states. Examples: statements on proposed prohibition repeal in Oklahoma and the possibility there will be a religious issue in the 1960 U. S. Presidential campaign, reaffirmation of "a free church in a free state," and opposition of one convention to any effort toward Sunday voting.
4. The growing stature of the layman in Baptist denominational life. Several states elected laymen to positions they never held before or had not held for many years.
5. A concern for important internal issues in Baptist circles. Principal interest centered on plans for expansion of Baptist organizations to keep pace with growth, management surveys of state bodies to bring about maximum operating efficiency, relations between Southern Baptist convention agencies and similar agencies maintained by state Baptist bodies, the effect of special-purpose offerings on the single-budget Cooperative Program.

Seven states adopted statements of continued confidence in and prayerful concern for Brooks Hays as SBC president. The states were North Carolina, Maryland, Florida, Arizona, Kentucky, District of Columbia, and Virginia. Several states described his work as a "Christian statesman," and deplored his defeat.

In Arkansas, with the convention assembled in Little Rock, Brooks Hays made his first address as a Baptist leader to a hometown audience after his defeat. He was visibly and deeply moved by the standing ovation and loud applause he received.

Hays said he did not intend to withdraw from politics although he may not run for elective office again. Mississippi Baptist Convention was quick to point out that a group calling themselves "Baptist laymen of Mississippi"---who demanded Hays resign as SBC president---was not officially related to the convention. Hays disclaimed any intention of resigning.

A fire at midnight before opening day of their convention had Oregon-Washington Baptists stymied only momentarily. The church in which they were to meet was damaged but a church of another denomination offered its auditorium and the convention assembled on schedule.

Florida Baptists, meeting at Miami, ignored a woman caller's threat to bomb the church in which they were meeting. Police searched the building but found no bomb. They stood guard outside as a precaution.

Record registration of messengers was reported in a number of states. Kentucky, for instance, drew a record attendance because of a lively discussion over the future of Baptist higher education in the state. The Kentuckians rejected a proposal to consolidate some of their educational programs, voting instead to keep things the way they are.

Oklahomans, expecting an effort to be made by "wet" forces to repeal prohibition in their state---one of two "dry" ones in the nation, loaned a state temperance organization their missions secretary for six months to help fight repeal.

The possibility of a religious issue being involved or a Roman Catholic candidate for President of the United States being on the 1960 ballot was discussed in at least five states, Georgia, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, and Alabama.

Georgia rejected a motion to call on Baptists not to vote for a Catholic candidate, but Florida Baptists said they strongly oppose a Presidential candidate who places religion above allegiance to the U.S. Constitution. Ohio praised its Baptist newspaper editor for an editorial treating the religious issue that might arise in 1960 politics. North Carolina took no formal action, although the matter was talked about in speeches.

Tennessee protested Sunday national guard drills. Tennessee and South Carolina asked their state legislatures for laws protecting ministers from having to reveal in courts information received while counselling in confidence.

Arkansas went on record against any effort to have national voting on Sunday.

Several states reaffirmed their belief in separation of church and state, and said Baptists believe in a "free church in a free state."

New departments were created by state Baptist bodies in several instances. Maryland set up a separate Brotherhood department; Ohio voted to employ new area missionaries; Oklahoma dedicated a new Baptist hospital; Florida voted for a home for the aged.

Kentucky killed the educational section of a committee report which followed a survey of their general association by management consultants. Tennessee and North Carolina expect to hear from their survey committees next year. District of Columbia and Georgia are considering surveys of their work. California voted to undertake one. Louisiana approved its management survey.

Baptists in Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama opposed phases of the work of the Southern Baptist Foundation, a Southern Baptist Convention agency. Their resolutions were different, although each upheld the work carried on by the state Baptist foundation in its convention. This indicated that the foundation question may be a key one at the 1959 session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville.

Florida memorialized the SBC and Baptist World Alliance to consider a world Baptist university and a Southern Baptist observer at United Nations.

Virginia voted to take steps to reduce its special-purpose offerings and place more emphasis on the single-budget Cooperative Program.

Virginia also elected laymen as president, first vice-president / Mississippi and second vice-president. Mississippi elected laymen as president and first vice-president. Louisiana and Arizona elected laymen vice-presidents for the first time in many years. Maryland's president is a layman, too. Laymen received important offices in several other states as well.

Baptists in Virginia also refused to endorse their state governor's program of "massive resistance" to integration of public schools, but voted to pray for him as a public leader.