

February 13, 1958

**HARRY P. STAGG HEADS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES**

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.--(BP)--Harry P. Stagg, executive secretary of Baptist Convention of New Mexico here, is new president of the annual meeting of Baptist state executive secretaries.

Stagg was elected at the secretaries' 1958 session in Albuquerque recently. He succeeds T. B. Lackey, Oklahoma City, executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

The secretaries of the 25 state Baptist conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention hold a meeting each February. Next year they will meet at Atlanta. Their meeting is simultaneous--and usually in the same city--with a mid-winter session of Baptist editors.

Other new officers of the state secretary group are Charles McKay, Phoenix, Ariz., vice-president, and Robert L. Lee, Alexandria, La., secretary.

McKay is executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Arizona. Le is executive secretary of Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The executive secretaries meet informally to discuss common problems related to promotion of state and Southern Baptist Convention programs. They customarily adopt no resolutions, nor transact any other business than the election of officers.

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**CHILD CARE EXECUTIVES  
ELECT WADE B. EAST**

BILOXI, Miss.--(BP)--Wade B. East, superintendent of Baptist Children's Home, Carmi, Ill., is new president of the Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists.

The group is composed of administrators and other officers of orphanages and children's homes sponsored by various state Baptist groups throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Child Care Executives held their annual meeting in Biloxi.

J. Calvin Williams of New Orleans was guest speaker. For the last nine years, Williams has been general secretary of the New Orleans YMCA. He spoke on the theme "Meeting the challenges of today's children."

Williams reported that by 1965 there will be twice as many teen-agers as there are today.

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The Child Care Executives reported "Our institutions have a vital place in the denomination only because of their ministry and because they are the workshop for the denomination in carrying out the desires of the churches."

Other officers elected at the meeting were W. G. Mize, Jackson, Miss., vice-president, and Silas Bishop, Jacksonville, Fla., secretary-treasurer. Mize is superintendent of Mississippi Baptist Children's Village and Bishop of Baptist Home for Children, Jacksonville.

H. Truman Maxey, general superintendent of the department of child care, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, is their public relations chairman.

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#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DAY RECEIVES PROTEST

FREEMPORT, Tex.--(BP)--Designation of Mar. 23 as Knights of Columbus Day in Texas by Gov. Price Daniel has been bitterly protested by Baptists in this Gulf Coast area.

The protest to the Governor, who is a leading Baptist layman, was adopted by 400 messengers representing 375 Gulf Coast area Baptist churches. The area includes Houston.

The resolution stated:

"Baptists have always stood for complete separation of church and state and whereas our Gov. Price Daniel has proclaimed Mar. 23 as Knights of Columbus Day, be it resolved that we hereby protest such action and call upon our people to let their convictions be known...."

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#### BAYLOR PROPOSES CHAIR OF CHURCH-STATE STUDY

HOUSTON--(BP)--Plans to establish a chair at Baylor University, Waco, for the study of church-state relations were outlined in a meeting here.

W. R. White, Baylor president, and Paul Geren, executive vice-president, outlined the plans.

White said the studies will investigate church-state relationships on federal, state and local levels. They will include also the biblical, historical, and constitutional basis for the separation of church and state.

Interpretation for our own times of the historic principle and the comparative study of Christianity and communism will likewise be included.

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An endowment of \$250,000 is needed. About \$12,000 has already been donated.

The studies are named after J. M. Dawson, retired minister and author, and former director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

In his outline, White stressed three facets of the separation of church and state which he said are "paramount." They are:

1. Separation of conscience and force, where religion is not forced by law but freedom of will.
2. Separation of functions, whereby the state must protect a man in his religion without governing or regulating his religion.
3. Separation in method of support, whereby the church doesn't depend on the state for aid.

White declared that the problems are "extremely complex and difficult and need much study.

"Our people are committed to certain ideas, but even among Baptists, we are not all together in applications and ramifications," he said.

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#### LESLIE WRIGHT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF HOWARD

BIRMINGHAM--(BP)--Leslie S. Wright, executive secretary of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama, has been elected president of Howard College here.

He will succeed Harwell Davis, retiring president, on Sept. 1.

Both the four-year college and the Baptist Foundation are institutions of the Alabama Baptist Convention. Wright has been asked to come to Howard College as soon as he is relieved of his Foundation duties in Montgomery.

The new president is son of the late A. K. Wright, who for 10 years was pastor of First Baptist Church at nearby Ensley, Ala. Later his father was pastor of Baptist Tabernacle, Louisville, Ky.

Wright has A. B. and M. A. degrees from University of Louisville and is completing a doctoral program in education at University of Kentucky.

Before joining the Alabama Baptist Convention as Foundation secretary, Wright was for four years executive secretary to Sen. Lister Hill (D., Ala.).

He was president of Alabama Baptist Brotherhood Convention in 1948-1950 and is present chairman of the Alabama Baptist Convention public affairs committee.

He also is president of the Southwide Association of Baptist Foundation Executives. He is a deacon in Montgomery First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Wright, a native of Birmingham, taught at Howard College during World War II.

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