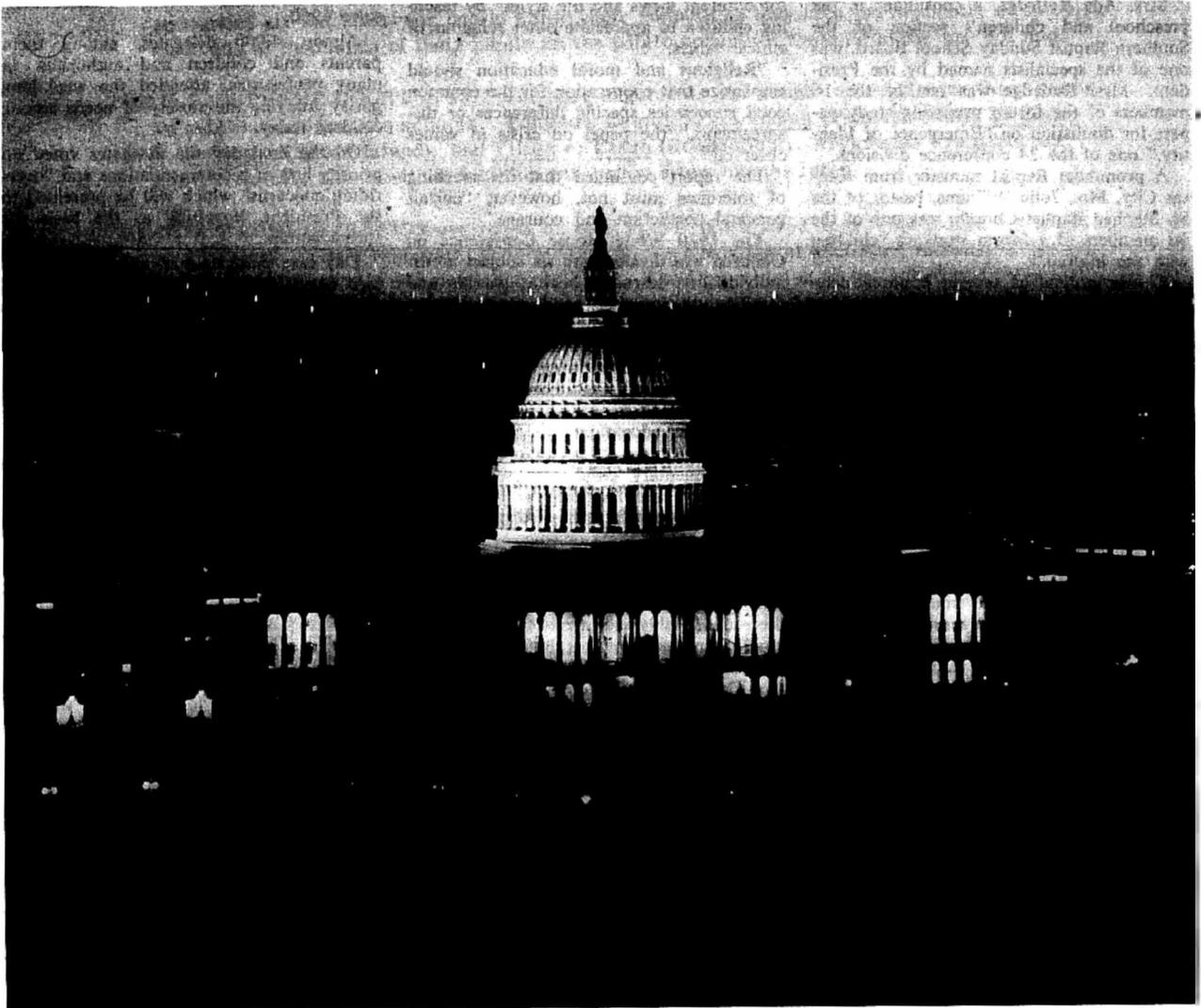
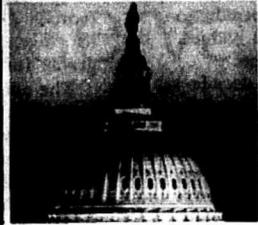


# Report from the Capital

JANUARY

1971



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# THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON CHILDREN

## White House Parley Hears Charges of Child Neglect

The White House Conference on Children, the first to be held since 1960, considered reports indicting America for vast neglect of its children and urged major reforms in institutions at all levels of society.

