

January 16, 1959

Michigan Convention,
Broadway Make Deal

DETROIT--(BP)--Small Baptist churches co-operating with the Baptist State Convention of Michigan are expected to benefit by a working agreement between the convention's executive board here and the Broadway Bond Plan.

The agreement was negotiated at the January board meeting, following a two-year discussion.

It provides that 3 per cent of each bond issue be deposited in a sinking fund held by the convention. The sinking fund is the extent of the convention's liability in case of failure of a church to meet note payments.

Convention leaders said that small churches have trouble selling bonds outside of their own memberships. The backing of the convention is expected to make it easier for them to market bonds elsewhere. Bonds are sold to secure money to build new church facilities.

Churches, however, are not obligated to use the Broadway Bond Plan if they choose to issue bonds to secure funds. They remain free to negotiate through other bond sources, convention officers said.

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add to Washington office BP dtd. Jan. 9 "Brooks Hays Opens Law, etc."

The Convention president's Washington address is 404 Transportation Building, Washington, 6, D. C. His telephone number is National 8-0294.

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Christian Index Has
New Printing Process

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Christian Index, starting with the first issue in 1959, is being printed on a new press and with a new printing process.

It no longer uses mats or engravings. It will use pictures, slick proofs, and the like.

"Our new printing process is photo-composition wherein an engraving of our entire page is curved for the rotary press," Editor John J. Hurt said. It will permit better engraving. This gives a high quality to reproduction without sacrifice of press speed.

The Christian Index is weekly newspaper of Georgia Baptist Convention, published in Atlanta.

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Pastoral Worker Chosen
For Bellingham, Wash.

PORTLAND, Ore.--(BP)--Tom Baird, pastor of First Baptist Church, Beverly Park, Wash., has been called as pastoral missionary for the Baptist General Convention of Oregon-Washington. He will serve in the Bellingham, Wash., area.

He was elected by the convention's executive board at its January meeting. The second pastoral missionary to serve under the Oregon-Washington convention, Baird assumes his new duties immediately.

Convention leaders said that there are no Southern Baptist churches in the Bellingham area. There is a Southern Baptist mission in Bellingham, however, under sponsorship of Calvary Baptist Church at Burlington, Wash.

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The pastoral missionary serves as pastor of a church and at the same time helps cultivate new Baptist work in the area. Baird is jointly supported by the Oregon-Washington convention and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A budgetary adjustment voted by the board provides salary increases for all convention employees.

At the instruction of the 1958 session of the convention, the executive board adopted a 1960 calendar of activities for the convention.

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South Carolina Name Change Being Studied

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--A change in the name of the State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina is being studied.

At the January meeting of the convention's general board here, convention President John L. Slaughter of Spartanburg, S. C., suggested that the name "South Carolina Baptist Convention" be considered.

It was pointed out a new name would probably be shorter and easier to remember. A committee of the general board was authorized to consider the name change and to report back to the October board meeting.

A second committee was authorized by the general board to consider whether the convention needed to purchase or to construct a new office building in Columbia. This committee also will report in October.

State convention offices in their present location here are crowded.

Convention General Secretary Charles F. Sims of Columbia reported that, according to annual letters from associations of churches in South Carolina, there are 478,611 members of churches affiliated with the convention. This is an increase of about 10,500 over the previous year.

Sims also gave a resume of nine-year financial contributions, the period ending Dec. 31, 1958. During the nine years, 53.3 per cent of receipts at convention offices in Columbia went to state mission causes, 47.7 per cent to world wide objectives through the Southern Baptist Convention. This includes the total both of undesignated and designated gifts.

During the same nine years, \$26,617,102 was received at the state office from co-operating churches. Of this, \$19,800,000 was through the Cooperative Program.

E. L. Byrd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Florence, S. C., was elected president of the general board, succeeding Slaughter.

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Louisianans Launch Office Construction

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--Construction on the new \$1.3 million Baptist building here was formally begun when a number of prominent Louisiana Baptist Convention leaders participated in a ground breaking ceremony.

Ignoring a stack of shovels nearby, T. W. Gayer, former executive secretary of the Convention, climbed aboard a bulldozer and used it to formally mark the beginning of construction.

Also taking part were Mrs. W. H. Knight, widow of a former secretary, and Robert L. Lee, Alexandria, present executive secretary of the convention.

Presiding at the service was Troy V. Wheeler, chairman of the building committee and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Alexandria.

Paul Roberts, president of the convention and pastor of Lake Charles'

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First Baptist Church, led the invocation and W. R. Fussell, president of the executive board and pastor of Gentilly Baptist Church in New Orleans, pronounced the benediction.

In his address, Robert L. Lee described the new structure as "not simply an office building but a symbol of the people called Baptists in the state of Louisiana."

"This will be the first home for Louisiana Baptist executive offices that was constructed by Louisiana Baptists," he said.

Representing the Southern Baptist Convention at the ceremony was Merrill D. Moore, Nashville, stewardship promotion secretary of SBC Executive Committee.

