

REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

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MAY, 1951

FORTHCOMING CONVENTIONS TO GIVE MARKED ATTENTION TO BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A suitable period has been set aside at Buffalo by the American Baptist Convention on June 13, for the Executive Director to present the work of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. In the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in San Francisco on June 23, the Joint Committee will be given 45 minutes, 15 for the report by Dr. Walter P. Binns, Chairman of the Southern group, and 30 to a special address, "Separation of Church and State -- A Spiritual Imperative", by Dr. W. R. White, President of Baylor University. In the preliminary pastor's meeting, which is always well attended, Tuesday afternoon will be given over largely to a panel discussion and open forum on "Baptist and Changing Governmental Philosophy", with the following topics: (1) "The Historic Principle of Separation of Church and State" - Theodore Adams, Virginia; (2) "Modern Trends in Governmental Philosophy" - B. O. Herring, California; (3) "Present Problems in Church-State Relationship" - David M. Gardner, Texas; (4) "Baptist Democracy and Totalitarianism" - John H. Buchanan, Alabama; (5) "Summary of Panel and Forum Discussion" - F. Townley Lord, England.

It is indeed gratifying that the Conventions are according so much attention to the Public Affairs Committee's work. The North American Baptist General Conference, meeting in Oakland at the same time as the Southern Convention, has arranged for a presentation of the Committee's claims in its sessions. It is hoped also that the Negro Conventions meeting in the Fall will likewise give consideration to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSES REVISION OF ARTICLE II

At the April 24th meeting of the Executive Committee, held in lieu of the regular semi-annual session of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, it was voted to recommend an amendment to Article II of the Constitution. A Special Committee appointed at the Fall session composed of Luther J. Holcomb, W. B. Lippard, Walter P. Binns, D. V. Jemison and G. L. Prince presented the recommendation which reads as follows:

"The Baptist Joint Committee shall be expected to transmit through its constituent committees to the cooperating Conventions any findings that result from any of its investigations and research in the field of public affairs, together with any recommendations which in its judgment need to be considered by the supporting Conventions."

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the amendment and it will now pass to the full Joint Committee for approval. This will enable the Committee to bring to the attention of the participating Conventions for action any matter felt to be important.

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COUNTRY DIVIDED ON UMT

As of this date the Universal Military Training program is in the conference committees awaiting formulation for final adoption. An editorial by the Washington Post, which has consistently supported UMT, says:

"It was General MacArthur who, perhaps unwittingly, seems to have put a crimp on Universal Military Training. In his testimony to Congress he cited industry's manpower needs and the trend toward specialization in the armed forces, and questioned whether UMT is the best way to achieve 'maximum utilization' of manpower in a crisis. His advice is to wait until the present emergency is over and then make the decision after a 'very, very thorough' study. This position is somewhat similar to that taken by the House."

In speaking of Universal Military Training, Dr. W. G. Mather, Pennsylvania State College, said:

"We must not ignore the compulsory features of all the proposals. This Universal Military Training and service is to be a permanent involuntary thing, on the theory that every citizen owes such service to his country. It is true that a citizen does have some obligations to his country. But when we put compulsory military training in its setting relative to other recent developments, we find it one more of a series of curtailments and controls and compulsions, all predicated on the same theory of the obligation of a citizen to his country. We have moved, step by step, under these restrictions to become more and more like the captive Fascist, Nazi and Communist citizens whose plight we have pitied. Now we would be like them in one more respect, the standing conscript army. Even if we avoid the defeat which has always come to those who have adopted these measures in the past, it will not be the old, beloved America of freedom and opportunity that will survive. It may well be a victorious nation differing from the defeated only in name."

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CHURCH AND STATE CONFERENCE

Ridgecrest, N. C.

August 16-22, 1951

Sponsored jointly by the Social Service Commission and
the Southern Committee of the Committee on Public Affairs

Morning Seminars 9:00-10:30 A. M., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday
Dr. J. M. Dawson - Dr. W. P. Binns

Suggested Topics:

"The Implications of Current Legislation and Court Decisions on the Relationship between Church and State"

"A Survey of Academic Interest in the Problems of Church and State"

Suggested Topics: (Continued)

"An Appraisal of Paul Blanchard's Contribution to Better Understanding of the Relationship between Church and State"

"The Current Concepts and Practice of Church and State Relationships Outside the United States"

"The Historic Role of Baptists in the Separation of Church and State"

"Religious Instruction in the Public Schools"

Afternoon Conferences 2:30-4:00 P. M., Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Morning (if necessary) - Dr. T. B. Maston

Special Evening Friday, with address by Dr. Glenn L. Archer, Executive Director, Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Washington, D. C.