Education, child health care and legal services supposed to be helping children in trouble were especially hard hit in the reports prepared for the conference, convened here by President Nixon.

In one report, "Crisis in Values," churches and all other institutions were urged to test their practices against their stated beliefs and to eliminate the contradictions between the two.

The report was one of 24 prepared by 385 specialists over the last five months to present to the 4,000 delegates for their deliberation at the conference.

Mrs. Ada Rutledge, a consultant in the preschool and children's section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, was one of the specialists named by the President. Mrs. Rutledge was one of the 16 members of the forum preparing study papers for discussion on "Emergence of Identity," one of the 24 conference divisions.

A prominent Baptist minister from Kansas City, Mo., John Williams, pastor of the St. Stephen Baptist Church, was one of the 16 members of a forum studying "children who are injured."

Cluster groups of several hundred delegates, armed with the advance study guides, debated the various topics as a basis for future action.

"Our children and our families are in deep trouble," read the preamble to the 1970 children's conference, called every decade since 1909 by the President of the United States.

"All this we say with the greatest sense of urgency and conviction . . . a society that neglects its children and fears it youth cannot care about its future. Surely this is the way to national disaster," the preamble continued.

A major part of this "trouble," declared the 16 authorities of the forum on crisis in values, stems from the "existing contradiction between the stated values of our institutions and the values implied by their actual behavior."

"Our children cannot escape being wit-

ness to institutions which are dehumanizing and which often allow injustices against the poor, the undefended, the unprepared.

"Indeed, the daily pattern of living in the American 'success syndrome' often involves the compromise, contradiction, or denial of publicly espoused values," the forum's study report continued.

One of the goals for this decade set by the forum of 16, made up of ministers, psychiatrists, educators and an anthropologist, is for all institutions, including churches, to "correct their behavior if it differs from their stated values of respect for the individual, concern for the environment, and justice, equality, and opportunity for all."

In specific recommendations concerning religious groups, the panel of 16 urged that churches and synagogues "cultivate respect for different views and life styles" by teaching children to appreciate other religious or ethical values.

"Religious and moral education should emphasize that cooperation for the common good supersedes specific differences or disagreements," the panel on crisis in values observed.

The report continued that the teaching of tolerance must not, however, "curtail personal conviction and courage."

The 1970 White House Conference on Children was divided into six subject areas: individuality; learning; health; parents and families; communities and environments; and laws, rights and responsibilities.

Among the leading proposals in the report were calls for the following:

- Formation of experimental school systems as part of a massive assault on the status quo in education;
- Establishment of a national network of supplementary child care services, including day care facilities;
- Serious consideration of starting public education at age three or four;
- Establishment of a national health insurance program for children;
- Creation of a child advocacy system to protect the rights and interests of the young;
- Sharp changes in employment practices that disrupt family life; and
- Creation of a top-level institute to guard children from harmful effects of the mass media.

## Conference on Children Asks For New National Priorities

The White House Conference on Children ended its meeting with several hundred delegates agreeing that the nation must reorder its priorities to give more attention to "diverse and flexible" educational programs for American children.

The call for new priorities was described by conference leaders as being addressed "to all levels of society: government, business, industry, mass media, communities, schools, churches, neighborhoods and individual citizens."

Creative education of children, in one form or another from preschool on, was the central idea in a host of recommendations coming out of the 24 divisions that made up this children's conference, the first since 1960.

Almost 4,000 delegates, among them parents and children and authorities in many professions, attended the week-long parley studying the variety of needs among children today.

On the final day the delegates voted on priority lists of recommendations and "overriding concerns" which will be presented to the President, hopefully as the basis for future action.

Day care programs, an adequate guaranteed basic family income and programs to eliminate the racism "which cripples all children" were chosen by the delegates as the three most pressing "overriding concerns."

Mrs. Ada Rutledge, a Southern Baptist children's educator who served as one of the leaders in the conference, praised the meeting for its potential impact on the nation and the churches.

A consultant in preschool work for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., Mrs. Rutledge told Baptist Press that she can envision churches "reconsidering the needs of individuals and assigning new priorities to children.

