Report from the Capital

APRIL
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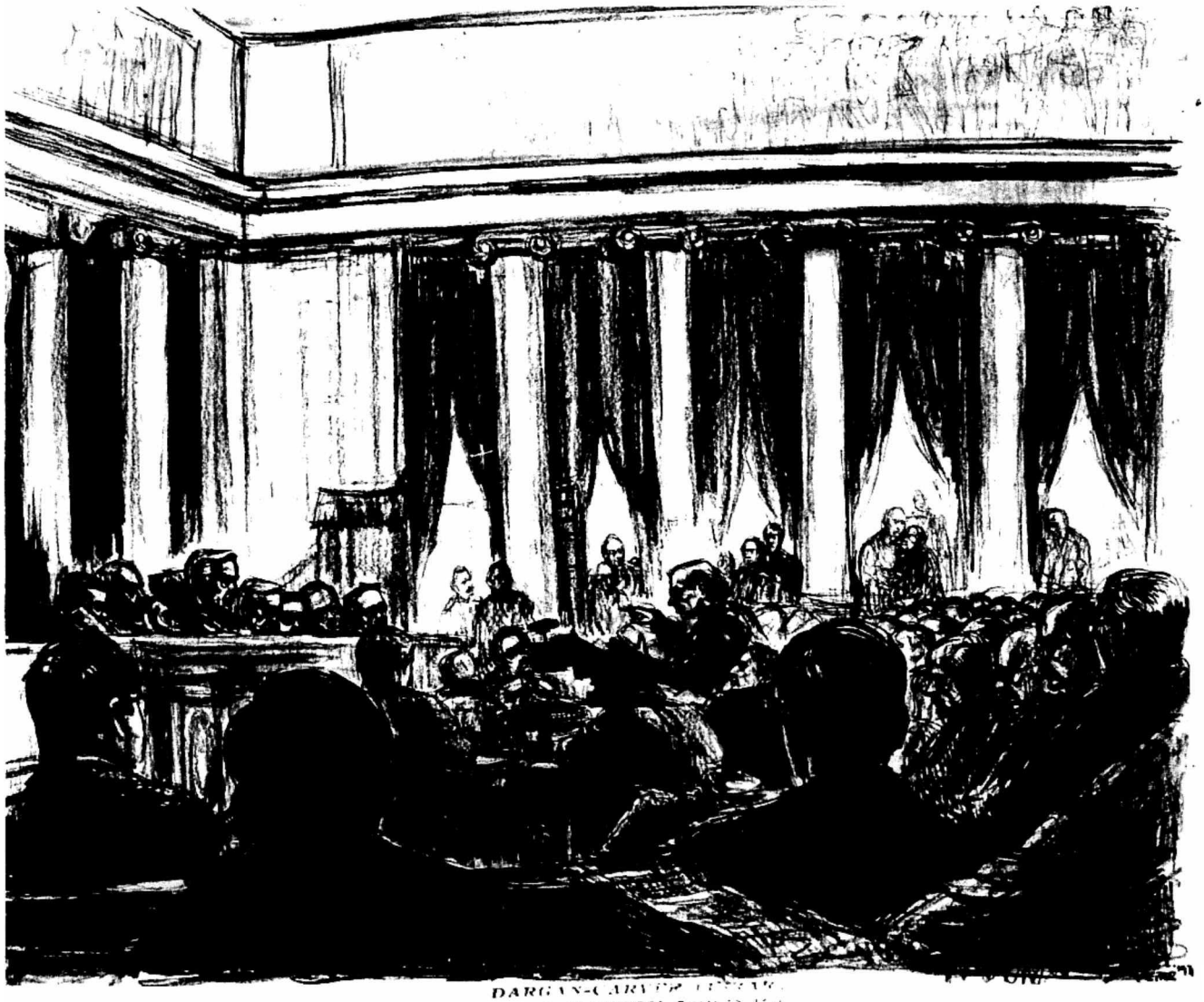

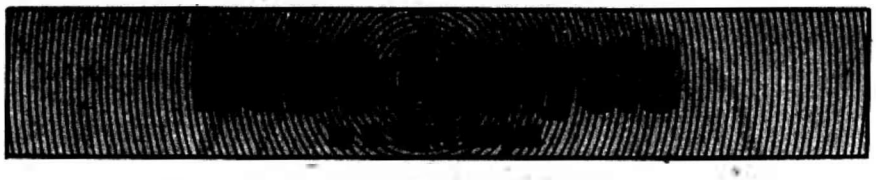

BAPTIST INSIGHTS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Too often churchmen pose as experts in constitutional law in their opposition to the use of public funds for the support of church schools. While constitutional reasons and litigation in the courts are proper in settling disputes when the situation demands it, these are not the bases or rationale that represent the Christian movement.

