BAPTIST PRESS

A BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
Concise, thorough, accurate, and current news reports about Baptists or of special concern to the Baptist people.

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

January 30, 1959

School Aid Bills
Flood 86th Congress

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Public, private and religious elementary and secondary schools are the objects of aid that would be provided by a flood of education bills recently poured into the legislative hopper of the 86th Congress. So numerous are the bills that it seems that everybody wants to get in on the aid-to-education program.

Most of the bills are designated as the School Support Act of 1959 or some such similar name. Most of them in varying ways provide varying amounts for both classroom construction and assistance for teachers' salaries.

Some of the bills provide aid exclusively for public schools, others define the schools to be aided in such a way that most any type of school would qualify, while others specifically include private and parochial schools in the categories to receive Federal Aid.

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Congress Again Asked To
Ban Liquor Advertising

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Congress is again being asked to prohibit the advertising of alcoholic beverages through all media controlled by the interstate commerce laws. The measure has been introduced in the House by Rep. Eugene Siler (R., Ky.).

Siler's measure would prohibit all who are engaged in the sale of alcoholic beverages from using the mails, airlines, other means of transportation, radio and television stations for the use of soliciting of orders for alcoholic beverages.

Specifically named in the advertising prohibition bill are newspapers, periodicals, newsreel, photographic film, and other records for mechanical reproduction advertising alcoholic beverages or soliciting orders therefor.

This bill represents a renewal of similar efforts that have been made in former Congresses.

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Would Exempt CO's From
Social Security Plan

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Those who oppose participation in the Federal old-age and survivors insurance program on grounds of conscience or religious belief may be exempt if a bill introduced in the 86th Congress becomes law. The measure was introduced by Rep. Paul B. Dague (R., Pa.).

Under terms of the bill the conscientious objector to the Social Security program may apply for exemption and if the declaration is found to be in good faith the exemption may be granted. Such declaration and exemption would be irrevocable.

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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.

Provides For Churches
As Historical Sites

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Saint Ann's Churchyard (Episcopal) in New York City is again being sought as a historical site by the 86th Congress. Also Congress is being asked to find donors to acquire by purchase land and buildings adjacent to the St. George's Methodist Church property in Philadelphia for inclusion in the Independence National Historical Park.

The Saint Ann's Churchyard is the final resting place of such men as the Honorable Gouverneur Morris, the chief stylist of the Constitution of the United States, Lewis Morris, a New York signer of the Declaration of Independence and other notable patriots.

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Cultural Exchanges May
Misrepresent America

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The manner in which the "culture" of the United States is represented abroad is of vital concern to the people of the nation according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The occasion of Carlson's observations is the proposal in the House of Representatives that a new student exchange program with Latin American countries be established. The purpose of the bill is "in the interest of the national welfare and defense to promote more effective mutual understanding between the people and Government of the United States and the peoples and governments of the countries of South and Central America."

Introduced by Rep. Barratt O'Hara (D., Ill.) the bill is called the "Latin American Student Exchange Program Act," provides for $5 million the first year and necessary funds thereafter, and will be administered by a 10-member "Board of Latin American Scholarships."

While agreeing with the importance of some mutual understanding program between the U. S. A. and other nations of the world, Carlson pointed out that care should be exercised in the role that religion is to play in such a program. For instance, the bill states that "at least one member (of the Board) shall be a representative of private educational institutions."

Carlson asks, "Which segment of the religious life in America will be selected to represent 'American culture'? What will be the relation of this program to the countries of Latin America whose official culture is Roman Catholicism?"

At this point, Carlson stressed, Baptists have an important responsibility to bear their witness to the world. The difference between a religious experience as described in the New Testament and religion as "culture" is at the heart of religious liberty and separation of church and state.

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Juvenile Delinquency In
USA To Be Investigated

WASHINGTON--(BP)--An investigation of juvenile delinquency in the USA may be authorized by the Senate. The Senate resolution has been reported by the Committee on the Judiciary and has been referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

The proposal calls for a complete study of the problem of juvenile delinquency in the USA, including (a) the extent and character of the problem, (b) the adequacy of existing laws, (c) sentences imposed on or correctional action with respect to youthful offenders, and (d) the extent to which juveniles are violating Federal laws relating to the sale and use of narcotics.