"I am hoping that churches will renew their efforts to provide more and better training for teachers," Mrs. Rutledge continued, and that they will "discover new ways of

(Continued on Page 8)

**REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL**—a bulletin published 10 months during the year by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 200 Maryland Ave., N. E., Washington, D. C. 20002. The purpose of this bulletin is to report findings on the interrelations between churches and governments in the United States. It affords church leaders a chance to understand developments, policies and trends affecting public policies and it affords public officials a chance to understand church structures, dynamics and positions. It is dedicated to religious liberty, to free and effective democracy and to equitable rights and opportunities for all.

The views of writers of material for *Report From The Capital* are not necessarily those of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs or its staff. The bulletin also provides for the sharing of views between leaders of the cooperating conventions and between leaders of various religions and traditions.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is a denominational agency

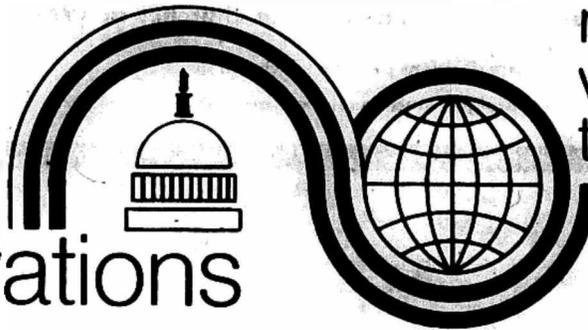
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January 1971—Volume 26, Number 1

# washington observations



news  
views  
trends

January 6, 1971

**THE NEW YEAR WILL BE FULL** of church interest and church-state issues on the federal, state and local levels. Those wishing for a return to the imagined quiet status quo of former years are slated for disappointment.

**BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT** public aid to private and parochial schools will be one of the toughest problems of 1971 and the years ahead. Catholic bishops and educators have announced all-out effort for public aid to their schools as they face the necessity of dumping hundreds of thousands of their pupils on the public schools if their demands are not met.

**THE U.S. SUPREME COURT** in 1971 will bear arguments and render a decision on three cases on public aid to private schools. They are Lemon v. Kurtzman (Pennsylvania), Di Censo v. Robinson (Rhode Island), and Tilton v. Finch (Connecticut). Arguments are expected some time this month with a decision announced a few months later.

**THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION** continues its efforts to explore ways to provide public aid to private schools. The President's Commission on the financing of education includes a special panel on aid to private and parochial schools. The Commission is not scheduled to report until March 1972 but it will be at work in 1971 and possibly releasing preliminary reports.

**AT THE SAME TIME** the Office of Economic Opportunity continues to plan experiments to test a school voucher plan, whereby parents can send their children to any school of their choice at public expense. OEO continues its interest in "performance contracts" and other innovative ideas to restructure the American educational system.

**THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION** is likewise engaged in educational experimentation. If efforts to head off public aid to parochial schools succeed in stopping OEO experiments, it is a simple matter for the same or similar ideas to develop within the USOE where it will be more difficult to stop them.

**THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD** on December 3, 1970 announced that it was assuming applicable jurisdiction over all private, nonprofit colleges and universities with gross annual revenues in excess of one million dollars.

**SUCH ACTION MEANS** that most Baptist and about 80 percent of all private colleges and universities, and some 95 percent of the full- and part-time nonprofessional employees are now subject to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act for the first time.

**IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE** the current decade will witness a blossoming on many programs of cooperation and interrelatedness between public and private and church-related institutions of all types for rendering service to people. Maintaining the right tension and proper balance in the church-state relations involved will be the major task in preserving religious liberty under such developments.

## What effect will the courts have on churches in 1971?

Are decisions pending which will be of significance to religious groups?

# THE COURTS AND THE CHURCHES

By John W. Baker

There are a number of religious liberty cases pending in state courts. Most of these will be settled at the state level if: (1) the federal Constitution is not involved to any substantial degree, (2) the decision reached by the court in a given case satisfies the litigants so that no appeal is made, (3) the party against whom the decision went was either not hurt badly enough or did not have funds to appeal, or (4) one of the parties decides not to rely further on the courts and seeks legislative relief for his problem. A few appeals will be made to the United States Supreme Court which will make its own decision on which cases it will hear and which ones it will not hear.

