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Illinois Buys Farm And  
Plans Student Center

MOUNT VERNON, Ill.--(BP)--The executive board of the Illinois Baptist State Association has voted to buy farm land for the state children's home at Carmi, elected a secretary of Negro work, and planned construction of a Baptist student center at the University of Illinois.

The 320 acres of farm land being bought are adjacent to the children's home campus at Carmi. The land cost \$32,000 and will be paid for over a three-year period. It will be available for continued use as farm land immediately.

The executive board voted to sell two plots of farm land in other areas of the state which were bequeathed to the children's home. One plot was at Olney, Ill., the other at Mulberry Grove. Sale price of these plots will be applied to purchase of the land at Carmi.

The board called Loren Belt, superintendent of Baptist city missions, Wichita, Kans., to be its first secretary of Negro work. The state association last fall created this new department. Belt, who has not yet said if he will accept the call, was asked to come as soon as possible.

Ground-breaking for the new Baptist student center at Champaign--site of University of Illinois--will be held July 22 this year in connection with a quarterly meeting of the executive board. Construction of the new building will not start before spring, 1959.

Illinois Baptists own two pieces of property at Champaign on which the new building will be constructed. The two buildings now on the property (and in use) will be torn down for new construction.

The new student center building will cost about \$600,000 and will house offices, classrooms, and a small number of dormitory rooms for men. Illinois Baptists are developing a college of Bible at Champaign similar to the Southern Illinois College of the Bible on the campus of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

The college of the Bible offers courses in Bible and religious education which are accepted by the university as part of a student's elective course credits.

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Baptist Press

Make Way For RA's  
From South Carolina

COLUMBIA, S. C.--(BP)--South Carolina Royal Ambassadors are taking no chances on having a place to stay in Fort Worth during the Convention-wide Royal Ambassador Congress, Aug. 12-14.

J. C. Maddox, Columbia, state Royal Ambassador leader, says hotel reservations have already been made for 320 RA boys and adult leaders from this state. South Carolina's goal is 312. Maddox says that South Carolina will exceed its goal.