Others present included W. George Bowden, mayor of Alexandria, who brought the welcoming address and pledged the city's complete cooperation in "this great undertaking."

A contract for construction of the new building was signed about two weeks ago with Florsheim Construction Co. of Shreveport, La. Some equipment has already been moved to Alexandria. The contract allows 14 months for construction.

The building will be located on a four acre site on MacArthur Drive. The three-story structure will contain 64,000 square feet of floor space.

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Baptist Press

OPERATION PROGRESSES-----Operation Baptist Biography is progressing according to schedule in our states, three state leaders tell Norman W. Cox, left, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Historical Commission in Nashville. The operation, with a goal of 45,000 biographies of Baptists in all walks of life, is being directed on a Southern Baptist Convention basis by Cox. Reporting in from left are Gene Kerr, administrative assistant, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Nashville; George Bagley, assistant of the executive secretary, Alabama Baptist State Convention, Montgomery, and Horace Hammett, assistant general secretary, State Convention of the Baptist Denomination in South Carolina, Columbia. January is the month in which biographical forms are to be completed and filed both with the state offices and the Nashville office, Cox said.

FROM WASHINGTON OFFICE
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January 16, 1959

Religious Liberty Rules Debated By UN Group

NEW YORK--(BP)--Religious liberty problems of the world have held the attention of a United Nations Subcommittee in recent weeks. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has been debating 12 proposed draft rules on discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices. The proposals were made by Special Rapporteur, Arcot Krishnaswami of India.

No decision on the rules will be taken at this session. Members of the Subcommittee are raising different points to clarify wording of the rules so that the Special Rapporteur can take their comments into account when revising his suggestions for submission to the Subcommittee's session next year.

The rules debated by the UN Subcommittee included the following topics:

Duties of public authorities, nature of the freedom to maintain and to change religion or belief, scope of permissible limitation on the freedom to manifest religion or belief, freedom of worship, form of celebration of marriage and its dissolution, arrangements for disposal of the dead, dietary practices, pilgrimages, training of religious leaders, propagation of religion or belief, objections on conscientious grounds, and financial measures for the support of a religion or belief.

An unusual turn on religious liberty was presented by Jacek Machowski (Poland) who emphasized the state's duty to protect lay or atheist bodies from persecution by religious majority groups. The government, he declared, should also "prevent that religious feelings are misused for political ends."

Judge Jose Ingles of the Philippines proposed that the question of polygamy be discussed as possibly involving religious discrimination.

Mohamed Awad of the United Arab Republic, who is Chairman of the Subcommittee, disagreed with the Philippine view. He declared that in the Moslem world it was no longer necessary to prohibit polygamy. "I am afraid the happy days of the multiple wives are now past," he commented. "Multiple wives are no longer the fashion and people find that one is more than adequate."

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Pushes Plan To Enact Law Of Jesus Christ

WASHINGTON-- (BP)--Efforts to write into the Constitution of the U. S. A. the provision that "this nation devoutly recognizes the authority and law of Jesus Christ; Saviour and Ruler of nations" are continuing in the 86th Congress.

Rep. Eugene Siler (R., Ky.) has reintroduced the Christian Amendment that would make the "law" of Jesus Christ the law of the land. Siler has sponsored this legislation for the past several years in the House of Representatives. Also in previous years Sen. Frank Carlson (R., Kans.) has sponsored similar legislation in the Senate.

In making his proposal Siler denies that legal recognition of Almighty God and his Son, Jesus Christ, would be an "encroachment upon the demarcation line

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of church-state separation that has always characterized our Government, since this amendment would neither recognize nor support with tax revenue any church organization whatsoever."

Siler further observes, "While this amendment would not in anywise establish a church, yet it would in a positive way recognize the authorship and authority of the Supreme Being and His son, Jesus Christ, as the Saviour of mankind."

On the other hand, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has expressed opposition to the Christian Amendment on the ground that it violates the principle of religious liberty and that it would be declaring the nation to be Christian when in reality true religion is by voluntary response of individuals to God rather than by legislative action.

Other Christian groups are also in the process of preparing their reasons for opposition to the Christian amendment.

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The full text of the Christian Amendment, as proposed by the Christian Amendment Movement, is as follows:

"SECTION 1. This nation devoutly recognizes the authority and law of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God.

"SECTION 2. This amendment shall not be interpreted so as to result in the establishment of any particular ecclesiastical organization, or in the abridgment of the rights of religious freedom, or freedom of speech and press, or of peaceful assemblage.

"SECTION 3. Congress shall have power, in such cases as it may deem proper, to provide a suitable oath or affirmation for citizens whose religious scruples prevent them from giving unqualified allegiance to the Constitution as herein amended."

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Bills Would Give Income Tax Credit For Tuition

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Income tax credit for tuition paid for higher education in both public and private schools has been proposed by several bills recently introduced in the 86th Congress.