One type of case which will be heard at the state level in 1971 springs from the attempts on the parts of some cities and states to tax denominational office buildings which coordinate the work of the churches and which are used solely for religious purposes.

The United States Supreme Court in *Waltz v. Tax Commission* 397 U.S. 664 (1970) said that states were not in violation of the First Amendment if they chose to exempt church houses, religious educational, and denominational buildings. The question before the court was not whether a state must exempt these buildings on the basis of religious liberty. Oregon law specifically exempts sanctuaries and eleemosynary institutions but does not exempt headquarters buildings. The Supreme Court will eventually get a case from Oregon or a similar one from another state. Until it comes up the appellate ladder the emphasis will be on litigation in the state courts.

The federal courts have two significant liberty questions to decide and one additional case which may have some important aftereffects.

In early 1971 the United States Supreme Court will combine three separate cases into a single case dealing with aid to parochial schools and church-related colleges. *Lemon, et al. v. Kurtzman, et al.*, deals with Pennsylvania's law which permits the state to pay for a portion of the costs of instructing parochial school students in secular subjects. *Di Censo v. Robinson* came as a result of a similar law in Rhode Island. *Tilton v. Finch* arose in Connecticut and questions the constitutionality of the Federal Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 which provided for loans and grants to build facilities for the teaching of strictly secular subjects at church-related colleges and universities.

It would be unwise to speculate on what the Court will do with this combined case. However, it would seem that the diverse nature of the three cases may make it easier for the Court to find reasons to decide against state aid to religious institutions.

In February the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will hear the case of *Anderson, et al. v. Laird, et al.* and will hand down its decision some time this spring. At issue in this case is whether requiring students at the federal military academies to go to church services is compulsory religion and, therefore, unconstitutional or whether this required church attendance is a legitimate device for the training of future officers in understanding the religious needs of the men they will have under their command. The November-December, 1970 issue of the *Report From The Capital* detailed the Baptist Joint Committee's position opposing compulsory religion. They were joined in that opposition by the General Commission on Chaplains and by a group of 13 Jewish organizations.

The third case will be heard in the District

Court for the District of Columbia and involves the placement of the traditional Christmas creche on the Ellipse between the White House and the Washington Monument. No attempt was made this year to keep the nativity scene off the Ellipse but the court will seek to determine for the future whether it is constitutionally permissible to use public property for a purely sectarian purpose.

The importance of this case as seen from Washington is not the question of a Christian display on public property. Rather there is concern that a court which strictly constructs the Constitution could start a chain reaction by declaring against the creche. That reaction could conceivably result in politicians using the religious issue for their political gain by proclaiming themselves "protectors" of religious liberty and moving to amend the First Amendment to the Constitution. Since the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791 the religion clauses of the First Amendment have been interpreted by the Supreme Court. The development of a body of precedent has given a reliable guide to understanding the metes and bounds of religious liberty. Any tampering with the First Amendment freedoms by amendment could well open a Pandora's box the results of which could curtail rather than expand religious liberty. This is a reason for concern.

There may be other cases—some of them perhaps more vital than these—which may arise quickly in 1971. There may be other cases where religion does not seem to be involved but which may seriously affect the churches and their programs.

All of these we will report from our vantage point as soon as we see that Baptist interests are involved.

## IRS Exempts Churches From Close Scrutiny of Accounts

Examination of church books by the Internal Revenue Service for taxable unrelated business income will be severely limited, according to proposed regulations published in the Federal Register here.

The new proposed regulations are in harmony with the tax reform bill earlier enacted into law and signed by President Richard Nixon.

Under the new law, churches and religious orders are still among the charitable organizations not required to file annual information returns on institutional assets and details of management.

However, a church engaged in an unrelated business is required to file an unrelated business tax return, since such income of churches is no longer tax exempt. Currently owned businesses will be taxed after five years. This means that on January 1, 1975 churches will have to begin paying taxes on income from unrelated business income.

The newly proposed regulations relating to churches, conventions or associations of churches provide for no examination of the books of such organizations to determine whether or not they are engaged in unrelated trade or business.

An exception for such an examination, however, is provided for in the event that the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate "believes that such organization may be so engaged and so notifies the organization in advance of the examination." Such examining officer shall be no lower than a principal internal revenue officer for an internal revenue region.

