BAPTIST PRESS

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
127 NINTH AVE. N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE AL 4-1631

Theo Sommerkamp, *Assistant Director*

April 15, 1959

School Option Plan
Before Legislature

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--Despite a plea by Gov. LeRoy Collins to not pass any laws pertaining to segregation, some were introduced before the Florida Legislature here was two days old. The legislature convened on Apr. 7.

Among them was the increasingly-popular bill which would give governmental units the option to close a school if faced with integration and authorize the state to pay the parents a sum of money for tuition to a private school.

Although the proposal spells out that no state money can be paid a parent unless the children attend a non-sectarian private school, it is anticipated by some lawmakers that a fight might develop to amend the bill to include all private schools.

This, obviously, would mean that some parents could then send their children to a church school and receive tuition from the state.

The attorney-general, in his recommendation on the bill, said there should be no tuition grants to sectarian school children in order to uphold the principle of separation of church and state. There has been no test vote on the subject yet.

Thousands of Florida children now attend Catholic schools while schools of other religious denominations have their own schools, to a much smaller extent.

-30-

Clergy Confidence Bill
Introduced In Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--A bill has been introduced here in the Florida Legislature which would give clergymen immunity from testifying in court about information given them in confidence.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Mack Cleveland of Seminole County, said: "Any clergyman, priest or rabbi shall be incompetent to testify concerning any confidential communication entrusted to him in his professional capacity without the permission, in writing, or in open court, of the person entrusting such communication to him."

The bill was referred to a judiciary committee.

-30-

Mercer Selects 3 For
Honorary Doctorates

Editors: For use in afternoon papers of Wednesday, Apr. 15

MACON, Ga.--(BP)--Mercer University here will confer honorary doctorates on a Baptist denominational leader and two Georgia educators at commencement exercises June 1.

The honorary doctor of laws degree will be awarded to Gainer E. Bryan, Sr., Atlanta, director, Georgia Baptist Convention Training Union department; O. C. Aderhold, Athens, president of the University of Georgia, and Randall H. Minor, Rome, president of Baptist-owned Shorter College.

(For Release Wed. afternoon, Apr. 15).

-30-

Folks & facts.....

.....Sidney G. Chappell, superintendent of schools in Wilson, N. C., is new dean of instruction at Wingate College, Wingate, N. C. Wingate College is operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

-30-

Belmont College Asks
Gabhart To Preside

NASHVILLE--(BP)--A Memphis, Tenn., minister has been elected president of Belmont College here, one of three four-year colleges operated by Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Trustees elected Herbert C. Gabhart, pastor of Memphis' McLean Baptist Church since 1951. He will announce his decision shortly on whether he will accept the call.

Dr. R. Kelly White, president since 1952, retires Aug. 31 at the close of the current college fiscal year. He plans to move to his former home at Conway, N. C.

Dr. White was the first full-time president of Belmont College, which has been a Tennessee Baptist institution for only eight years.

The college's most immediate concern is accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The association is sending its accrediting committee to the Belmont campus May 3 to consider the college's petition.

During its last full academic year, Belmont reported an enrolment of 503 students. It has $480,000 in endowment and operates on an annual budget of $496,935.

Gabhart is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., largest of the three Tennessee Baptist colleges. He received the master of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., where he was a teaching fellow in the department of Biblical introduction.

He served a pastorate in Williamsburg, Ky., and was trustee of Cumberland College of that city, a junior college operated by Kentucky Baptists.

-30-

Seminary, Carver Sign
Joint Library Accord

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--The presidents of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Carver School of Missions and Social Work here have signed an agreement for joint use of Southern Seminary's new library.

The James P. Boyce Centennial Library, estimated to cost $1-3/4 million, is under construction. Cornerstone for it will be laid during the week of Southern Baptist Convention session here in May.

Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., president of Carver School, said the agreement also signed by Seminary President Duke K. McCall provides for Carver to have 6500 square feet of space on the second floor of the new library building.

The seminary and Carver School are separate institutions, both operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. They have adjacent campusses.

Brooks added that Carver agreed to provide $129,750 toward construction of the new library and to pay for maintenance of its section, which will occupy about 8-1/3 per cent of total library space.

The agreement also calls for construction of a walkway from the Carver School building to the new Boyce Library.

