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Brotherhood Commission
To Reorganize Its Staff

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has approved reorganization and enlargement of its administrative staff in Memphis, Tenn., where Commission offices are located.

The Commission also re-elected Bruce Carter of Miami, Okla., as its chairman. Carter is president of Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College. George W. Schroeder, Memphis, was re-elected executive secretary.

Actions were taken at the Commission's annual meeting. The meeting preceded the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men held at Municipal Auditorium here.

James Sapp, associate secretary in charge of church Brotherhood work, was made director of promotion of the Commission. The Commission voted to employ a new associate secretary to direct church Brotherhood work. Schroeder said the new associate secretary has not yet been named.

The Commission further voted to employ an editorial secretary to direct publication of the Commission's two periodicals--the quarterly Brotherhood Journal and monthly Ambassador Life. Ambassador Life is the magazine of the boys' organization, Royal Ambassadors. No one has been elected to fill this position yet.

Commission members also voted to undertake a second National Conference of Southern Baptist Men in 1961. The executive committee of the Brotherhood Commission will set time and place for the conference. Two cities in the Southeast have expressed an interest in being host to the meeting.

In other business, the Commission:

A. Again went on record asking the Baptist World Alliance to establish a men's section. The Alliance presently has a Baptist women's organization but none for men. Alliance officers have the request under consideration.

B. Employed an architect to plan a new Brotherhood Commission building at its office site in Memphis. Schroeder said the next unit is expected to be constructed about 1960. The new unit, of brick construction, will replace a former residence now being used for some offices.

C. Commended the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention for its help in transferring the Royal Ambassadors from the direction of the WMU to that of the Brotherhood. The transfer was completed as of Oct. 1 this year after three years of transition.

D. Elected F. O. Champion of Shelby, N. C., Commission vice-chairman and James K. Pace of Memphis recording secretary.

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James F. Cole To Edit
Louisiana Newspaper

ALEXANDRIA, La.--(BP)--The Baptist Message, weekly newspaper of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, will be edited by James F. Cole after Jan. 1.

Cole will succeed Finley W. Tinnin who has been editor of the Baptist Message since 1920. Tinnin, 70, is the dean of Southern Baptist editors, and is retiring Dec. 31.

The new editor has served the last four years as pastor of First Baptist Church, DeRidder, La. He has a bachelor's degree from Union University, a master of arts degree from Baylor University, and bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

Grady Sparkman, who has been associate to Tinnin, will continue to serve as associate editor of the Baptist Message.

Cole is a native of Trenton, Tenn.

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New Maryland General
Secretary Is Selected

BALTIMORE--(BP)--Roy D. Gresham, pastor of Middle River Baptist Church here, has been elected general secretary of the Maryland Baptist Union Association.

He will succeed Clifton C. Thomas who is retiring Jan. 1.

Gresham will join the association staff in November. During November and December he will work with Thomas to acquaint himself with his new duties.

After graduating from Furman University in his native South Carolina, Gresham taught school for three years and later worked for Glenn L. Martin, Baltimore aircraft manufacturer, for four years.

He has been pastor of Middle River Church for 12 years.

Southern Baptists in Maryland number 45,000 in 170 churches. They also have affiliated churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware and have assisted the growth of Southern Baptist work in New York City.

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Doctor, Lawyer, Merchant, Chief--All Attended The Men's Conference

OKLAHOMA CITY--(BP)--"Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief"--so go the words to the old childhood rhyme. Each of them whether "rich man" or "poor man" attended the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men here.

Not only that, but they were joined by men from dozens of other professions and walks of life. The 6282 men from 40 states had a common aim in mind however: to learn how to be more useful Christian laymen.

For three days they shared experiences with each other. They listened as work of the Southern Baptist Convention was described by speakers and through visual demonstrations.

They chorused "Amen" heartily and applauded strongly throughout the various programs. This was not a convention for transacting business. It was a conference for inspiration, information, and Christian fellowship.

It cut through state lines and professional limits and put each man on the same ground conscious of his duty and opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God.

The doctor from Memphis was joined by medical men from a score of other cities. So were the lawyers from Little Rock and from Kentucky. The merchant from Oklahoma met the steelworker from Gary, Ind. And the Indian chief was there too, in his rich, colorful costume.

These were joined by the man who operated the diesel locomotive in Tennessee, who walked the police beat in Roanoke, who was business agent for a 2000-member electrical workers union in Houston, and the lumber salesman from the Southwest.

The Democratic governor of Oklahoma and Congressman of Arkansas put party labels aside to share the program with the Republican Congressman from Kentucky.

Labor chatted with management and minister and laymen together gained new insights into what they could do for the Lord.

A minister who attended the conference said six things impressed him about the conference.

One--For the first time laymen had a chance to voice themselves. The Woman's Missionary Union has long held its annual convention and the ministers have had their Pastors' Conference for years, too. This time laymen from across the Convention expressed themselves.

Two--The program was colorful and dramatic. The opening pageant was in true "Western" style. Indians from four tribes among which Baptists work presented the program. They were costumed. They presented four of the conference leaders--three laymen and a minister--with honorary tribal memberships. Symbol of the honorary membership was a colorful headdress of feathers placed on each one honored.

Three--It was definitely a men's meeting. The WMU had its president and executive secretary as guests but at most meetings you could count the number of women on your fingers and toes.

Four--It was truly a "National" conference.

Five--The men were attentive and regular in attendance. In contrast to the annual Southern Baptist Convention where hundreds mill about the exhibit area during every program, the exhibits were virtually empty when the conference was in session.

Six--The conference gave the Brotherhood new prestige and dignity. It was a fitting climax to the first 50 years and a fitting opening to the next 50 years of Brotherhood work. "Free Men Through the Ages"--theme of the conference--became a real challenge for the future as well as a reminder of past achievements.

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Note to Editors of State Baptist Papers: The Baptist Press will provide several pictures of the National Conference of Southern Baptist Men later in the week.