Even so, according to the proposed regulation, "no examination of the religious activities of such an organization shall be made except to the extent necessary to determine whether such organization is a church or a convention or association of churches."

Further, the regulation says, "no examination of the books of account of such an organization shall be made other than to the extent necessary to determine the amount of tax imposed" on the unrelated business income.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Ralph W. Thrower, explains the purposes of the restricted examination of the books of churches, conventions or associations of churches. The restrictions are: (1) "to protect such organizations from undue interference in their internal financial affairs" and (2) to limit the scope of such examinations to matters relating to the taxing of unrelated business income.

The Federal Register is an official government daily publication containing a wide

variety of official documents, regulations and guidelines for the implementing of legislation and the operation of the federal government.

Unless interested groups or persons ask to comment or to make suggestions on or before January 15, 1971 on the proposed

regulations on the "Restriction of Examination of Churches" published in the Federal Register, the proposals will become official regulations.

In the event the opportunity to make comments or suggestions is requested by churches, conventions, associations of churches, or by other persons, the Internal Revenue Service will arrange for public hearings.

## Congress Votes To Provide Family Planning Services

Both houses of Congress agreed in the closing sessions of 1970 on a major national effort to provide family planning services for all persons who want and need them.

Under the measure, grants can be made both to public and nonprofit groups for research in birth control methods, training of personnel for family planning projects and for the distribution of birth control information and contraceptive devices. Priority for these grants will go to groups serving persons from low-income families.

The new bill, asked for by the President and now awaiting his signature, authorizes \$387 million to be spent over the next three years. This amount represents a compromise between the Senate, which asked for \$967 million over a five-year period, and the House which voted to spend \$267 over three years.

The legislation, known as the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970, specifically prohibits the use of any of the funds in programs "where abortion is a method of family planning."

Many poor persons will benefit especially

from the new legislation since the bill specifies that no charge will be made for services provided to those from a low-income family. However, it has been stressed in Congress that the poor will not be coerced into participation in any family planning project.

According to testimony heard last summer by the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee there are some five million American women of child-bearing age who want family planning information and do not have it.

In addition to research on human reproduction and the distribution of family planning materials, the legislation would establish an Office of Population Affairs in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to coordinate federal family planning programs.

## Tenants Provide Security

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reports that a number of housing authorities have organized tenants to provide mutual security on a volunteer basis. For example, between 1,000 and 1,500 tenants are serving on security patrols in New York City housing projects. In Omaha, Nebraska, tenants have formed a block mutual protection association to keep a helpful eye on their neighbors' homes and to report any suspicious activities to the local authorities.

## Study To Aid Legislatures

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development made a \$37,750 grant to finance a study to provide means for effectively involving a state legislature in long-range planning and development within a state. The project will be carried out by the Research and Planning Division of the Industrial Development and Park Department, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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**T**he stage has been set for a lively power struggle during the two years of the 92nd Congress which convenes for its first session in January of 1971. Such a bid for power should not be viewed with alarm but should be viewed as a normal process in a democracy. Citizens can participate more constructively in the democratic process if they understand some of the realities of the ways Congress operates.

The 91st Congress came to its closing days with very few people pleased with its performance. When two parties as far apart as President Nixon and the Washington Post see eye-to-eye in disdaining the results of the 91st Congress, we can know that there has been shortcoming somewhere.

President Nixon felt so strongly about

school aid act? For days at a time no one could describe, even approximately, the status and/or prospects of any of these measures. The parliamentary situation—to use a phrase too dignified for the fun and games that went on—was such that veteran legislators professed themselves at a loss to understand it.”

The Congress will no doubt return in January feeling the sting of these criticisms. This factor will enter into the power plays for the coming two years.

Add to this the fact that Republican Nixon will have to continue to try to work with a Democratic Congress and we have further complications in the struggle for power. In November 1970 elections the Democrats lost only two seats in the Senate

## A LOOK AT THE 92<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESS

By. W. Barry Garrett

the failure of the 91st Congress to act upon some of the most important issues before the nation that he threatened to keep it in session without interruption until noon on January 3, 1971, and then to convene the new Congress immediately at 12:01 p.m. the same day.

