BAPTIST PRESS

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March 25, 1958

POAU Leader Testifies
On Education Bills

WASHINGTON--(BP)--The principle of separation of church and state should be "meticulously respected" in any Federal aid to education. This was the testimony of C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of Protestants and Other Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, at a hearing here on proposed legislation on education.

Lowell appeared before a subcommittee of the House Committee on Education and Labor and expressed POAU's "apprehension" over certain aspects of the Administration bill and the Hill-Elliott bill providing Federal aid to education.

Citing the fact that separation of church and state is written into the Federal constitution and in the constitutions or statutes of at least 46 states, Lowell declared that "the First Amendment and these state constitutions should be diligently respected in any program of Federal aid to education."

POAU did not oppose scholarships usable in sectarian colleges "provided there is a fair and genuine system of examinations to determine recipients. Lowell also stated that these scholarships should not be used as a precedent for future scholarships in lower schools operated by sectarian groups.

Declaring that tax support for a sectarian school is tax support for a church, Lowell urged the Congressmen not to make public tax funds available to sectarian schools for "teaching, equipment and materials."

"No previous bill has ever appropriated Federal funds for equipment for sectarian institutions in the direct manner contemplated in these bills," asserted the POAU leader. "In the past, all appropriations of this nature for equipment have been under specialized headings such as research in diseases, atomic energy and military work. They represented a specific grant for which there was to be a specific return. There is no such pledge or safeguard in these bills."

POAU objected to the provision in the Administration bill that "where the state is not permitted by its laws to provide its portion of the expense for the program in private or sectarian schools, the Federal Government shall, in effect, override the law of the state by setting up and carrying out its own program in such states."

"We believe," declared Lowell, "that all Federal legislation in aid to education should observe state laws and constitutions in the matter of church-state separation."

The POAU leader concluded his testimony by saying that separation of church and state "is the key to understanding and cooperation among the churches in our common culture....that the holding of the present money barrier against subsidies to any church is basic to the preservation of the entire principle of separation."

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Swedish Baptist Leader
Dies of Heart Attack

CHICAGO--(BP)--William C. Tapper, executive secretary of the board of trustees of the Baptist General Conference of America, died suddenly March 21, a victim of a heart attack.

A member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C., since 1954, Tapper demonstrated a keen interest in the total Baptist movement. He also represented the Baptist General Conference on the joint committee for the Baptist Jubilee Advance.

The Baptist General Conference was originally the Swedish Baptist fellowship and now consists of about 450 churches with 59,000 members. Tapper was the first executive secretary of the Conference. Previously he had served pastorates in Minnesota and Illinois.

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Kentucky Lawmaker
Denounces Liquor Ads

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Beverage alcohol was condemned as a narcotic poison, a harsh hussy, a hatchetman, a wolf in sheep' clothing and a wild lion in a speech before Congress here.

Congressman Eugene Siler (R., Ky.), a lawyer, former Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and former moderator of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, spoke in favor of his proposed legislation, H. R. 4835, which would eliminate advertising of alcoholic beverages in publications, radio and television.

Siler declared that the nation does not allow narcotic advertising, that society prevents a harsh hussy from advertising her prostitution business, that hatchet men are hunted down and apprehended, that the wolf in sheep's clothing and the lion loose on the streets are caught and caged.

The curse of alcoholic beverage is worse than all of these other dangers, asserted Siler.

A recent liquor ad in Life magazine came in for sharp criticism by the Kentucky lawmaker. He said the alcoholic drink advertised as "Manhattan Melody" should more properly have been labeled "Funeral Dirge of Hell."

"I can say that I am always honored to be called a dry," concluded Siler. "People of my state will get out the ginger ale and tomato juice when they see me coming to social events, for these are my 'cocktails' and I am not ashamed of them."

He and other Congressmen have received arm-loads of mail urging the ban of liquor advertising, Siler declared. "I have had but few letters of disapproval (of the proposed legislation) and these have emanated from the 'booze' interests, in my opinion."

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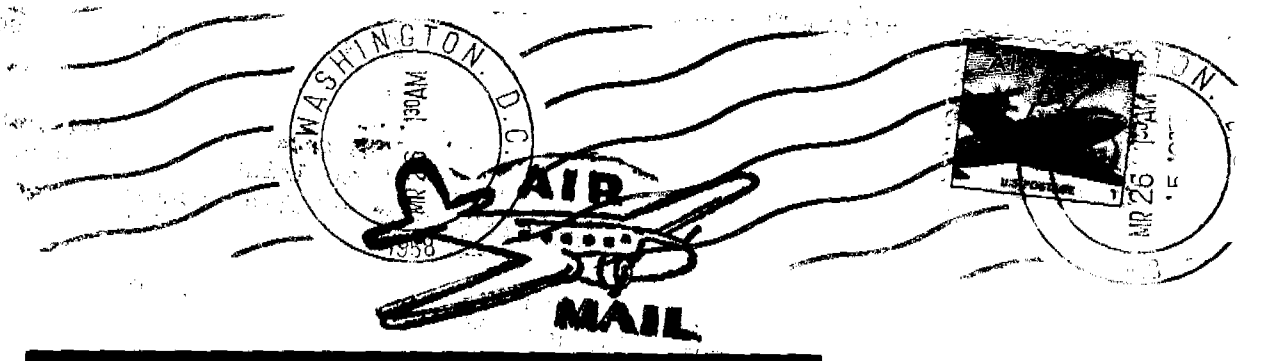

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