

March 13, 1959

Baptist Press

Minority Report Of Carr P. Collins Concerning
Carver School

Carr P. Collins, member of the Survey Committee from Texas, in response to a sense of deep personal conviction, respectfully does not concur in the general recommendation of the Survey Committee concerning the Carver School at Louisville and begs leave to file the following statements of reasons for not concurring in the majority report on this subject:

At the meeting of the Survey Committee in Nashville on December 18, 1958, when the matter of the future status of the Carver School of Missions was being considered, I offered the following substitute motion:

"That in view of the many problems involved in the operation of Carver School and also the general policy that all Christian education, except theological education, is the responsibility of the several states, that we recommend to the Convention that the Carver School be closed or merged with Southern Seminary on or before the close of the school year 1959-60".

This substitute motion was adopted by a majority vote of the committee. Later, and before the adjournment of the Nashville meeting of the Survey Committee, a motion was made and carried that this subject be reconsidered at the meeting of The Survey Committee that was scheduled to be held in Memphis on February 5th.

The proponents for the continuation of the Carver School contend that it should be given a chance to justify its existence. What does it hope to do in order to justify its existence? At the present time the school shows an enrollment of 57 students. The appropriation from the Cooperative program receipts for the next convention year will be \$150,000. In addition to this the income from the school's endowment and other miscellaneous income will be approximately \$50,000, making the total cost for operating the school approximately \$200,000 .

A brief summary of the history of this school is stated as follows: It was originally organized and operated for many years by the Woman's Missionary Union. By agreement between the WMU and the Southern Baptist Convention the school became an agency of the Convention in 1958. The Carver School now has departments of Missions, Social Work and Religious Education. The school is not accredited by any recognized accrediting agency and unless it becomes a part of some recognized college, seminary or university, it cannot anticipate receiving accreditation.

It would be proper to raise the question as to whether or not the Southern Baptist Convention should undertake to support or maintain any schools other than the seminaries and if any or all the courses that are now being taught in the Carver School are courses that should be continued, then would it not be a better plan to merge the Carver School with the Southern Seminary (which is located on the same campus) and have these courses offered by the seminary at a cost to the seminary that would be nominal as compared to the present high per capita cost of operating the Carver School.

A number of years ago a similar situation existed in Fort Worth, Texas where the Woman's Missionary Union was attempting to operate a separate school. Finally this separate school was merged into the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and under date of January 16, 1959, Dr. J. M. Price wrote me a letter in which he gave me the following statement of facts with reference to the merger of the schools at Fort Worth and the similarity of the situation there with the Carver School at Louisville. I quote in full the letter from Dr. Price:

"You are correct that the W.M.U. of Texas once maintained a Woman's Missionary Training School here. In fact the name is still on the woman's dormitory. They gave the degrees Bachelor of Missionary Training and Master of Missionary Training as Louisville did. They had courses in Missions, Missionary Education, Personnel Work, Social Work, Kindergarten, and Secretarial Training. When the school was discontinued the School of Religious Education took over Missionary Education, Social Work, Kindergarten and Secretarial Training; and the School of Theology took over Missions and Personnel Work.

The Carver School now has departments of Missions, Social Work, Religious Education, and Music with students taking a number of other courses in the Seminary, which now has a School of Theology, School
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of Religious Education and School of Church Music. Apparently these three schools could take over the courses they now offer as was done here -- Missions going to the School of Theology, Music to the School of Church Music, and Religious Education and Social Work to the School of Religious Education.

As previously indicated we have a department of social work in the School of Religious Education and allow pupils to specialize in it for the M.R.E. degree. The teacher of social work supervises a good will center giving the students laboratory work in the field and a number are now working at home and on foreign mission fields who have specialized in it. Also, we offer courses in Missionary Education, Kindergarten, and Secretarial Training.

If I can give further information, please call on me. Very best personal wishes."

If this same procedure should be adopted with reference to the Carver School, the Southern Seminary at Louisville could take over the work that is being done by the Carver School and probably not add more than \$25,000 to its total cost of administration. I make this estimate on the basis that the school seeks to have one faculty member for each 20 students and since the Carver School has 57 students, 3 additional faculty members should cover the additional teaching load at the seminary.

One of the arguments that has been made for continuing the Carver School is that there was an expressed or implied agreement between the committee representing the Convention and the committee of the W.M.U. that the Convention would continue to operate the school as an independent agency. There is nothing in the record to support this argument. I asked one of the members of the committee the specific question as to whether or not there was any agreement expressed or implied on this point and this committee member replied as follows: "Therefore, in answer to your question, no obligation was assumed to continue to operate the school for any specific period of time, as I recall."

As further evidence of the fact that there was no such agreement, I quote from the written agreement that was made between the W.M.U. and the Southern Baptist Foundation with respect to the transfer to the Foundation of the funds owned by the Carver School. The first paragraph of this agreement reads as follows:

"1. Each of said trusts shall be conclusively deemed to be for the use and benefit of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work which is at present in operation at Louisville, Kentucky, and for the use and benefit of any institution doing like work into which the said Carver School of Missions and Social Work may hereafter be merged or with which it may hereafter be consolidated including any institution doing the same work controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention which may hereafter become the legal successor of the said Carver School of Missions and Social Work whether by change of name, merger, consolidation, legal succession or otherwise and wheresoever the same may hereafter be located."

The above provision of the written agreement is a conclusive answer that there was not any agreement to continue to operate the Carver School as a separate institution. It is my conclusion therefore that if the teaching of the courses at the Carver School should be continued that all such teaching should be transferred to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary through a merger of these two institutions both with respect to the physical assets and including the endowment.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr P. Collins