The Constitution provides that Congress shall meet at least once a year at noon on January 3, unless otherwise provided by law. The Congress voted for the new Congress to convene on January 21, but before 1970 ended the President was threatening to withhold his signature to force the legislators back on January 3. Admittedly, this would not add anything to the productiveness of the new Congress, but it would dramatize to the nation the President's disdain for the failures of the old Congress.

The Washington Post in an editorial tried to outdo the President in heaping shame on the 91st Congress. It said, "One watches the end-of-the-session performance each year, and each year the performance gets worse. It was—all last week—as if there had been some gigantic shipwreck and spotlights were searching for survivors. The welfare bill? The SST? Food Stamps? Cambodian aid? The trade bill. The emergency

and picked up 12 seats in the House of Representatives. This was in spite of unprecedented efforts on the part of President Nixon and Vice President Agnew to influence the voters to send more Republicans to the Congress.

The political line-up in the 92nd Congress is as follows: Senate, 55 Democrats and 45 Republicans; House, 255 Democrats and 180 Republicans. It should be obvious that a Republican Administration in the White House will have a difficult time under such circumstances.

A major factor in the anticipated performance both of the White House and of the Congress in 1971-72 is the fact that both parties will be setting the stage for the Presidential and other national elections in November 1972. This means that each party will try to claim credit for every bit of legislation that meets the approval of public opinion. Likewise each party will try to place the blame on the other for any failure to achieve solutions to the nation's problems.

In the meantime, it is reported behind the scenes that the Republicans are planning a grand new strategy for social action and legislation during the decade of the 70's.

Among the speculations of the new GOP programs are: a plan to deal with all aspects of the individual's health problems, not just a national health insurance provision; an extension of the Appalachia regional approach to provide economic help to other depressed areas of the nation; a rural housing program; a re-allocation of federal dollars to any area that takes into account the needs of all Americans; a workable welfare reform such as the Family Assistance Plan; and ways to reverse the economy from near-recession to prosperity.

But we must remember that the Democrats will feel that they cannot afford to make it possible for the Republicans to claim all the credit for success in these national programs. Herein lie the roots of much of the power struggle that is ahead the next two years.

Not the least of the problems to be handled by the White House and Capitol Hill will be the solution to the problems of a polluted environment, which to many people is the nation's number one problem at present.

A procedural matter that is not understood by many people is of interest as we look at a new Congress. The new Congress is both a continuation of the old, and it is also a new entity of its own. For instance, every bill that is not acted upon by a Congress automatically dies at the end of the second session. Every proposal must be re-introduced as a new bill when a new Congress is convened.

On the other hand, many ideas are introduced in Congress in the form of bills with the knowledge that they have no chance of passage. But this procedure puts the ideas into the public arena, and when a new Congress convenes they are reintroduced and a full blown effort is made for their enactment. The newly proposed national health insurance program is an example of this procedure.

## AJC Estimates Junior College '70 Enrollment

The American Association of Junior Colleges has estimated community junior college enrollment last fall at nearly 2,400,000, compared to 2,180,000 in fall 1969. The association said the opening of 35 new colleges contributed to the increase. Enrollment at 240 independent, privately funded junior colleges was estimated at 130,000, the same as last year. California's 93 public community colleges enrolled 800,000 students, a nine percent increase, to lead state enrollments.

