

January 9, 1959

Better Mission Books
Chief Aim Of Council

RICHMOND--(BP)--When you notice that the mission books you study at your church each year are getting better and better, give a vote of thanks to the Missionary Education Council.

This is a semi-official organization within the framework of the Southern Baptist Convention. Its single aim is to improve the caliber of home and foreign mission study books and the visual aids and periodicals that go with the books.

The Council meets annually. Its 1959 meeting in Richmond, with the Foreign Mission Board as host, drew 75 representatives from Baptist life. They were from the Foreign, Home Mission, and Sunday School Boards; the Brotherhood Commission, Woman's Missionary Union, Carver School of Missions and Social Work, various Southern Baptist seminaries, the Southern Baptist Press Association, and the Executive Committee office of public relations.

This year at Richmond, for instance, the Missionary Education Council studied future mission themes adopted by the Home and Foreign Mission Boards:

1960, home missions--"Our Mission in Town and Country"
1960, foreign missions--"Spanish America"

1961, home missions--"Our Baptist Heritage in Missions"
1961, foreign missions--"Europe"

1962, home missions--"New Churches for Our Times"
1962, foreign missions--"East Asia (Formosa, Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan)"

It discussed potential writers for the 10 books a year, five each for home missions and foreign missions, for these future study periods. One book a year is published by each mission board for the various age groups---primary, junior, intermediate, young people, and adult.

The Missionary Education Council works out a recommended sub-theme for each age group, in keeping with the general year's theme. It also draws up specifications for the 10 books to be written.

Not being an official organization, the Council's decisions are not binding on the mission boards. However, the work of the Council is considered so valuable that the mission boards generally accept their recommendations in whole or with only minor changes.

The planning of the Missionary Education Council is done far enough in advance that the Council is able to suggest writers and book specifications one year, then review progress of the writer the following year and still leave ample time for publication within the book schedule.

Miss Mary Christian, missions book editor, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, continued in the office of president under the Missionary Education Council's policy of two-year terms for officers.

Also continuing in office is H. C. Jackson, associate professor of missions, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, vice-president.

In addition to the study course books, the Missionary Education Council also considers the need for books for general reading in missions and makes appropriate suggestions.

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Brotherhood Leaders
Set Goals For 1960

PARIS, Tenn.--(BP)--State and Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood leaders adopted goals for 1960 during their meeting at Paris Landing State Park near here.

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Their aim is to have Brotherhood organizations for men and Royal Ambassador chapters for boys in 15,000 churches by the end of 1960. Another goal is that 721,000 men and boys be enrolled in these organizations.

"Goals adopted reflect the rapid growth and development of Brotherhood work during the past decade," according to James Sapp, Memphis, director of promotion, Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission.

State Brotherhood secretaries and their associates from states engaged in three days of planning, discussion and study of Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador work through the period of the Baptist Jubilee Advance ending in 1964.

Introduction of a new periodical, Ambassador Leader, received top attention and final plans for introducing the magazine in February were agreed upon.

Recommendations were made to the promotion and literature committees of the Brotherhood Commission which meet early in 1959.

"Major activities were aligned with the annual emphases of the 30,000 Movement in order to put Brotherhood leaders into the army of Baptist workers marching toward the goals of this six-year emphasis to establish new churches and missions," Sapp stated.

Leadership training of Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador officers and leaders was a principal item of the planning meeting. A new "Brotherhood Leadership and Service Training Program" was given approval. Special emphasis will be given to training of Royal Ambassador leaders when the revised Royal Ambassador program is launched during the 1960 Jubilee Year, with the emphasis being on "Teaching and Training," Sapp added.

The "Layman's day Soul-Winning Crusade," tested in October, 1958, was adopted as an annual emphasis. It will be held in connection with Layman's Day, the second Sunday in October each year during the Jubilee Advance program.

The first annual regional Brotherhood leadership clinic was scheduled for 1960.

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Plyler Service Longer Than Predecessors'

GREENVILLE, S. C.--(BP)--John L. Plyler began his 21st year as president of Furman University here Jan. 1, having served longer in this position than any of Furman's other six presidents.

James C. Furman, son of Dr. Richard Furman for whom the University was named, was president for 20 years from 1859-79. Plyler's tenure had already surpassed the terms of Dr. Charles Manly (16 years), Dr. Edwin M. Poteat (15 years), and Dr. William McGlothlin (14 years). All other terms were less than these.

Furman now operates its major educational program on its new campus where construction continues to provide facilities for all of its students. The new campus is just three miles from Travelers Rest, S. C., the first home of President John L. Plyler.

A Furman graduate magna cum laude, Plyler earned a B. A. degree in 1913. Plyler was elected to the presidency at a meeting of the board of trustees Dec. 15, 1938. He became president on Jan. 1, 1939. At the time he was elected, he was serving as judge of the Greenville County Court.

Plyler succeeded Dr. Bennette E. Geer who had resigned as president in May, 1938, because of ill health. In 1948, Plyler served as president of the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina.