CURRENT QUESTIONS IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE SEMINARS

PASTORS, TEACHERS, LAYMEN, WOMEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALL INTERESTED IN THE VITAL QUESTION OF CHURCH AND STATE INTERRELATIONSHIPS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

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RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Methodist 84	Lutheran 15	Friends 2
Roman Catholic 70	Disciples 13	Universalist 2
Baptist 56	Jewish 10	Evangelical and Reformed 2
Presbyterian 48	Unitarian 5	Christian Scientist 1
Episcopal 41	Reformed Church 3	Latter Day Saints 1
Congregational 16	Churches of Christ 4	"Protestant" 14
		Unknown 47

NOTE: In a previous issue of REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL we indicated the affiliations of the members of the Senate as follows: Methodist 19, Presbyterians 12, Episcopalians 12, Baptists 10, Roman Catholic 9, Congregational 7, Disciples 6, Lutheran 5, Latter Day Saints 3, Christian Scientist 3, Friends 2, Unitarian 1, Jewish 1, "Protestant" 3, Unknown 3.

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FOR ALL CONCERNED ABOUT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -- A SENSATIONAL EXAMPLE

The Executive Director was in Texas recently to deliver a centennial address at the old First Baptist Church, Waco, of which he was long pastor. Dr. J. Howard Williams, Secretary for Texas Baptists, requested him to address all the departmental heads of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in the Headquarters Building at Dallas. In the course of his address the Executive Director said, "Your evangelism which has given you more than a million members in Texas has been truly remarkable. It is likely, however, that you have overlooked the important contribution made to your marvelous growth by religious education." Since then Dr. Dawson was informed that on May 13, the First Church, Dallas, had 956 present in Training Union; Amarillo First, 882; Lubbock First, 804, and that more than 600 Texas churches have as many in Training Union attendance every Sunday night as in Sunday School on Sunday morning. Over 200,000 people enrolled in the Training Union special week-day classes last year. The Texas Baptists are not depending upon a wan and weak, negligible program of religious education in the

public schools, but are using their churches to develop a thoroughly religious-minded constituency.

In addition to their church programs, they have established three universities, one of which, Baylor, is the largest owned and controlled by Baptists anywhere in the world; also maintain five accredited colleges, one academy, and originated the Southwestern Seminary, which this year enrolled more than 1,500, making it possibly the largest theological seminary in the world. Some may dismiss a report of this astounding development as Texas brag, but what is true of Texas Baptists is true of those denominations which are making the largest gains in America. It is sorrowful to contemplate how those in the cellar seek to atone for their neglect of an adequate church program by a futile appeal for religious instruction to be taken over by public schools.

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION

Early in the year the Executive Director was requested to serve on the Religious Advisory Committee to the Federal Civil Defense Administration. This Committee consists of Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, Rabbi Hirsch E. L. Freund, Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, the Very Rev. Monsignor P. F. Tanner, and Dr. J. M. Dawson. The purpose of the Administration in organizing this Committee concerns the role and function of religious groups in the Civil Defense program. The Committee has worked out a proposal which is believed will be useful in a program which, if peace is not won, must ultimately include every person in the United States. The Civil Defense Administration whose address is 1930 Columbia Road, Washington, D. C., is calling a national conference of church leaders for the purpose of giving information and enlisting voluntary cooperation. Full details concerning the conference and the program may be obtained from the above address. It is felt that the preamble to the Religious Advisory Committee Proposal is worthy of attention, hence is quoted here:

"The Religious Advisory Committee, formed at the request of the Federal Civil Defense Administrator, has undertaken to advise the Administrator on those aspects of the national civil defense program of particular interest to the public and to religious groups and agencies. The Religious Advisory Committee has also undertaken to set in motion efforts by which the religious groups and agencies of the country, fully informed of the national civil defense program, will undertake such measures as they deem appropriate for the spiritual guidance and maintenance of firm resolution and spiritual composure of their membership in these critical times."

IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ON CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

The Wall of Separation Between Church and State. By Conrad H. Moehlman. The Beacon Press. Boston. \$3.00.

Conrad Henry Moehlman placed Americans under a debt for his notable contribution in a former volume, "School and Church: The American Way". The present volume does credit to him not only as a Baptist scholar, but as a Christian statesman. His volume is incontrovertible in its careful tracing of the American principle of separation between church and state to the point where, as he says, "In the course of one hundred and sixty years of American history, the states have built up a higher wall of separation than Jefferson ever dreamed of." It is unusually well documented. While most of it is concerned with quotable history, it by no means neglects current church-state issues. Incidentally it utterly demolishes the Roman Catholic interpretation of the First Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which offers a substitute for the historic and judicial interpretation of this American principle.