"We are following the Booz, Allen, and Hamilton management consultant firm's recommendation," Brooks reported. "We found joint operation to be

-more-

feasible and Southern Seminary welcomed this procedure."

Students of both schools may use all sections of the library on an equal basis, according to the agreement.

Leo T. Crismon, seminary librarian, will be in charge of overall library administration but Miss Georgie Fancher, present Carver librarian, will supervise Carver's section.

"The joint library agreement will enable us to meet the accrediting standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools much sooner," Brooks continued. The school is working for accreditation by this association and by a national social work group.

Previously, the administrations of the two schools have entered into other agreements for joint services. Southern Seminary, under a contract, has maintenance responsibility for Carver property and building.

Students of Carver School may use the student center located at the seminary, and a mutual housing agreement has been worked out. The seminary houses a few married students studying at Carver, while Carver houses a few women students for the seminary.

In addition, certain specialized administrative services are available to Carver from the seminary staff.

-30-

Canadian Permits Good
For Louisville Trip

MONTREAL, Que.--(BP)--The Canadian Passenger Association has authorized use of Canadian railway clergy permits for through transportation to Louisville, Ky., during dates of the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

Negro Baptist Group
Petitions Legislature

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--Florida's Negro Baptists called on the state Legislature here to strike all color barriers from state laws.

Holding its 80th annual session in Tallahassee, the General Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc., adopted a resolution which said in part:

"We call on the legislature to forget individual prejudices and to work for the fulfillment of the American dream of complete opportunity for all; elimination of color barriers to complete freedom, and recognition of the Negro in Florida as citizens and Americans rather than as second class and inferior individuals."

The resolution pledged the group to work for increased voting by Negroes and to use all available legal means to eliminate segregation laws.

The Baptist group reports 200,000 members in Florida. About 2,000 attended the convention here.

-30-

Abolish Death Penalty,
Florida Governor Asks

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.--(BP)--"Only God can give human life. Man should not take it away."

With these words, Gov. LeRoy Collins asked the Florida Legislature to abolish capital punishment. A bill to do so was introduced by Rep. Tom Beasley, the speaker of the House.

-more-

The bill would substitute a mandatory life sentence for capital offenses. Gov. Collins had recommended a life prison term, subject to no clemency for 25 years except upon proof of innocence.

Collins said:

"The prospect of facing such a severe penalty without hope of relief would be a far worse prospect for many than death itself. Punishment for crime never can be justified as society's revenge. The only possible justification for taking a life as a penalty for crime would be its deterrent effect upon others. But capital punishment does not deter. This is universally agreed upon by criminologists."

-30-

California Proposes
Budget Of $861,000

FRESNO, Calif.--(BP)--The board of directors of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California in annual spring meeting here agreed to recommend a Cooperative Program objective of $861,000 to the messengers to the convention when they convene in San Diego this fall.

The record objective, if adopted, will be the basis of the 1960 budget of the convention's work and its contributions to world missions beyond California. If the convention approves the objective it will represent a $61,000 increase above the current year's objective.

Robert D. Hughes, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Long Beach, Calif., and chairman of the convention's long-range planning committee, said in a progress report that the management consultants of the firm of Booz, Allen and Hamilton were practically through with their study and that their report would soon be written.

It was not possible to say when the report of his committee would be ready. Hughes added that much study would be given to the recommendations from the management consultants and that the report would be published in ample time for messengers to the convention to read it and to study it.

Marshall DeVaughn, pastor, Bayview Baptist Church, San Francisco, and a member of the board of directors, stated that there was a possibility that Southern Baptists might get control of Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco inasmuch as the hospital is vacating its San Francisco quarters and is moving to a new site at Palo Alto adjacent to Stanford University.

The committee authorized its executive committee to "look at the proposition" but did not give it power to act.

The board approved a five-year plan to increase circulation of the convention's newspaper, The California Southern Baptist. An increase to 25,000 by the end of this year will be sought and an effort made to add 5,000 names to the mailing list annually through 1964.

The committee requested the board to give consideration to employing a field representative to promote the paper beginning January 1, next year. The proposal was handed to the finance committee.