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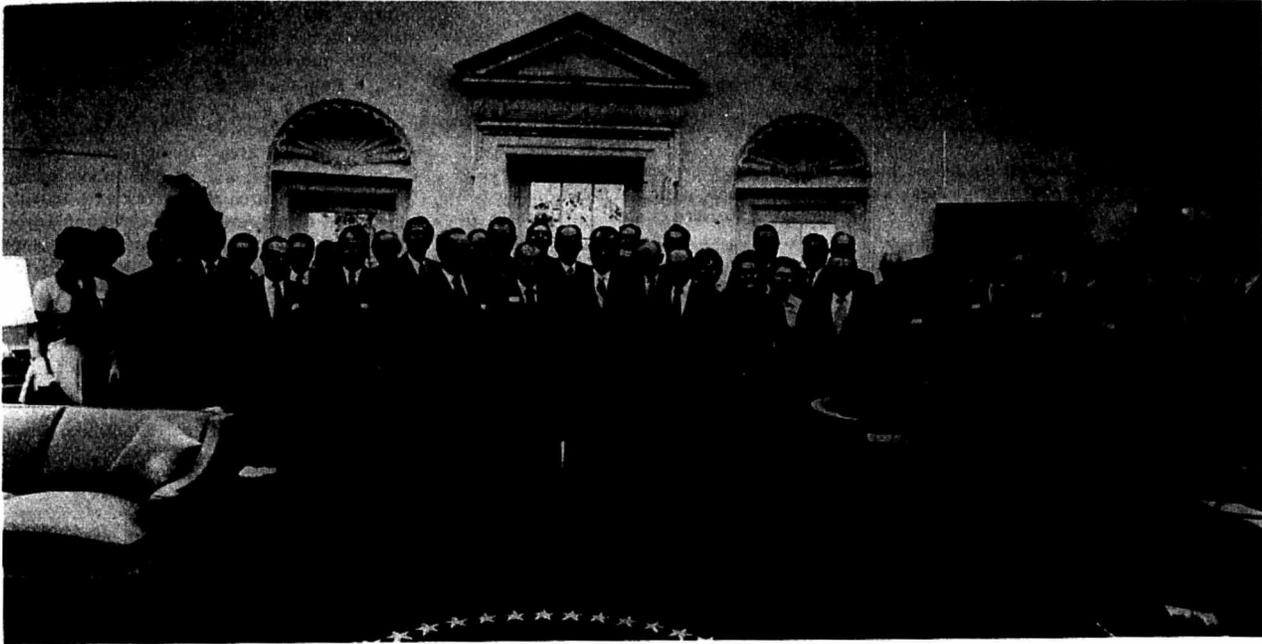
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## President Sees Baptists, Defends American System

President Richard Nixon received 41 leaders of the North American Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance for a 30 minute meeting in his White House office here in mid-December, 1970.

In extemporaneous remarks to the Baptists the President declared that moral and spiritual strength are more important to America than are wealth and military might.

Other great powers have risen and are now gone, the President said, because they lost their moral and spiritual strength. For this reason, he continued, your function as religious leaders is "one maybe even more important than mine."

Discussing the responsibility of America as a world power, Nixon said that the nation had arrived at such a position "almost by accident." Americans, he said, "have not liked the idea of world power," but the nation has arisen to its position for peace-keeping purposes.

The President disavowed before the Baptist leaders that the United States has any desire to conquer or dominate. "But we do have the desire that all nations grow up in peace, choose their own government, religion and way of life," he said.

The President hit at youth movements designed to overthrow the American system. He agreed with the youth who dislike war, but he then defended the system that has enabled America to render aid to underprivileged nations, even former enemies.

He pointed out that it has been with American aid that Japan and Germany have risen from defeated nations to the third and fourth most powerful nations in the world today. The President also pointed out help that his Administration had given to Romania, Peru, and now Pakistan.

"The fact that America can do this is significant," the President continued. "Everyone should feel compassion, but we are able to do these things because of our system."

Rather than overthrow the American system, the President declared, "let's clean up what is wrong and back up what is right."

Just before meeting with the President the Baptist leaders were given a VIP hour-long tour of the White House with a special guide.

The meeting with President Nixon was arranged through the efforts of Robert S. Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

The Baptist leaders were in the nation's capital for meetings of the youth, relief and administrative committees of the Baptist World Alliance, and for a meeting of the central committee of the North American Baptist Fellowship.

V. Carney Hargroves of Philadelphia is president of the Baptist World Alliance and Duke K. McCall of Louisville is the outgoing chairman of the North American Baptist Fellowship.

## Congress Acts To Speed Up Church War Claims Payments

The U.S. Congress completed action late in 1970 on a long-delayed bill to give equal treatment to nonprofit charitable and religious organizations in the payment of war damages claimed after World War II.

Two Baptist denominations, the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society are among 33 nonprofit groups due to receive full payment for their claims.

Under the terms of the bill, nonprofit organizations "operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare, religious, charitable or education purposes" will receive the same priority of payment as small business concerns. Partial payment of about \$15 million has been made to the groups. The present action amends the War Claims Act of 1948 to put the nonprofit groups in a priority category to receive full payments as funds are available in the War Claims Fund.

The bill passed the House in 1969, but action in the Senate took place early in December of this year.

The total amount on unpaid claims of these nonprofit groups comes to \$9.2 million. The war damage claims of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society totalled \$813,000. According to a spokesman for that group, the society is due to receive, upon final action of the bill, up to \$310,000. The Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society will receive about \$20 thousand.



Selected quotes gleaned from recent books, publications and material coming to the reference library of the Baptist Joint Committee chosen by Altes Moody, Administrative Assistant. You may wish to read the text of materials quoted. References are complete for each item.

Delegates from various religious and national backgrounds met at Kyoto, Japan, October 16-22, 1970, for the first World Conference on Religion and Peace. Here are some excerpts from the conference message:

"1. The World Conference on Religion and Peace represents an historic attempt to bring together men and women of all major religions to discuss the urgent issue of peace."

"3. Our deep conviction that the religions of the world have a real and important service to render the cause of peace has brought us to Kyoto from the four corners of the earth. Bahai, Buddhist, Confucian, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jew, Muslim, Shintoist, Sikh, Zoroastrian, and others—we have come together in peace out of a common concern for peace.

"4. As we sat down together facing the overriding issues of peace we discovered that the things which unite us are more important than the things which divide us.

"5. We found that we share

—a conviction of the fundamental unity of the human family, and the equality, and dignity of all human beings;

—a sense of the sacredness of the individual person and his conscience;

—a sense of the value of human community;

—a realization that might is not right; that human power is not self-sufficient and absolute;

—a belief that love, compassion, selflessness, and the force of inner truthfulness and of the spirit have ultimately greater power than hate, enmity, and self-interest;

—a sense of obligation to stand on the side of the poor and the oppressed as they seek their rights;

—a profound hope that good will finally prevail."

"7. As men and women of religion, we confess in humility and penitence that we have very often betrayed our religious ideals and our commitment to peace. It is not religion that has failed the cause of peace, but religious people. This betrayal of religion can and must be corrected."

"12. While we of this Conference speak for ourselves as persons brought together from many religions by our deep concern for peace, we try also to speak for the vast majority of the human family who are powerless and whose voice is seldom heard —the poor, the exploited, the refugees, and all who are homeless and whose lives, fields, and freedoms have been devastated by wars."

*Engage*, issued by the Board of Christian Social Concerns of the United Methodist Church, Vol. 3, No. 7, December 1-15, 1970, pp. 18-19.

## Conference on Children Asks For New National Priorities

(Continued from Page 2)

helping parents gain a greater understanding of children, including their own."

Mrs. Rutledge, a former professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said she was especially encouraged by the emphasis at the conference on the earliest years of children, which are the "most critical ones for a child trying to establish his identity." Mrs. Rutledge was one of the 16 forum members preparing study papers on "The Emergence of Identity."

The recommendation receiving the most votes for highest priority asks the nation to "provide opportunities for every child to learn, grow, and live creatively by reordering national priorities."

"The creative child whom we wish to

nurture is curious, wonders and questions; seeks new experiences; is open to the world; independent and free from social and group pressures to conform at the cost of individuality; willing to risk error; play with ideas and experiment; willing to change and live with change;" read the preamble to the recommendation chosen by the delegates to be first.

"Such a child is in the heart of every child, the recommendation continued, "but presently our schools and communities are not providing the atmosphere and resources for the development of such creative persons."

Included in the number one recommendation was the call for the nation to foster

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in each community the development "of total educational programs available to every child through a more diverse and flexible educational system."

The top recommendation, worded by the forum on "Creativity and the Learning Process," urged more creative approaches to learning, a stress on early childhood education, the expansion of cultural and creative learning centers, and the integration of aesthetic education in every school, institution and agency which serves children.

Running a close second in the balloting was another recommendation on education. This one called for a redesigning of education "to achieve individualized, humanized, child centered learning."

"An overriding goal of redesign should be development of an educational system responding to the needs of individual learners through personalized evaluation, individualized learning, and the thorough preparation of all persons involved in their education," the second top recommendation read.

The 1970 White House Conference on Children in December dealt only with problems of children under 14. Another part of the conference, relating to youth 14 and over, is scheduled for the spring of 1971 and will be held in Estes Park, Colorado.

COVER PICTURE—Cool, crisp January nights and the lights of the U. S. Capitol Building making a scene that dominates the surrounding view . . . even as all that transpires there day by day dominates the life of the capital city itself.