It has been the traditional Baptist view, and we hope it will continue to be, that tax aid for religious schools is not in the best interests of either the state or of the churches.

In most of the States of the U.S.A. there are increasing pressures on the legislatures for public funds for the aid of private, nonpublic, church schools. There are many cases pending in the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, that involve the legal and constitutional issues in public funds for church schools. The legislators and the courts will give their own reasons for the positions they may take.

On the other hand, Baptists need to give answers, based on their Christian insights and their concern for the educational development of all children. In the view of this writer, Baptists should oppose the use of public tax funds for church schools for two major reasons.

First, such aid constitutes a coerced participation in religion and therefore should be forbidden by the principle of voluntarism.

Second, tax aid to church schools is poor public policy.

Let us look more closely at these two reasons.

I. Voluntarism in Religion

Historically, a major contribution of the Baptist faith to the world is the concept of a genuine religious experience as a voluntary, uncoerced, response to God. To a gratifying extent this concept has been and is being received throughout society as a basic principle of religious liberty. The American people by adding the First Amendment to the Constitution have recognized voluntarism in religion as a right not to be abridged by government.

When a government extracts money from the pocketbooks of its citizenry by its powers of taxation and then appropriates that money to support religious schools, the taxpayer is thereby coerced into a religious participation.

Therefore, legislation that provides tax funds for pupils in religious schools is an unwarranted attack by the state on the religious liberty of the people.

Let it be clear that those who hold this viewpoint do not protest the right of people to send their children to religious schools. We defend the right of people to provide for their children the schools that satisfy the demands of their own consciences. However, we believe that such religious institutions should be supported by means other than by public funds.

Public schools should be supported by all the people and their doors should be open to all pupils. Church schools are not the responsibility of the state and the taxpayers should not be coerced into religious participation by the use of public funds for religious schools.

II. Public Policy.

In addition to reasons of conscience in relation to public support of church schools, we feel that it is poor public policy to divide the state's limited resources for education between two competing systems of education—one of which is responsible to the public and the other accountable to private interests.

It has been traditional among Baptists to reinforce American democracy by supporting a strong and effective system of public education. We urge government at all levels to continue this support of education for democracy by providing quality education for every child through the publicly supported and publicly responsible public school system.

While it is true that church schools are facing financial difficulty, it is also true that all the institutions of our society face similar difficulty. We believe that a responsible public policy will develop the public school system rather than depleting the public treasury by supporting church schools.

In regard to the threat of additional burdens upon the public school system in the event that church schools close, we feel that a public policy of a free public education for all children is sound. The state should stand ready to provide quality education for democracy for all children including those in private schools, if for any reason their parents should decide to send them to public schools.

Conclusion: — For the two reasons above (voluntarism in religion and sound public policy) Baptists appeal to their representatives in government to rise above the pressures of church school interests (1) by refusing to provide public funds for church schools, and (2) by providing adequate funds for the public schools for quality education for every pupil through public programs.

Mrs. O'Hair Loses 2nd Round In Bid To Ban 'Space Religion'

For the second time in less than a year the United States Supreme Court has refused to hear a plea from Madalyn Murray O'Hair to restrain the religious practices of astronauts in space.

Mrs. O'Hair, an avowed atheist, contended that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was using federal funds for religious activities in the space flights. She charged the use of the funds as "unconstitutional" and that it violated her constitutional right of freedom from religion.

Specifically, Mrs. O'Hair complained of using tax monies for the "official planning, producing and staging of a religious exercise and for the transport of artifacts and broadcast of religious doctrine which is not personal or spontaneous, but calculated to promote one religion over another."

Mrs. O'Hair's second appeal was based on what she described as "failure" of the lower courts to hear her argument "without independent examination." She complained that too much attention was given to the government's position and that the lower courts "erred in their abdication of their judicial responsibility as the sole determiner of the law."