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Catholics Appointed To
Education Committee

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Roman Catholics are gaining strength in the Education and Labor Committee of the House of Representatives. Out of the five new Democratic members of this committee of the 86th Congress four are Roman Catholics. In the 85th Congress two out of four Democratic appointees were Roman Catholics. This brings the Roman Catholic membership on the Committee to a total of seven.

The powerful Education and Labor Committee was responsible last year for backing the successful National Defense Education Act, which opened new doors to the Federal treasury for private schools on the higher education level. Many amendments to the Education Act have been proposed in the 86th Congress, some of which specifically provide for Federal funds to private and parochial schools on the elementary and secondary levels.

In commenting on this development, C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, stated that this trend has far reaching implications for the use of public funds in future programs of education.

"Since the new members of the committee will gradually gain seniority and influence on educational proposals," Carlson continued, "We can expect those proposals to reflect the particular interests of the constituencies they represent. That the Democratic party leadership chooses four Roman Catholics out of the five named cannot be coincidence."

Other religious groups represented on the committee are Baptist, 4; Episcopal, 4; Methodist, 4; Lutheran, 3; Congregational, 2; Presbyterian, 2; Jewish, 2; Disciples of Christ, 1; Latter Day Saints, 1.

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Asks Strict Control Of
Indecent Publications

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Increased penalty "against the peddlers of pornography in the District of Columbia" is being asked by Sen. Estes Kefauver (D., Tenn.). Senators John A. Carroll (D., Colo.) and William Langer (R., N. D.) are co-sponsors of the bill.

The measure would allow the police or the U. S. marshal in the District of Columbia to confiscate any vehicle, fixture, equipment, stock, or personality used in the sale, distribution, manufacture, showing, advertising, or staging and exhibition of publications of an obscene or lewd nature.

"This, in effect," asserted Kefauver, "would increase the penalty against the violators of the D. C. law relating to indecent material." Present penalties amount to no more than a "license fee," a representative of the Metropolitan police testified.

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Proposes Extension Of
School Lunch Benefits

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Two proposals for the benefit of private and religious schools have been offered in amendments to the National School Lunch Act. One plan, sponsored by Rep. John J. Rhodes (R., Ariz.) and Rep. Carl Elliott (D., Ala.), would permit Junior Colleges to participate in the program, and the other, sponsored by Quentin N. Burdick (D., N. D.), would establish permanent authorization of a fully adequate nation-wide milk-for-children program in schools, nonprofit summer camps and child-care centers.

Last year the special milk-for-children program was extended three years. The new proposal would make it permanent and would authorize not to exceed $450 million per year to provide milk for children.

The National School Lunch Act is administered through the state departments of education, but in states which are prohibited by law from disbursing funds to private schools the program is administered by the Federal Agricultural Marketing Service.

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Asks National Lottery
For Welfare Benefits

WASHINGTON--(BP)--A Federal lottery to raise funds for Federal hospitals, the blind, recipients of old-age assistance and disabled veterans has been proposed by Rep. John Lesinski (D., Mich.) for consideration by the 86th Congress.

Lesinski's bill would create a Federal Lottery Commission of five members at a salary of $15,000 a year each and terms of five years. Lottery tickets would be printed by the Secretary of the Treasury and sold and distributed by the Postmaster General without cost to the lottery fund. Proceeds would be deposited in the U. S. Treasury.

After the prizes and expenses had been paid from the lottery fund the Commission would distribute the money upon such terms and conditions as had been previously worked out.

In the distribution of the benefits from the lottery fund the bill provides that no payments shall be made under this section to any person who resides in a state, or in a political subdivision of a state, where the sale of a ticket of participation is illegal, except that such payments may be made to patients in Federal hospitals and to residents in other Federal institutions, without regard to where they may be situated.

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Emory University Gets
Grants For Fellowships

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Three theological fellowships have been awarded to Emory University, a Methodist related school at Atlanta, Ga., according to announcement by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare here.

The grants were made under the Title IV provisions of the National Defense Education Act of 1958. The National Defense Graduate Fellowship Program is particularly directed to the preparation of prospective college and university teachers.

The graduate fellowship grants to students are $2,000 the first year, $2,200 the second and $2,400 the third. An additional amount of $400 each year is to be paid for each dependent of the recipient.

Schools participating in the Fellowship program are granted an additional amount not to exceed $2,500 for each student for whom grants have been made available.