-30-

Miami Baptists Start
Hospital Construction

MIAMI--(BP)--A $5-1/2 million hospital construction project here was formally launched by Miami Baptists.

Multimillionaire Arthur Vining Davis, aluminum corporation executive, of Miami, was one of the central figures in the cornerstone-laying service for the Elisabeth Hawkins Davis Cardiac Pavilion.

Davis gave 55 acres for a site in suburban Kendall, Fla., plus a substantial sum for construction.

Local Baptist leaders taking part were H. Floyd Folsom, moderator of Miami Baptist Association of churches; John H. Haldeman, chairman of the hospital's trustees, and C. Roy Angell, pastor of Central Baptist Church and one of the original supporters of the proposed Miami Baptist hospital. Porter W. Routh, Nashville, executive secretary, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, spoke. -30-

BAPTIST FEATURES

PRODUCED BY BAPTIST PRESS
A BAPTIST* NEWS SERVICE
Special reports on Baptist programs, activities, trends, and newsmakers.

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

April 15, 1959

Freedom And Responsibility
On April 15th

By C. Emanuel Carlson*

April 15th! Millions of Americans sigh with relief, "It is done again!"

I have yet to find the person who enjoys making out his income tax report. But on the other hand, relatively few are really grumpy about it. We accept it as our duty to the body politic and in the midst of our growling we quietly thank God for the blessings we enjoy as a nation and as a people. Everyone knows that he gets much from community life. As a public we feel that we have asked the government to render the protections and the services for which we pay. Really, we pay gladly.

On the other hand, the "taxpayer" is a responsible citizen. Duty and responsibility are one side of the coin. Rights and freedom are the other side. Without rights and freedom the citizen becomes chattel for government, a more intelligent kind of workhorse for a ruling group or class. What rights then must taxpayers claim?

First of all, we have the right to know that our money will be handled and spent under the authority of elected representatives of the people. "No taxation without representation" is familiar American language echoing a basic democratic insight. A person's property rights may be invaded by the representatives of the people for the common good, but they may not be invaded by the special interests of private persons or institutions which do not represent the authority of the political community. Institutions which seek tax support must also expect to accept public control.

The insistence that taxes shall not be collected for private purposes is a basic right. Regardless how high and noble may be the program of a labor leader, or a bishop, the tax-collector is not privileged to collect taxes for them. Where the public does not exercise authority over expenditures, there public funds must not be available.

We also have the right to know that these funds are used for the common good. Public payrolls, for instance, are different in nature from private payrolls because the public ones represent stewardship and not ownership. Failure to keep the public informed produces misgivings and a reluctant citizenship.

July 4th is our customary time to renew our patriotic inspiration. April 15th may be a better time to renew our commitment to the basic principles of responsible government and to the role of active citizenship. If we fail in these commitments April 15th will become a more distressing experience.

-30-

*Dr. Carlson is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

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

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

April 15, 1959

SBC President Reports
Latin American Progress

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Encouraging signs for the strengthening of religious liberty in South America are reported by Brooks Hays, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. President and Mrs. Hays recently returned from a two weeks' tour of five Latin American countries under the sponsorship of the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC.

A new political leadership is emerging in many of the countries of South America, he reported, and these leaders are aware of the part their nations must play in world affairs. Hence, they are increasingly concerned for the rights of minority groups and they are insisting on freedom for all.

"The effort to establish complete religious freedom has not been completely successful in all areas yet," Hays declared, "but I encountered many encouraging signs and assurances as I visited with both heads of government, other officials and many of our missionaries."

"Colombia has presented the greatest problem and there is still work to do there," he said. Persecution was to be expected in a country "where a dictatorship of the worst type flourished for a number of years and consorted with elements that were determined to deny liberty to our missionaries."

An increasingly sensitive political leadership in South America gives us hope for genuine stability in the area of freedom, Hays observed. "Liberty cannot be segmented. It takes aggressive cooperation on the part of government and religious forces to establish and maintain religious liberty. We are encouraged by developments along these lines."

In his contacts with governmental officials of both Latin America and the U.S.A. and with missionaries, Hays discovered an increasing awareness and appreciation of the part that the Point Four program of the U.S. Government and the ministry of the missionaries can play in helping Latin America develop its full potential.

As the missionaries face the Latin American problems of extreme poverty, increasing restlessness and vast undeveloped resources, Hays reported, they are realizing that the Point Four program could go a long way toward the stabilization of these countries.

"The commercial relationships with South America will doubtless expand substantially. The enormous natural and human resources on the continent through some means will be developed. If we could have on a per capita basis the same trade with Latin America that we enjoy with Canada, instead of a $7 billion export trade we would have a $70 billion trade or ten times the amount we have today. This is the challenge that businessmen are beginning to confront with imagination and fervor."

Commenting on his observations of the Baptist mission work Hays said, "The character of our missionary personnel is one of the most striking things about the foreign mission program. My wife and I are intensely proud of what we discovered in the way of dedication and professional service by these wonderful people."

-more-

*News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Albert McClellan, director; Theo Sommerkamp, assistant director; 127 Ninth Ave. No., Nashville 3, Tenn.

"Our missionaries are not suffering physical deprivations for they are reasonably well cared for and have comfortable arrangements for their families. The greatest sacrifice they make is absence from their loved ones here in the States and this is something that our own people who do not suffer long absences from loved ones should appreciate."

Concluding, Hays said, "After this two weeks' trip I will think of Latin America in terms of the people I met and the possibilities for promoting God's kingdom in a neglected area. I will be recalling the officials who expressed appreciation for our presence and determination to strengthen liberty and human rights, the mothers seeking treatment for their children in our hospitals and dispensaries, and the poor people seeking the comfort and solace of the Christian faith.

"I will think of our well-trained and committed missionary families, and I will continue to rejoice in the fact that in Latin America the outlook is altogether hopeful."

The five countries visited by Mr. and Mrs. Hays are Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

-30-

Would Tax Churches For
Unemployment Insurance

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Proposals to extend the unemployment insurance tax to include nonprofit organizations are being made by the Department of Labor. Hearings have been held by the House Ways and Means Committee of which Rep. Wilbur D. Mills (D., Ark.) is chairman, and proposed legislation may be formulated within the near future.

At present there are 1.3 million employees of nonprofit organizations who are not covered by the unemployment insurance tax. Of this number Under Secretary of Labor James T. O'Connell estimates that one-half work in hospitals and one-third work in schools. This means that five-sixths work in these two kinds of institutions, leaving about 216,000 in all other connections.

If present proposals become law it would mean that any church or oth r nonprofit organization that hires a janitor, a cook, a teacher, a stenographer or other worker to whom $50 or more per quarter is paid would be required to pay the unemployment insurance tax and file appropriate reports. Clergymen and members of religious orders would be exempt. Also exempt would be students employed by their educational institutions, student nurses, interns and the handicapped workers in sheltered workshops.

Thus far there has been no organized opposition to, or support for, the proposal from nonprofit organizations.

-30-

Asks Baptists To Study
Unemployment Insurance

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Church-state problems involved in proposed extension of unemployment insurance taxes to churches and other nonprofit organizations need careful study, according to C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

At present 44 million wage earners are covered by the Federal-State program of unemployment insurance; another million are covered by Railroad Unemployment Insurance. Approximately 13 million are not covered by any program.

In the Administration's proposals to the House Ways and Means Committee to extend the coverage of unemployment insurance there is the plan to include 1.3 million employees of nonprofit organizations, which will include most of the church employees, excluding clergymen and members of religious orders.

According to the plan nonprofit employers would have to pay a 3 per cent federal payroll tax on the first $4200 per year earned by each "lay" employee.

-more-

Thus, a local church employing a [illegible] of Religious Education for $4,500, a secretary for $3,900 and a janitor for $3,600 would have to pay an annual tax of $351.

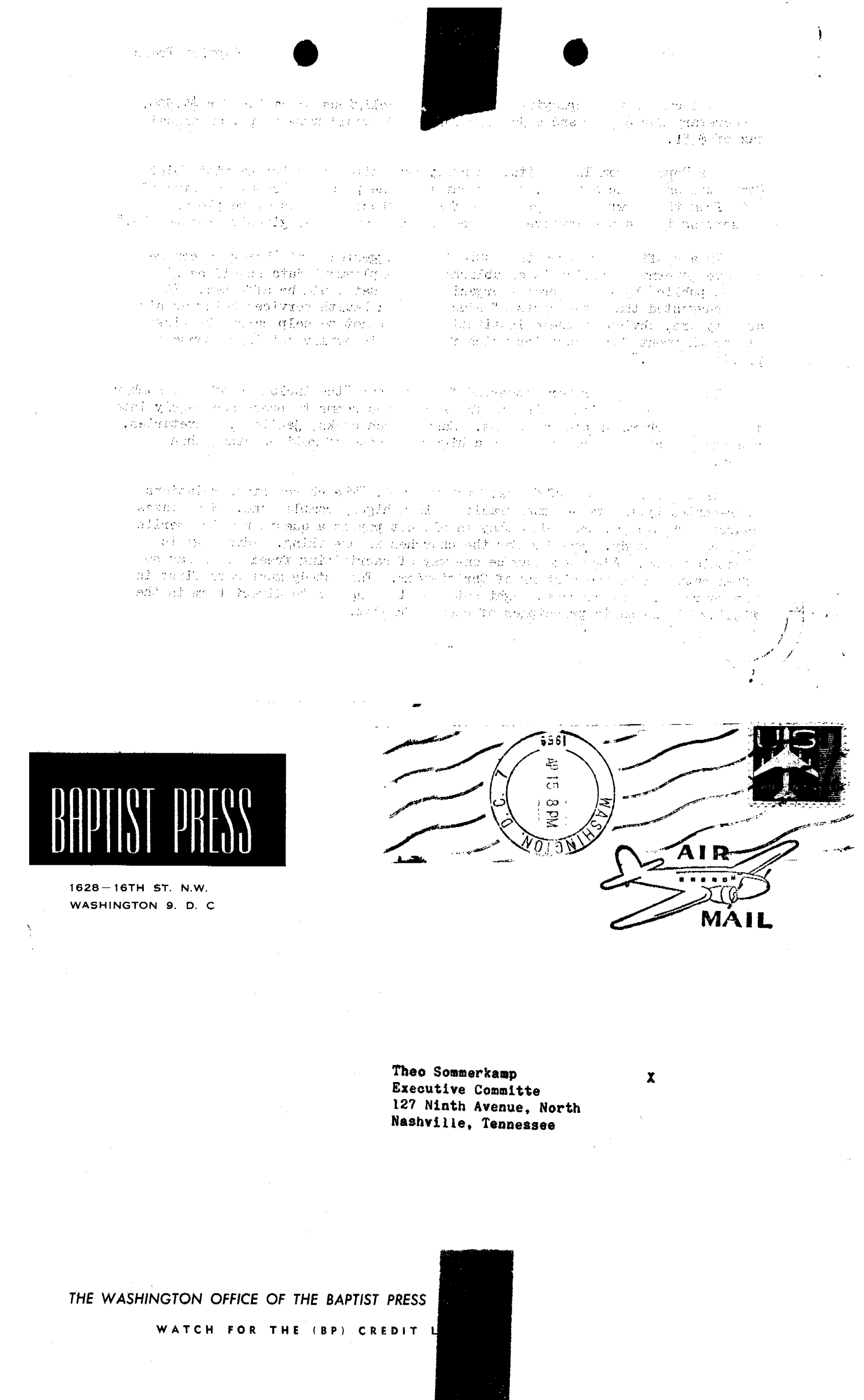
The Report From The Capital, monthly newsletter from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, points out that the proposal "should be studied both from the viewpoint of providing for the physical needs of people and of preserving the values involved in free churches and a religiously free people."

In a staff report from the BJCPA it is suggested that "before a comprehensive government policy is established the employment data should be given to the public" by the nonprofit organizations that would be affected. It is also suggested that "the costs of education and health services being as high as they are, obviously these institutions ought not to help carry the risks of unemployment for industries which fluctuate in employment in response to profit motives."

The BJCPA staff report observed further that "the inclusion of that number of persons who constitute the staffs of churches seems to press needlessly into the area of church-state relations. Many church cooks, janitors, secretaries, and other staff members work with a high awareness of motives other than money."

In conclusion the BJCPA staff report said, "The church-state relations represented by the tax-exempt tradition is a highly complex one. What taxes churches should pay and which they should not pay is a question which merits more careful study. Freedom for the churches is one thing. Advantage is something else. Advantage may be one way of sacrificing freedom, as has so often happened in the history of Christendom. This study must come first in the churches. The churches ought not look to Congress to direct them in the finding of the basic principles of church freedom."

-30-


BAPTIST PRESS
1628—16TH ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON 9. D. C
WASHINGTON D.C.
1959
AIR
MAIL
Theo Sommerkamp
Executive Committe
127 Ninth Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee
X
THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE BAPTIST PRESS
WATCH FOR THE (BP) CREDIT L

Washington general file

STAFF REPORT TO BAPTIST EDITORS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

from the office of
THE BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS
C. E. Carlson, Executive Director.....W. Barry Garrett, Associate Director

March 25, 1959

Subject: The Anfuso Resolution, Proposed U. S. Ambassador to Vatican

###

Early in the first session of the 86th Congress, Rep. Victor L. Anfuso (D., N.Y.), a Roman Catholic from a strong Roman Catholic district, introduced House Concurrent Resolution 83 calling for "immediate establishment of diplomatic relations with the Vatican through appointment of a United States envoy." A concurrent resolution requires only a simple majority of votes in the Congress and does not need the signature of the President. However, it is to be noted that such action would only be advisory to the President and would not have the force of law.

This action was reported in the February issue of the REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL and also through the channel of the Baptist Press. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in its February meeting took note of this resolution and authorized the Executive Director to restate our Baptist position to Representative Anfuso and to the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

We have received several inquires regarding the basic facts and probabilities in this matter. In the interest of a proper stewardship of our Baptist influence we share with you the following information lest we dissipate our resources in untimely victories over straw men. This is the way the situation appears to us at this date.

Knowledgeable Washington sources have not been disposed to treat the Anfuso resolution as a significant threat. What seems to have happened is that Representative Anfuso got wind of Senator Kennedy's statement which was then due shortly on the newsstands in the LOOK magazine. Anfuso's release was originally scheduled for Sunday, February 15 and the LOOK issue was due on the newsstands on Monday or Tuesday. Anfuso, however, jumped his own deadline and made his release three days earlier, on Thursday, February 12. In this way this congressman from a strong Roman Catholic district in New York seems to have saved himself from the embarrassment in his home district and in his own party which would have resulted if he had followed Kennedy's statement with a dissent from the position taken by a strong son of the party.

Diplomatic representation is, of course, a function of the Administration through its State Department, rather than of the legislative branch of our government. Politically viewed, a Democratic resolution in Congress would be very unlikely to set the political sails of a Republican administration. In fact, one could reason that a Democratic representative could be acting in order to lay claim to any political credits which might come from such appointment if the State Department moved in that direction. This in turn could be an effective prevention of Administration action.

We have also felt safe in assuming that Senator Kennedy, who is a member of the strategically controlling Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate, also a Roman Catholic and a strong contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, would not have placed himself in the awkward position of making a flat rejection of Vatican representation if a Senate groundswell in favor of it was taking place.

Since then the State Department has corroborated our position by expressing disinterest in the issue. The Department released a statement saying that a hearing is not needed on the subject at this time, clearly indicating that they did not wish the issue raised in a hearing.

The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee has declined to call a hearing at present. He said any decision in favor of a hearing would have to be made by the full committee, and that the position of the State Department would weigh heavily with the committee in their decision.

We are keeping in contact with the developments on this matter and will inform you of any actual threats which could possibly develop during future weeks.

We are sure that you are anxious to convey information to your constituency and to call them to responsible political action on this or on any other legislative matter during the session of Congress. Likewise we are trying to exercise responsible judgment and not to send you multiplied action calls which may be magnified out of proportion to their importance. A steady flow of news reporting will, we believe, enable our people to use an effective, normal influence in the democratic process without agitation and accordingly without erosion of responsiveness.

We are sharing this analysis with you so that you may be able to exercise your own judgment regarding the play which might wisely be given to this issue. The people in government circles are clearly mindful of the strong public voice which was raised when President Truman's proposal was made. If we can build an intelligent base for interest and concern on this problem without distracting attention from the highly important trends in church-state relations as reviewed in our February REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL, we believe we will exercise the best stewardship of our influence.

# # #