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 maintained by the American Baptist Convention, Baptist Federation of Canada, Baptist General Conference, National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Seventh Day Baptist General Conference, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Executive Staff of the Committee: C. Emanuel Carlson, executive director; John W. Baker, associate executive director and director of research; W. Barry Garrett, director of information services; and James M. Sapp, director of correlation services and editor of *Report From The Capital*.

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washington observations

news views trends

March 29, 1971

THE DRAFT EXTENSION proposed by the House Armed Services Committee (H.R. 2476) provides for a continued 4-D classification for ordained ministers but will eliminate that classification for all non-ordained seminary students.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS would be required to do three years of alternative service rather than the current two year requirement if the proposed bill becomes law.

THE GENERAL COMMISSION on Chaplains and Armed Forces Personnel called for seminarians and seminary enrollees to be subject equally with others to the risk of selection for military service in its March meeting.

THE GENERAL COMMISSION also went on record as favoring the creation of an All-Volunteer Armed Force. The Commission is an official civilian agency of 41 affiliated religious bodies. Since 1917 the agency has acted in liaison with the federal government concerning the chaplaincy of the Armed Forces and Veterans Administration and the moral and religious welfare of service personnel.

THE U.S. SUPREME COURT refused to stop the State of Connecticut from giving aid to parochial schools pending final decision in the case. The Court now has before it three cases, including the Connecticut case, challenging the use of public funds for church-related schools. Connecticut provides some $6 million for 263 nonpublic schools; 217 are Roman Catholic.

WASHINGTON OBSERVERS are divided over the interpretation of this temporary staying of an injunction against the State of Connecticut. They are speculating over the direction the Court will take in the three church-school cases now before it.

SOME OBSERVERS think that the Court may be preparing a decision in favor of tax aid to church schools. Others speculate that the Court simply did not wish to impose an unusual hardship on the schools involved by stopping programs now in effect. Others claim there is no relation between the staying of the injunction and the ultimate decision the Court will hand down.

ANOTHER CASE NOW BEFORE THE U.S. Supreme Court involving the parking lot of the Central Baptist Church, Miami, Florida, may develop into a landmark case on the issue of taxation of churches and their income producing property.

THE COURT AGREED to hear an appeal from a three-judge District Court for Southern Florida which had ruled in favor of the church. Central Baptist Church rents its parking lot six days a week and uses the income from the lot for its religious and missionary ministry.

THE FLORIDA COURT ruled that the parking lot of the church and the income derived from it is as necessary for the church's functioning as the roof over the church building itself. Both the county tax assessor and the city commissioners denied exemption for the parking lot.

SUPREME COURT HEARS CASES ON AID TO CHURCH SCHOOLS

Government, ranging from local school boards through state departments of education to the U.S. Department of Justice, urged the Supreme Court of the United States to uphold the constitutionality of public tax aid to parochial and private schools.

The argument before the nation's highest court took place March 2 and 3 in cases that had been appealed from Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Challenging state and federal laws were groups of taxpayers, who were represented by various civil liberties organizations. In general the charge was that tax aid to religious schools violates both the "establishment clause" and the "free exercise" clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The portion of the First Amendment that is involved reads: "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

In brief, the three cases considered seriatim by the Supreme Court are:

Connecticut—Fifteen taxpayers of the state challenged that portion of the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 which provides funds for construction grants to colleges, including sectarian schools. (Tilton v. Richardson)

Specifically, the Connecticut case challenged the constitutionality of federal grants to four Roman Catholic colleges for the erection of two libraries, a fine arts building, a science building and a modern language laboratory.

On March 19, 1970 a three-judge District Court dismissed the suit, thereby ruling in favor of the colleges. This ruling was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pennsylvania—A group of taxpayers and a combination of educational, civil liberties and civil rights organizations challenged the Pennsylvania Nonpublic Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1968. (Lemon, et al. v. Kurtzman, et al.)

This law empowers the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract for purchase of "secular educational services" from nonprofit schools which fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of the state law.

The law further authorized the state to reimburse private schools the cost of teachers salaries, textbooks and teaching materials in the field of mathematics, modern foreign languages, physical sciences and physical education for the preceding year.

Funds for this program originally were derived from a tax on flat and harness horse racing and not from funds normally used for public schools. A subsequent change shifted the source of tax revenue for parochial schools from horse racing to a cigarette tax.