The Emory University grants are for three fellowships for candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in the field of biblical exegesis. Courses of study specifically named include Old Testament languages, textual criticism, Biblical archeology, Old Testament history, exegesis and religion.

Last year when the National Defense Education Act was being debated C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, pointed out the possibility that ministerial education could probably be included under the terms of the Act. In commenting on the Emory University grants Carlson says that under the terms of the bill it is not a surprising administrative step.

"The 'boner' is more Congressional than administrative," Carlson continues, "but regardless of whose the 'boner' is, let us be clear that we have an arrangement in which the Federal Government uses the taxpayer's money to support specialization in theology both by supporting the student and by making grants to the school for teaching him theology, and all of this in the name of 'defense.' Thus religion must be viewed as a tool of government and the taxpayer becomes a coerced participant in a religious cause."

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Would Have Congress Ask
Special Day Of Prayer

WASHINGTON--(BP)--April 22 each year would be designated as National Prayer for Peace Day according to action proposed in Congress. Rep. Harold R. Collier (R., Ill.) introduced the joint resolution in the House of Representatives.

The Collier resolution would authorize the President of the United States to proclaim a half-holiday every April 22 in which he would call on the people of the nation to pray for permanent peace, each in accordance with his religious faith. He would also ask the newspapers, radio stations and other mediums of communication to join in observing such a day of prayer.

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Resolution Asks UN To
Open With Vocal Prayer

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Vocal prayer daily at the opening of the United Nations is called for by a Concurrent Resolution in the 86th Congress. It was introduced by Rep. Frank J. Becker (R., N. Y.), who has made similar attempts in two previous Congresses.

The Becker resolution would request the President of the United States to instruct the United States Mission to the United Nations to take such steps as might be necessary to have each day's session opened with "vocal" prayer.

At present the United Nations both opens and closes its sessions with one minute of silence for prayer or meditation on the part of any delegate who wishes to participate. In addition a simply furnished room for meditation is available for any of the delegates as they desire.

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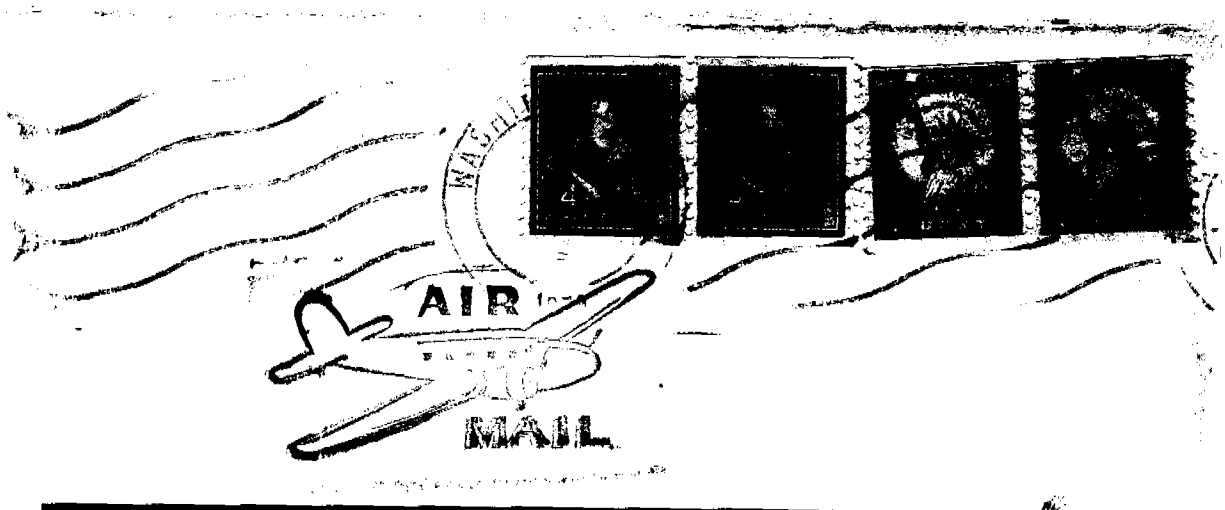

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W. BARRY GARRETT, *Regional Editor*

1628 Sixteenth St. N. W.

WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

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To

Theo Sommerkamp X
Executive Committe
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee