

February 10, 1958

### Reporting Of Public Affairs To Continue

GLORIETA, N. M.--(BP)--Southern Baptist Convention editors resolved to continue to report efforts being made to obtain public tax funds for private and parochial schools.

The editors also will continue their effort to create state Baptist committees on public affairs throughout the SBC. Many states, the editors observed, already have such organizations.

Committees on public affairs study and report on developments in the fields of religious liberty and separation of church and state.

These actions were contained in resolutions adopted at the closing session of the three-day Southern Baptist Press Association meeting here. Previous sessions of the association were held in nearby Albuquerque.

The editors also expressed their appreciation to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee which recently voted to expand the Baptist Press, SBC news service.

Albert McClellan, Nashville, director of the Baptist Press, reported expansion in several areas: establishment of a Washington regional office, developing additional news contacts around the Convention, and more intensive reporting of local and state Baptist activities.

-30-

### Southern Baptist Editor Group Elects Looney

GLORIETA, N. M.--(BP)--Southern Baptist editors ended their three-day mid-winter meeting and elected Floyd Looney, editor of the California Southern Baptist, as their president.

Looney succeeds John Hurt, Jr., Atlanta, editor of the Christian Index. The California Southern Baptist, published in Fresno, and the Christian Index are weekly state Baptist newspapers.

The editors, whose organization is known as the Southern Baptist Press Association, elected W. G. Stracener, of Jacksonville, Fla., vice-president and re-elected W. C. Fields, of Jackson, Miss., secretary-treasurer.

Stracener is editor of the Florida Baptist Witness and Fields is editor of the Baptist Record. Both newspapers are weekly state publications.

-more-

The editors voted to hold their 1959 meeting in Atlanta, Ga., starting Feb. 2. As is customary, the editors' meeting will coincide with the mid-winter meeting of executive secretaries of the 25 state Baptist conventions co-operating with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Final sessions of the Southern Baptist Press Association meeting were conducted in classrooms at Glorieta Baptist Assembly, Southern Baptists' western summer assembly grounds. The executive secretaries also held their sessions for the day at Glorieta.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, with offices at Nashville, operates the assembly and was host to the editors and secretaries. R. L. Middleton, director of the board's business division, and E. A. Herron, assembly manager, welcomed the guests.

New Mexico Gov. E. L. Mechem also gave a welcoming address at a dinner honoring the visiting Baptist leaders. Also present was Associate Justice J. C. Compton of the New Mexico Supreme Court.

-30-

Urge State Department  
About Religious Liberty

GLORIETA, N. M.--(BP)--The U. S. State Department will be urged to "continue and accelerate its efforts" to secure "fundamental religious freedom" in countries where that freedom has been curtailed.

The Southern Baptist Press Association resolved at its mid-winter meeting here to petition the State Department about matters of religious liberty in Spain, Colombia, and other countries.

The Press Association is composed of editors of 25 state Baptist newspapers and editors of other denominational newspapers and magazines.

The text of the association's resolution:

"Whereas, it gives us pain to hear that our Baptist people continue to be persecuted in Spain, Colombia, and certain other countries; some of our churches have been closed by government orders; then some of our people have been arrested because they exercised their freedom under God.

"Therefore, be it resolved that we petition the U. S. State Department that it continue and accelerate its efforts to win for all people of those and other countries, the fundamental religious freedom which is the unalienable right of every child of God."

-30-