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Georgia Elects Area Promotion Worker

ATLANTA--(BP)--Election of Roy E. Russell, pastor of the First Baptist church, Adel, as secretary of missions for southeast Georgia for the Georgia Baptist Convention was announced by Searcy S. Garrison, convention executive secretary.

Russell, who has been pastor of the Adel church since 1954, will assume

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his duties Feb. 1, Garrison said. He will have responsibility for helping promote all phases of Georgia Baptist work in the southeast Georgia area. He will reside in Jesup.

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Veteran Bible School
Officer Passes Away

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky.--(BP)--Miss Helen Royalty, 83, retired business manager of Clear Creek Baptist School at Pineville, Ky, died at a local hospital.

Miss Royalty, who retired in 1954 after 27 years with the school, had been a patient at the hospital two months. She became associated with the school in 1927, one year after its establishment. She served in several capacities, including office secretary, secretary to the dean, hostess, and for 11 years was business manager.

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FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628—16th St., N. W., Washington, 9, D. C.
Telephone: ADams 2-1760

January 9, 1959

Sees More Federal Aid For Sectarian Schools

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Rising Federal aid to education with Government help to private and parochial schools can be expected to continue in the 86th Congress, according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs here.

Carlson's observations were made in "Memo," a publication of the Washington office of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. This issue of "Memo" was prepared by the Washington staff of various religious groups and discussed special problems to confront the first session of the 86th Congress.

Pointing out that the 85th Congress appropriated \$887.9 million in the National Defense Education Act of 1958, Carlson observed that it "set up a long range and comprehensive aid program without differentiating private or sectarian schools from the public institutions at the level of higher education."

This program represents a new role for the Federal Government in American education, Carlson asserted, and "the provision for direct participation by the U. S. Commissioner of Education in the testing and counseling of students in private and parochial schools opens large prospects for advocates of public funds for private schools."

Possible considerations by the 86th Congress in the field of education "can only be conjectured," Carlson continued, but he advanced several ideas to which Congress will likely give attention. They are government loans for colleges for long terms at low interest rates for construction of classrooms, laboratories and other facilities, Federal defense scholarships, and income tax credit for college and/or secondary school tuition.

"Our legislators cannot be expected to be outside or beyond the public opinion of the nation," Carlson concluded. And pressures for "parochial needs for public funds with which to support the private school ventures are also increasing."

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Brooks Hays Opens Law Office in Washington

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has opened a private law office here. He is associated with the firm of Blair, Korner, Doyle and Worth.

Hays has been a Democratic Congressman from the 5th District in Arkansas for the past 16 years. He was defeated by Dr. Dale Alford, a last-minute write-in Independent candidate, in the last election.

Although Hays will be practicing law on a selected case assignment basis, he pointed out that the major part of his time until the Southern Baptist Convention meets in Louisville, Ky., May 19-22, will be devoted to his duties as Convention president.

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Church Schools Allowed
Excise Tax Exemptions

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Do churches or church agencies wish to register with the Government in order to secure tax exemption? If so, the temporary regulations are announced in the Dec. 25, 1958, issue of the Federal Register, Washington, D. C. The rules regulate the procedures for exemptions from certain excise, communication and transportation taxes.

The 85th Congress passed a law exempting nonprofit educational institutions from the retailers excise tax, the manufacturers excise tax, and the excise tax on transportation and communications. According to the temporary regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, both the seller and the purchaser must be registered in order to qualify for the exemption.

Special certificates of exemption are available for schools operated as an activity of a church, parish, or other religious body. Such a school is defined as one which "normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are regularly carried on."

No ruling has been received as to whether or not a Sunday school qualifies as a school under the above definition.

The excise tax exemption for nonprofit educational institutions includes the tax on such items as automobiles, tires, automobile radios, television receiver sets, musical instruments sold to a religious institution for exclusively religious purposes, gasoline, oil, telegrams and telephone service, transportation of persons, and other items that are regulated by the excise tax laws.

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Baptists Rate Second,
Third Places in Congress

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Baptists run second in the Senate of the 86th Congress of the United States and third in the House of Representatives. First place goes to the Methodists in both houses, and Roman Catholics take second in the House but tie with the Episcopalians in the Senate for third place.

Fourth place is held by the Presbyterians in both houses, while the Congregational Christians took fifth place in the Senate and the Episcopalians fifth in the House. There are 19 other religious groups in the House and 9 others in the Senate.

In the House there are 77 representatives who are either unaffiliated or whose religion is not reported in the biographies available. There are only two in the Senate who are unaffiliated or unreported.

In Congress as a whole Methodists lead with 90, Catholics follow with 79, Baptists take third place with 62, Presbyterians have 56 and Episcopalians 51.

The biographies available at present show a breakdown by denominations in the 86th Congress as follows:

Senate: Methodist, 17; Baptist, 15; Roman Catholic, 12; Episcopal, 12; Presbyterian, 11; Congregational Christian, 7; Lutheran, 4; Unitarian, 4; "Protestant," 4; Latter-Day Saints, 3; Disciples of Christ, 2; Jewish, 2; Friends, 1; Latter-Day Saints (Reorg.), 1; Reformed Church in America, 1.