A sample of this type of bill is that proposed by Rep. Thomas B. Curtis (R., Mo.). His bill would allow a 30 per cent credit against the individual income tax for amounts paid as tuition or fees to certain public and private institutions of higher education.

In commenting on the Curtis proposal, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, pointed out that the plan is for "tax credit" and not a "tax deduction," hence the cost to the U. S. A. Treasury would be 30 per cent of all tuition and fees paid, up to \$1,500 per person, for higher education including church schools.

Carlson also raised the question, "If this principle is valid in higher education, is it also valid at the secondary level?"

Curtis told Congress that "it is my opinion that such a tax credit will be a stimulus to more efficient use of private and public institutions." "The result," he continued, "would be encouragement of broad distribution of student enrollment in all types of institutions, an objective which has always been considered to be in the public interest."

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Problems Of Alcoholism Get Federal Attention

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Alcoholism is a cancer on the spirit of America and makes a living hell for more than 5 million Americans and their families. So declared Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D., S. C.) as he introduced a Joint Resolution in the Senate of the 86th Congress calling for a Federal commission to study alcoholism in the United States.

Purpose of the commission would be to study the problem of alcoholism and to make recommendations for the more adequate provision for the treatment, rehabilitation, cure of alcoholics, and for the prevention of alcoholism.

Johnston, former Governor of South Carolina and an active Baptist deacon, has made a special study of alcoholism in the United States. He described alcoholism as "a disease which brings pain, mental, financial, and physical suffering to victims, causes personality breakdowns, broken homes, high divorce rates, delinquency, adult and juvenile, crimes of various sorts, an appalling toll of accidents, industrial and traffic, serious financial loss to business and industry" and not the least a "corrosion of morale" to those afflicted.

Pointing out that 7 million adult Americans are heavy, addictive drinkers, and that the number is increasing by 250,000 a year, Johnston's research revealed that one in nine Americans is destined to become an alcoholic.

Alcoholism is costing \$125 million annually in accidents alone, Johnston's study showed. The annual cost of alcoholics in mental hospitals is \$30 million and in penal institutions \$25 million. Public and private agencies spend \$40 million annually for the care of families of alcoholics.

"Compassion rather than condemnation is the keynote in dealing with alcoholics," Johnston declared. He commended the various states and public and private agencies that are dealing with the problem, but said that Federal activity in this area would give leadership, uniform standards and assistance in research.

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Antibombing, Hate Bills Pour Into 86th Congress

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Antibombing and antihate legislation has been introduced in the 86th Congress by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R., N. Y.) and 14 other sponsors in a package of seven bills. A large number of similar bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives by many Congressmen.

The antibombing bill would make interstate transportation of explosives a crime when the intent is to damage or destroy any building for the purpose of interfering with its use or to intimidate any person.

The six antihate bills would forbid travel across state lines to avoid prosecution or imprisonment for crimes involving wilful destruction of any building or structure, protect Federal officials against threats and violence, ban from the mails materials tending to incite specific acts of violence such as murder, arson, assault, rape and wilful destruction of buildings, authorize the Postmaster General to enforce such laws, ban and bar threats whose purpose is to interfere with Federal and State laws or decrees.

Since 1954 nearly 70 bombings and attempted bombings have been reported, including 27 last year. The Post Office Department reports that complaints about hate mail quadrupled in 1958.

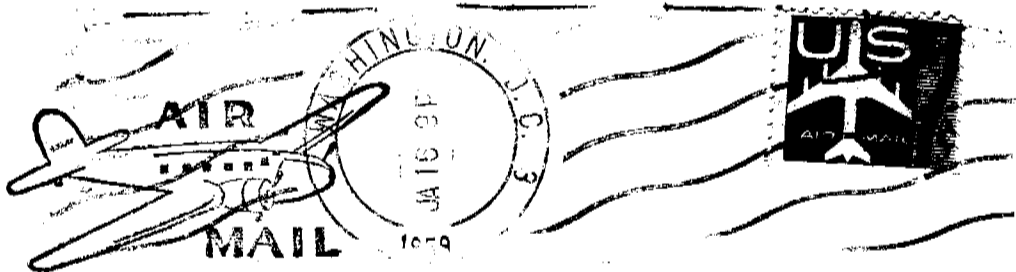
Javits asserted that "mass mailings of this kind of material which tries to exploit bigotry, lawlessness and discrimination have reportedly closely preceded some of the recent bombings."

Following a visit to Jacksonville, Birmingham and Atlanta, Javits said, "I am very proud to state that we found the greatest feeling of resentment and outrage on the part of all citizens" about the bombing of schools, churches and homes.

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Lack of jurisdiction and resources have hampered local law enforcement officers in bringing to justice many offenders, Javits asserted. Hence, Federal laws and resources are essential in halting the terrorists.

The preservation of democratic society through law and order, regardless of individual differences on civil rights, is at stake in this problem, Javits believes. He also asserted that his seven bills would "effectively curb the activities of fanatics and racists trying to establish a reign of terror" without infringing upon the traditional freedoms of speech and press.



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