A three-judge federal court ruled in a 2-1 decision that the Pennsylvania law is constitutional. This decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rhode Island—The law involved here is "An Act Providing Salary Supplements to Nonpublic School Teachers," which became effective July 1, 1969. (DiCenso v. Robinson)

Under the Rhode Island Supplemental Salary Act the state appropriates state funds for payment of a 15 per cent supplement to the salaries of eligible teachers in nonpublic elementary schools, the majority of which are Roman Catholic parochial schools.

In order to qualify for the supplemental salary the parochial school teacher must teach only those subjects required by state law or which are taught in public schools; the teachers must be certified by the State Department of Education; their salaries must meet the minimum salary requirements for public school teachers; the teaching materials are only those used in public schools; and the teacher must not teach a course in religion while receiving a salary supplement from the state.

On June 15, 1970 a three-judge District Court in Rhode Island ruled unanimously that the Supplemental Salary Act violated the U.S. Constitution. The court ordered a discontinuation of the supplemental teachers salaries.

On June 27, 1970 Justice Brennan of the U.S. Supreme Court granted a stay of the lower court's order until the Supreme Court could consider and decide the case.

Rulings in the above cases are expected sometime between now and the end of the current session of the Supreme Court, which will come near the end of May or in June.

There is no way for observers of the Supreme Court to predict how it will rule in these three cases. All parties concerned, however, agree that regardless of the decisions the results will have a profound effect, both on elementary and secondary and higher private education in the United States.

BILL DYAL TO DIRECT NEW INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE

William M. Dyal, Jr., a former staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, took the oath of office here as the first executive director of the newly-established Inter-American Social Development Institute (ISDI).

Dyal, 42, was sworn in at ceremones in the historic Indian Treaty Room in the Executive Office Building, next door to the White House. He began his duties with the new Institute March 15.

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Dyal served for seven years with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in several Latin American countries. For two years he was director of orientation and training for all overseas personnel for the board.

Since 1967 Dyal has been an executive with the Peace Corps. For two years he directed the Peace Corps program in Colombia, South America, with a staff of 40

(Continued on page 8)

WILLIAM M. DYAL, JR., with his wife Edie holding the Bible, took the oath of office as the first executive director of the Inter-American Social Development Institute here in the Executive Office Building. Board Chairman Augustine Hart, Jr. administered the oath.

NEW HUD OFFICIAL IS FORMER EXECUTIVE

Theodore R. Britton, Jr., President of the American Baptist Management Corporation of New York, N.Y., has been appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Britton, 45, recently served as the principal executive officer of the New York organization which serves as advisor and manager of more than 20 non-profit sponsored housing developments, as well as hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes, and other social programs. He is also nationally known as a housing management consultant and lecturer.

Harold B. Finger, HUD Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, announcing Mr. Britton's appointment, said, "I believe Mr. Britton will bring to this Department experience in housing, and innovative approaches to the handling of housing development that are essential to the development and demonstration of advanced methods. He will be a full Deputy covering all areas of our research work."

Mr. Finger disclosed that Mr. Britton has already been involved in an advisory capacity in Operation BREAKTHROUGH, a major HUD Research and Demonstration program to improve the Nation's entire process of planning, producing, and managing housing in volume. The new Deputy served on an Ad Hoc Committee on Marketability to evaluate proposals for Operation BREAKTHROUGH housing. Later he served on another Ad Hoc group evaluating prototype site plans.

Mr. Britton was born in North Augusta, S.C., but has lived most of his life in New York, where he attended public schools. He graduated from New York University, School of Commerce, in 1952, with a B.S. Degree in Banking and Finance. He also attended the College of the City of New York, and NYU Graduate School of Business.

THEODORE R. BRITTON, JR., former President of the American Baptist Management Corporation, now serves as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington.

Working in the Savings and Loan field, he earned, in three years, the Achievement Award, the Standard, and Graduate Diplomas of the American Savings and Loan Institute (an achievement normally requiring 10 years).

His affiliations include membership in the Real Estate Board of the Bronx; the New York State and National Associations of Real Estate Boards; The Greater Harlem Real Estate Board of which he is a past President; the National Association of Real Estate Brokers in which he is currently assistant Treasurer; member of the Board of Trustees of The Columbia Interfaith Housing Corporation (Maryland); Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New York City Urban Renewal Management Corporation; the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO); and the New York Urban Coalition, Housing Task Force; the International Federation for Housing and Planning.

Mr. Britton began his employment in 1946 at the Veterans Administration. In 1947 he joined the staff of the New York City Mission Society, serving in various business and administrative capacities in its Harlem Branch. In 1955, he became an accountant with the Carver Federal Savings and Loan Association. He later held the positions of Assistant Mortgage Officer and Mortgage Officer. When the American Baptist Management Corporation was formed in 1966 to administer nine multi-family housing projects, Mr. Britton became its president. The Corporation now manages twenty-three projects, from New York to California.

He was in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1944 to 1946 and from 1948 to 1951, and served on active duty for approximately three years in World War II and the Korean conflict.

He is married to the former Ruth B. A. Baker of Belton, Texas. They have five children: Theodore III, 18; Renee, 16; Warren, 15; Sharon, 13; and Darwin 8.

Supreme Court Denies CO Status in Specific Wars

The United States Supreme Court here denied that conscientious objection to participation in a particular war is required by the First Amendment to the Constitution or by the provisions of the Military Selective Service Act of 1967.

The Court's decision came as a result of an appeal by two conscientious objectors to particular wars (specifically the Vietnam war) but who are not objectors to all wars.

Guy Porter Gillette, a professed humanist, earlier had been convicted for wilful failure to report for induction into the armed forces.

Gillette had stated his willingness to participate in a war of national defense or a war sponsored by the United Nations as a peace-keeping measure. He declared, however, his opposition to American military operations in Vietnam, which he characterized as "unjust."

Louis A. Negre, a devout Roman Catholic, after induction into the Army, completion of basic training, and receipt of orders for Vietnam duty sought discharge as a conscientious objector to war. He did not claim objection to all wars.

There was no question in the opinion of the Court concerning the sincerity or religious quality of the views of either of these men.

In its decision the Court upheld the validity of the provision for conscientious objection to all war as set forth in the Selective Service Act, but it did not extend this right to objection to particular wars.

In addition, the Court held that the Selective Service Act does not violate either the "Establishment Clause" or the "Free Exercise Clause' of the First Amendment.

These two provisions of the First Amendment provide, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The section of the Selective Service Act that was under consideration by the Court provides that no person shall be subject to "service in the armed forces of the United States who, by reason of religious training and belief, is conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form."

The Selective Service Act also provides civilian duty for those who claim conscientious objection to participation in war. Specifically, the provision reads as follows:

> "Any person claiming exemption from combatant training and service because of such conscientious objections whose claim is sustained by the local board shall, if he is inducted into the armed forces . . ., be assigned to noncombatant service as defined by the President, or shall if he is found to be conscientiously opposed to participation in such noncombatant service, in lieu of such induction, be ordered . . . to perform . . . civilian work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest"

The Court decision was on an 8-1 vote, with Justice William O. Douglas dissenting.

A Constitutional Convention—
The Dangerous Lack of Procedures

By Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

The present effort in the State legislatures to petition Congress for a convention to propose a constitutional amendment dealing with revenue-sharing has given new importance to several constitutional questions that were raised four years ago when the Nation realized that 32 states—just two short of the number required under Article V of the Constitution—had petitioned for a convention to change the Supreme Court's one-man, one-vote ruling.

Although the 32 petitions actually were the result of a long campaign by several organizations, the almost sudden realization that the country was close to the first constitutional convention since 1787 was greeted with shock and the prediction that we faced the greatest constitutional crisis since the Civil War.

Anguished voices were heard suggesting that the proposed convention would be a constitutional nightmare, that a run-away convention could abolish the Bill of Rights, repeal the income tax, provide for an elected Supreme Court, and that other dire consequences were in store for the nation if a convention were held.

These reactions were the product partly of surprise and partly of opposition to the substantive changes sought by the State petitions. Nonetheless, it was generally recognized that virtually no precedent exists to guide the States and Congress in answering the complex and sensitive questions involved in implementing this Article V method of amending the Constitution.

While I am admittedly a partisan and have strong ideas on the substantive issues involved—such as state legislative apportionment and the freedom of religion—I do not think that those issues should be allowed to distort an attempt to clarify the amendment process, which in the long run must command a higher obligation and duty than any single issue might be subject to the process.

My conviction is that the constitutional questions involved were far more important than the reapportionment issue that brought them to light in the first place.

The need for answering these questions is even more pressing today, I feel, for there is a new issue on the scene which has raised the specter of a constitutional convention. That issue is revenue-sharing between the Federal government and the States.

At this writing, a total of ten States have petitioned Congress to call a convention, in accordance with Article V, to propose an amendment dealing with revenue-sharing. The great interest that this subject has generated makes it entirely probable that the requisite number of 34 States will petition for a convention.

Today, as before, there are no rules on how such a convention should be called, how it should operate, how it should be controlled, how it should be financed, how its delegates and officers should be selected, and myriad other unanswered questions.

Nor are there rules on how long a State's petition remains valid, or whether a State can rescind its petition once submitted to the Congress.

Most important, there is no law on the books which would confine a convention to one or more specific amendments. Perhaps it is not the best of analogies, but the resolution which called the original Constitutional Convention in 1787 provided merely that the delegates were to meet "for the sole purpose of revising the Articles of Confederation . . ."

It is true that today the circumstances are quite different, that our Constitution sets out methods of amending our basic form of government, whereas the Articles of Confederation did not.

Nevertheless, no one can assume that the delegates to such a constitutional convention, once seated and in action, would not try their hand at improving parts of this delicately balanced document. It is conceivable that freedom of religion, freedom of speech and assembly, the right to be secure in our homes and many other fundamental rights and privileges that are so much a part of our tradition would be sacrificed or seriously imperiled.

Indeed, the Constitution itself might emerge as a completely different document from the finely-structured work of the Founding Fathers with which we are familiar. This threat—no matter how remote it may seem to some—must not be ignored.

To help clear up these grave constitutional questions, I introduced the Federal Constitutional Convention Act in 1967, and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, of which I am chairman, held hearings on the bill that same year.

The legislation was approved by the Subcommittee, but it has never received favorable consideration from the full Senate Committee on the Judiciary, which would be necessary for it to reach the Senate floor for action by the entire body.

I have reintroduced the Constitutional Convention Procedures Act, in the 92nd Congress. It is virtually identical to the earlier bills, and bears the number S. 215.

The major sections of S. 215 provide that a State legislature would adopt or rescind a petition by the rules of procedure governing enactment of a statute by that legislature, but without the need for approval of the State's Governor. The petition would state the nature of the amendment or amendments to be proposed. The State would submit copies of the petition to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who would report to their respective Houses the nature of the petition and provide each Member of Congress with a copy of the petition, and who would also report the number of States which had called for a convention to propose an amendment on that same subject. Such petition would remain in effect for seven calendar years unless rescinded by the State legislature or unless two-thirds of the States call for a constitutional convention on the same subject.

S. 215 also provides that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives would maintain a record of all petitions received by Congress and report to their respective Houses when two-thirds of the States call for a convention on the same subject. If that should happen, it would be the duty of each House to agree to a concurrent resolution calling for the convening of a Federal constitutional convention upon that subject or subjects, setting out the time and place of the meeting and the nature of the amendment or amendments for consideration of the convention. The convention would be convened within one year after adoption of the resolution by both Houses of Congress.

The bill also contains provisions dealing with the qualifications of delegates, procedures for organizing the convention, authorization for appropriations for the expenses of the convention, and procedures for ratification of proposed amendments by the States in accordance with Article V of the Constitution.

To my mind, it is essential that these provisions be written into law before the States, in their desire to share the Federal revenues, bring about a chaotic condition by forcing the Congress to call a constitutional convention.

The language of Article V, after all, says that Congress "shall call" a convention when two-thirds of the States petition for a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution.

The gravity of this potential situation should not be underestimated, for it poses a real threat to our written Constitution, and conceivably to our national harmony as well.

SAM J. ERVIN, JR., the senior senator from North Carolina is the second ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee and Chairman of its Subcommittees on Constitutional Rights, Revision and Codification of the Laws, and Separation of Powers. He is described by many Washington observers as the most serious student of Constitutional law in the present Congress.

Baptist Joint Committee Eyes IRS Church Probes

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs took action on two matters of concern to churches and maintaining religious liberty during its semi-annual meeting here in March.

In the first one, authority was given to John W. Baker, acting executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, to represent the Committee at any hearings the Internal Revenue Service may call concerning federal guidelines on IRS examination of church books.

In the second one, the Committee expressed its approval of the "spirit" of a bill before Congress on certain procedures to be followed in calling for a Constitutional Convention.

In taking such action, the Baptist Joint Committee did not speak for the nine Baptist denominations that make up the Committee. Instead, the Committee, composed of convention executives and several lay persons, spoke only for itself.

In December the federal government released proposed regulations concerning limiting IRS examination of the taxable unrelated business income of churches. The regulations are proposed to carry out the new tax reform bill signed into law by President Nixon.

The proposed guidelines, published in the Federal Register, provide for no examination of the books of churches, conventions or associations of churches 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 (in unrelated trade or business) and so notifies the organization in advance of the examination."

Even so, the proposed regulations say that no examination 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 . . . shall be made other than the the extent necessary to determine the amount of tax imposed" on the unrelated business income.

Some denominational executives representing Protestant, Jewish and the Catholic faith, see the proposed regulations as "an open invitation to harassment" if the governments wants this. Their concern has been communicated to a top official of the Treasury Department who said the proposed guidelines will not go into effect without a public hearing.

In the other action the Baptist Joint Committee echoed its concern about the numerous calls from state legislatures and some national figures for a Constitutional Convention to rewrite certain parts of the Constitution or to add amendments. Many religious leaders, civil libertarians and constitutional lawyers see the possibility of an "open" Constitutional Convention putting "up for grabs" some of the basic freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

The Baptist Joint Committee action did not oppose the idea of calling for a Constitutional Convention. But, the Committee did endorse the idea of requiring that the purpose of calls for a Constitutional Convention be determined in advance.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D., N.C.) is sponsoring a bill in the Senate to define the procedures for calling a Constitutional Convention and to limit the number of issues to come before such a convention. The Joint Committee action approved the "spirit" of Sen. Ervin's bill.

Although the present Constitution allows the calling of a convention to consider amendments to it, many spokesmen here fear that the entire Constitution could be "junked" by certain interest groups if they were in control of such a convention.

Carlson Honored on Retirement From Baptist Joint Committee

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs during its semi-annual meeting here honored C. Emanuel Carlson on the occasion of his retirement after 17 years as executive director of the Public Affairs agency. Carlson's retirement began April 1.

A successor to Carlson has not been named. Until one is chosen, John W. Baker, associate executive director, will continue to serve as acting director. Other executive staff members of the public affairs office are W. Barry Garrett, director of Information Services, and James M. Sapp, director of Correlation Services and editor of Report From The Capital.

Carlson, a native of Canada where he was born to Swedish immigrant parents, came to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in January 1954 from Bethel College, St. Paul, Minn. For a number of years he had taught at the four-year liberal arts college and was Dean of the school when he was chosen to succeed J. M. Dawson as head of the Public Affairs agency.

Porter W. Routh, secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the Public Affairs Committee, represented Southern Baptists at the banquet honoring Carlson. Routh presented Carlson with a distinguished service plaque and a copy of a resolution adopted by the executive committee at its September 1970 meeting.

The resolution from the SBC executive committee praised Carlson for his "sterling quality of Christian statesmanship.

"His scholarship and skill have opened the way for enlightenment and new understanding in the complex area of church-state relations," the resolution continued. "His leadership and diplomacy have been major factors in maintaining a high level of prestige for the Baptist witness in this field," declared the executive committee in its resolution.

Praise for Carlson's work in church-state relations came alsb from a spokesman from the Lutheran Council in the USA. Robert E. Van Deusen, representing other denominational groups involved in public affairs here in the Nation's Capital, paid tribute to Carlson's effectiveness in getting other denominations with similar goals to work together. Van Deusen is the director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Lutheran Council, an agency similar to the Baptist Joint Committee.

In addition to tributes from the staff and the Committee, and the presentation of a gift of appreciation, the March 1971 issue of Report From The Capital was dedicated to Carlson. In it Editor James M. Sapp, described Carlson as "a superb Baptist statesman."

In a profile of the retiring Baptist executive, Sapp said in Report From The Capital that "Baptist denominational leaders would agree almost to a man" that Carlson has helped, as much as any among them, "to focus in on the Biblical basis of Baptist concern for religious liberty, the meaning of Baptist insights for public policies today and the analysis of Baptist institutional policies in the light of theological premises."

ABC To Consider Resolution On National Health Insurance In May

The American Baptist Convention in their annual session in Minneapolis, May 12-16, 1971 will consider a resolution on National Health Insurance. The text of the resolution follows:

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

The Declaration of Independence speaks of the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right to life has been held sacred throughout the history of the American republic, yet, during the past two decades, the United States, in comparison with other countries, has slipped considerably down the scale in the prevention of infant mortality and in male and female life expectancy. This trend has developed as the United States spends more of its gross national product for medical care than any other country on the face of the earth.

Almost every family knows the burden of worry, frustration, and disappointment, that mark our search for better health care. The average American lives in dread of illness and disability. He lives with uncertainty of not knowing whether to seek medical care, or when to seek it, or how to obtain it. Above all, he lives in fear of the cost of adequate health care.

We urge the President, the Congress, and the American people to act immediately to alleviate the crisis in our medical system. Such action would seem necessary to restore the right of life and health for all Americans, regardless of location or economic status. If we are to avoid the collapse of our health services, and the disastrous consequences that would ensue for tens of millions of our people, we must take action.

Any relevant change in the health care system must deal with three basic problems.

1) The national shortage of health manpower and institutions. We must train more doctors, more nurses, more paramedics, and establish new kinds of health care institutions in all communities—innercity and rural.

2) Serious inadequacies in the organization and delivery of health care. Preventive medicine, a healthful environment, comprehensive prepaid group practice, rational planning of health facilities, and community mental health services are some of the suggestions for change.

3) Rising costs which price medical care beyond the reach of most Americans. In 1968, insurance benefit payments met only one-third of the private cost of health care. In 1968, of the 180 million Americans under 65, 20 percent had no hospital insurance; 22 percent no surgical insurance; 50 percent no outpatient x-ray and laboratory insurance; 57 percent no insurance for doctor visits; 61 percent no insurance for prescription drugs; 97 percent no dental care insurance. Yet, the cost of medical care has led the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the past several years.

In furtherance of our commitment to insure the right to life, we call upon the churches and agencies of our Convention to:

a) Become actively involved in the national discussion leading to change in the organization, financing, and delivery of health care for all Americans.

b) Study alternate models of health care, such as the system of West Germany, Great Britain, and Scandinavia.

c) Urge the Congress to act immediately on the development of a program of change in our health care system which begins to affect the organization, manpower, delivery, and financing of adequate medical care.

d) Work for a healthy life for all including an improved environment, better preventive medicine, adequate mental health service, and a total reorientation of the United States system of health services.

Bill Dyal . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Americans and Colombians, and a peak volunteer force of 800. In September 1969 he was named Peace Corps regional director for North Africa, Near East and South Asia. In this capacity he directed the work of 1500 volunteers in ten countries.

The Inter-American Social Development Institute which Dyal now heads was created by Congress as a part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969 to work with private, regional and international organizations to support Latin American social and civic development.

The seven board members, called for in the legislation, were appointed by President Nixon with the advice and consent of the Senate, in October 1970. Dyal's appointment did not come from the President. He was selected by the board of directors and officially named Executive Director in February of this year at the board meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

ISDI, according to congressional intent, will place primary emphasis on research and experimentation in education, agriculture, health, housing and various social needs of Latin Americans. Congress authorized $50 million of foreign aid funds for the institute.

When Mr. Nixon announced the board appointments he said the institute was formed "to strengthen the bonds of friendship between peoples of this hemisphere and to support self help efforts . . . to enlarge the opportunities for individual development. . . ."

ISDI Board Chairman, Augustine Hart, Jr., Executive Vice President of Quaker Oats Company of Chicago, officiated at the swearing-in ceremony. Hart described the institute as a "new bridge between north and south.

"It is a new and ideally innovative channel for those Latin American and Carribbean institutions and people seeking to perfect new models of change as the basis for economic and cultural problems," Hart stated.

The appointment of Dyal as executive director was described as "a natural" for such an organization by chairman Hart. "He is a man whose energies have been devoted to social change, and who is an enthusiastic and empathetic friend of Latin America."

COVER PICTURE

LEO PFEFFER, counsel for taxpayers challenging constitutionality of U.S. government aid to church-related colleges, presents arguments before the Supreme Court on Tilton v. Richardson (Connecticut).

ARGUMENTS were also heard on Lemon v. Kurtzman (Pennsylvania) and DiCenso v. Robinson (Rhode Island) during the presentments on the three court cases which the High Court combined into a single case hearing in March. Story on page 4.

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