

SOUTHERN
BAPTISTS **AND** **THE**
BICENTENNIAL
CONFERENCE





SOUTHERN BAPTISTS AND THE BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

**A Past to Remember, A Future to Ponder,
and A Present to Influence**

*Ridgecrest Baptist
Conference Center
August 3-8, 1975
Room 21*

Sunday, August 3



C. Welton Gaddy

8:30-9:30 a.m.

“Southern Baptists and the
Bicentennial—An Overview”
—C. Welton Gaddy, Director
of Christian Citizenship De-
velopment, Christian Life
Commission, SBC; Nashville,
Tennessee

9:30-9:45 a.m.

Break

9:45-10:45 a.m.

“Faith of the Founders—Myth or Reality?”—
Walter B. Shurden, Professor of Church History,
Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Ten-
nessee

6:45-7:45 p.m.

“What Is There to Celebrate?”—Henlee H.
Barnette, Professor of Christian Ethics, South-
ern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville,
Kentucky

Monday, August 4

8:30-9:30 a.m.

"The 'Christianization' of America"—Walter B. Shurden



Walter B. Shurden

9:30-10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00-11:00 a.m.

"Baptist Social Reformers in America"—Henlee H. Barnette

6:45-7:45 p.m.

"Baptist Contributions to American Politics"—
C. Welton Gaddy

Tuesday, August 5

8:30-9:30 a.m.

"The 'Americanization' of Christianity"—Walter
B. Shurden

9:30-10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00-11:00 a.m.

"I Pledge Allegiance—Loyalties in Conflict"—
C. Welton Gaddy

6:45-7:45 p.m.

"American Civil Religion—Bane or Blessing?"
—Henlee H. Barnette

Wednesday, August 6

8:30-9:30 a.m.

"The Unfinished Revolution"—C. Welton Gaddy

9:30-10:00 a.m.

Break

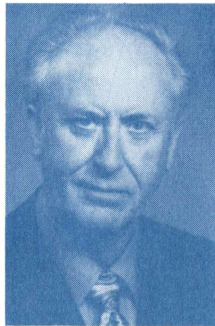
10:00-11:00 a.m.

"Minorities and the Bicentennial"—Henlee H. Barnette

6:45-7:45 p.m.

"Update on Freedom"—Walter B. Shurden

Thursday, August 7



Henlee H. Barnette

8:30-9:30 a.m.

"Patriotism and the Bible"—
Henlee H. Barnette

9:30-10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00-11:00 a.m.

"Christian Hope and the
American Dream"—Walter B.
Shurden

6:45-7:45 p.m.

"Christian Citizenship as Celebration"—
C. Welton Gaddy

Friday, August 8

8:00-10:00 a.m.

"Southern Baptists and Century III"—Henlee H.
Barnette, Walter B. Shurden, and C. Welton
Gaddy

Suggestions For Effective Participation As A Christian Citizenship

1. Register and vote. Voting is basic in responsible citizenship, the minimum that every Christian should do.
2. Communicate with decision-makers. Letters do make a difference, especially if they are short, personal, and well-written. Letters are much more effective than petitions. Telegrams can be effective, as can phone calls. The best communication, of course, is person-to-person. Get to know your public officials. They want to know you.
3. Write letters to the editor. The "letter-to-the-editor" page is one of the best read pages of any publication. It should not be left to the radicals and reactionaries. Use it to communicate responsible views.
4. Get involved in a political party. In American politics, party involvement is usually a prerequisite to long-term political effectiveness. The "independent" can vote only on the final choice given him by the two parties. Effective citizens, like effective Christians, must be part of a larger support group.

5. Contribute money. One of the dangers faced by American democracy is the economic domination of politicians by big money. Running for political office is expensive. If support comes only from a few people, then the politician becomes unduly obligated. If support comes from a large base of smaller gifts, the politician is much freer to do what is right.

6. Help in an election. All campaigns and precincts need worker. Find those in whom you believe and encourage them to run for office. Then help them to get elected. Many Christians should run for public office.

7. Lobby. There may come a time when you need personally to get involved in the legislative process. Testify. Talk to legislators. Try to pass or defeat specific proposals or legislation. Join a pressure group designed to speak to a particular area of concern.

How can Christians be involved in politics? The person who really wants to find a way to express Christian concern can do so. The need is there. The opportunity is there. All that is required is Christians who care enough to find their own unique way to work in the political arena.

The Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Foy Valentine, Executive Secretary