House: Methodist, 73; Roman Catholic, 67; Baptist, 47; Presbyterian, 45; Episcopal, 39; Congregational Christian, 15; Lutheran, 14; "Protestant," 14; Jewish, 11; Disciples of Christ, 8; Church of Christ, 4; Latter-Day Saints, 4; Unitarian, 3; Friends, 2; Church of Christ, Scientist, 2; Evangelical and Reformed, 2; Universalist, 2; Evangelical Free Church, 1; Reformed Church in America, 1; Assembly of God, 1; Christian Church, 1; Apostolic Christian (Nazarene), 1; United Brethren, 1; Hindu, 1.

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BAPTIST FEATURES

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FROM
WASHINGTON OFFICE
W. BARRY GARRETT, REGIONAL EDITOR
1628-16TH ST., N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.
TELEPHONE: ADAMS 2-1760

January 9, 1959

Religious Issue In '60
Campaign Remains Alive

By W. Barry Garrett*

WASHINGTON--The religious issue in the 1960 Presidential campaign continues to receive significant attention among the nation's politicians. The question as to whether or not a Catholic candidate can be elected President of the United States was discussed at length recently at a joint meeting of the American Historical Society and the American Catholic Historical Society.

The Report From The Capital, monthly newsletter from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, points out that the recent suggestion of a Baptist editor that Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, become a vice-presidential candidate poses an interesting question for the voters. Many voters oppose Senator John F. Kennedy (D., Mass.) on the ground that he is a devout Roman Catholic. A similar feeling could arise on the part of Roman Catholics if the president of the Southern Baptist Convention were to become a candidate for one of the two major political offices in the nation. The question then is whether these religious commitments leave both men equally free to conduct the affairs of a higher national office.

Just how would the voters make up their minds with a Kennedy-Hays ticket in the Democratic party? This question takes on added significance when it is remembered that the United States Constitution specifically says that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

The problem is further aggravated by a report in the Congressional Quarterly, a weekly political analysis publication, that Kennedy has made significant gains toward his goal of nomination for the Presidency. Within the past two years he has delivered an average of two major addresses per week outside of his state of Massachusetts. He has spoken in 47 of the 49 states before every possible profitable political grouping of people.

Kennedy's chances of receiving the nomination are enhanced by the six major benefits the Senator has received as a result of his speaking tours according to the report in CQ. They are:

1. Kennedy has become one of the best-known Democrats in the country.
2. He has met literally thousands of Democratic leaders and workers, many of whom will be delegates to the Democratic National Convention. By 1960 he will know practically everyone with credentials at the Convention.
3. Political support has been broadened by Kennedy's identification of himself with local personalities, issues and sentiments all over the country.
4. Kennedy's extensive travels and speaking engagements have enabled him to become familiar with local issues and problems throughout the nation.

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*News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention
ALBERT McCLELLAN, DIRECTOR
THEO SOMMERKAMP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
127 NINTH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE 3, TENN.

5. His local appearances have given him opportunity to cultivate friendships in groups within the Democratic party.

6. Key leaders in each state have become obligated to Kennedy by his efforts in fund raising and political support. A basic political principle is that every favor granted creates an obligation in return.

Although several Baptist conventions last fall expressed concern about the possibilities of a Roman Catholic candidate for President, and although various other groups have cautioned that such a candidate should make clear his position on separation of church and state, the political trends seen in the last elections in various sections of the nation seem to indicate that the fact that a person is a Roman Catholic is not necessarily a handicap to him politically.

Another factor, however, that might enter Kennedy's campaign for the Presidency is the source of the family fortune. A national temperance leader has recently reported that the Kennedy millions have grown primarily from the liquor importing business. Both the American liquor distiller and the people who oppose the use of alcoholic beverages may be interested in this aspect of the Senator's qualifications for President of the United States.

The turn of events and the tone of the 1960 campaign will be interesting to watch. At this stage of the game anything can happen.

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*Mr. Garrett is regional editor for the Baptist Press, Washington, D. C.

Church Affiliation of Supreme Court Listed

WASHINGTON--Presbyterians have more on the Supreme Court than any other denomination. Although Chief Justice Earl Warren is unaffiliated he has a Methodist background and attends the Baptist church occasionally with his wife.

The religious affiliations of the other Justices are: Hugo L. Black, Baptist; Felix Frankfurter, Jewish; William O. Douglas, Presbyterian; Tom C. Clark, Presbyterian; John Marshall Harlan, Presbyterian; William Joseph Brennan, Jr., Roman Catholic; Charles Evans Whittaker, Methodist; Potter Stewart, Episcopalian.

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W. BARRY GARRETT, *Regional Editor*
1628 Sixteenth St. N. W.
WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

**BUSSH
NEWS COPY**

T.

Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committee
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee