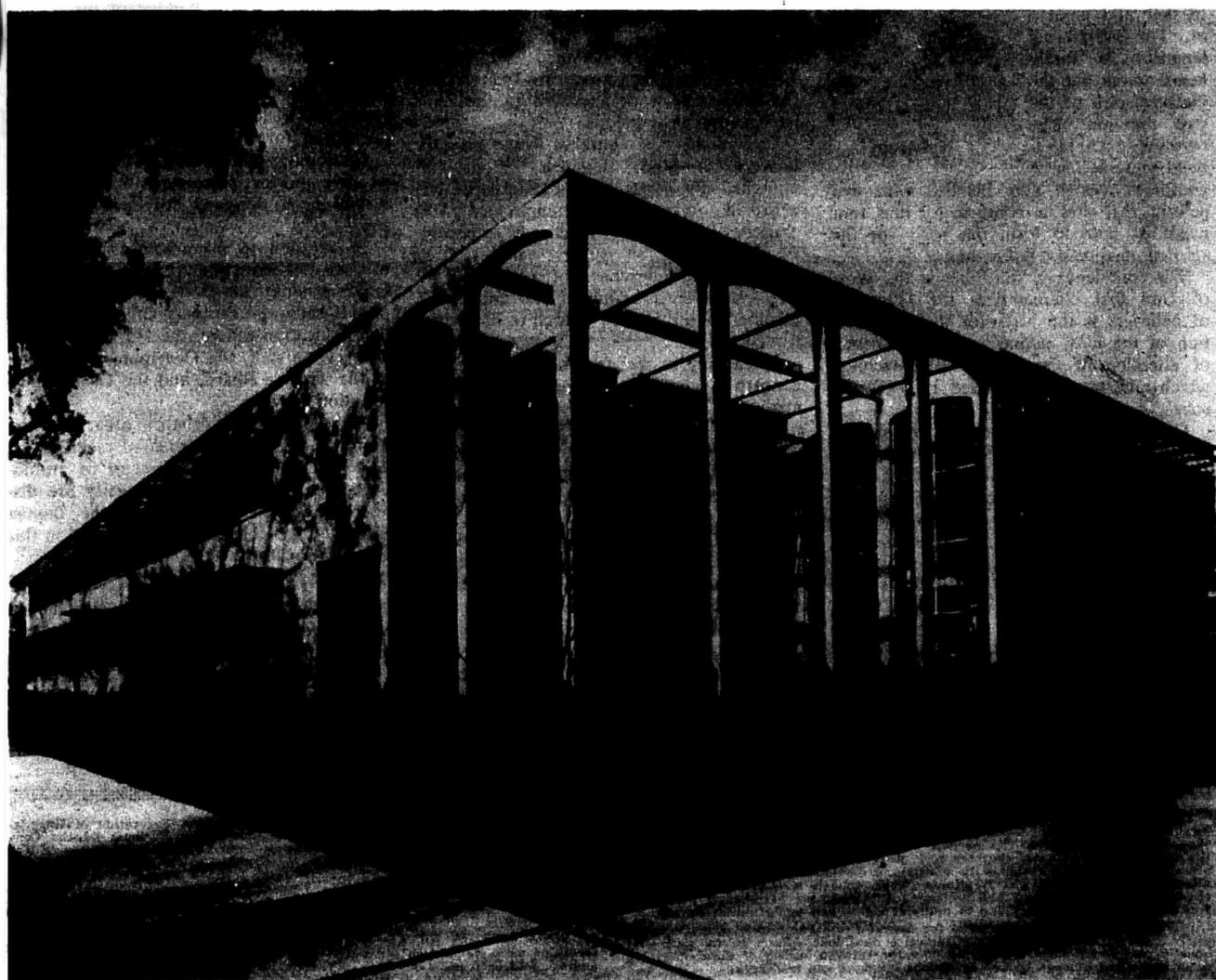


Report from the Capital

FEBRUARY
1972



DARGAN-CARYER BUILDERS
S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Let's Get Acquainted

Baptist General Conference Grows From Swedish Baptist Emigrants

By Robert E. Norstrom

The Baptist General Conference, though small when set alongside the larger Baptist groups, is a vital and meaningful relationship of witness, fellowship and service for 108,000 people in 700 churches across the United States and Canada.

It started in 1852 when Rock Island, Illinois, was a young prairie town. Three newcomers from Sweden organized a church there under the leadership of Gustaf Palmquist, a teacher and preacher. The Swedish language is rarely heard today but the pietistic spirit of the past remains. The personal commitment to Jesus Christ continues though now blended with evangelistic zeal and a concern for the total needs of man to form the basis for this spirited missionary fellowship.

The confidence in the Bible as the Word of God that characterizes the fellowship of believers is the basis for the proclamation of the local pulpits and is the center of attention in the Sunday Bible schools which minister to an enrolled 120,000 people.

On six work fields (Assam, Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan and the Philippines) 120 missionaries share the Word of God in evangelism, education, publishing and medical outreach under the direction of Franklin O. Nelson, former missionary to Burma and present foreign missions executive secretary. Five new missionaries were

Robert E. Norstrom is director of promotion for the Baptist General Conference with offices located at Evanston, Ill. He has also served as a pastor, as a chaplain in a state hospital, as a district executive in the Midwest district of the Baptist General Conference and in the office of Home Missions.



Norstrom

appointed at the December 1971 midyear meeting of the Foreign Mission Board.

Growing utilization of mass media for communicating the gospel, an expanding ministry of leadership training, the emerging of the national church as the basic force for outreach and stress on student ministries are the strategies which guide this work of world missions.

The New Testament pattern of witnessing, winning souls and organizing independent Baptist churches is the blueprint of the home missions ministry under the leadership of Gordon H. Anderson, executive secretary. The Board of Home Missions works in close cooperation with the activities of the eighteen districts which make up the fellowship.

Work in Alaska, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, among the American Indians and the inner city work also add to the ministry of home missions.

Growth by new churches is the primary concern of home missions. From 285 churches in 1945, the Conference has achieved its present strength of 700 churches by its efforts in church extension. Grants in aid for pastors' salaries, loan funds for the purchase of new property and for the construction of first units work together to aid the new church in its formative years.

Leadership in the growing area of social concern is also the responsibility of home missions. This ministry seeks to provide a service of endorsement of agencies, of interpretation of the ministry to the Conference constituency and to provide a liaison between the endorsed agencies and the churches.

Bethel College and Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Vancouver Bible Institute in Vancouver, B.C. form the educational arm of the Conference. Bethel College with its 1100 students, soon to join the seminary on the new Arden Hills campus, is a fully accredited school granting the Bachelor of Arts degree. The seminary, serving 250 students, is fully accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools and its program consists of a three-year course

Get Acquainted Series

The January issue of *Report From The Capital* carried pictures and information about the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Beginning with this issue we plan to run a series of pictures and stories about the nine denominational bodies in the United States and Canada that sponsor the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

We are happy to salute the Baptist General Conference in this issue. Warren R. Magnuson is the General Secretary of the Conference and is serving his second term as chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee. Next month we hope to present the North American Baptist General Conference.

Cover Picture

The headquarters building of the Baptist General Conference is located at 1233 Central Street, Evanston, Ill. 60201. Occupied by the Conference in November 1970, the building was built in 1965 for Calumet Hecla as a commercial building. It was purchased for \$1,300,000.

Conference officials say, "The new administrative and service center is built as though it had been designed specifically for our use."

In addition to the administrative offices of the denomination the 38,000 sq. ft. building houses the Home and Foreign Mission Boards, the Business Office, the Christian Education offices, the Harvest editorial and service staff, the Development Division of the Trustee Board, and the Central Distribution Services.

Also there is a chapel area, meeting rooms and a lounge with food facilities.

Robert E. Norstrom, director of promotion, says, "Oneness and diversity are distinctives of the ministries of the Baptist General Conference and are reflected in this new facility."

leading to the Master of Divinity degree and a two-year course leading to the Master of Christian Education degree.

Bethel's aim is to serve its constituency and the cause of Christ by preparing young people in the seminary for Christian ministry and in the college for vocations which (See, CONFERENCE, page 7)

REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL—a bulletin published 10 months during the year by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 204 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

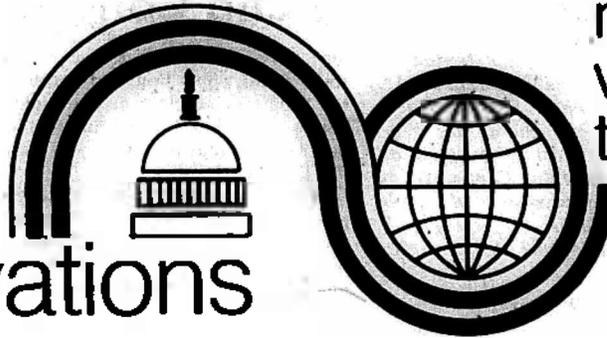
maintained by the American Baptist Convention, Baptist Federation of Canada, Baptist General Conference, National Baptist Convention, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., North American Baptist General Conference, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc., Seventh Day Baptist General Conference,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

Executive Staff of the Committee: John W. Baker, acting executive director and director of research; W. Harry Garrett, director of information services and editor of *Report From The Capital*.

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washington observations



February 1, 1972

SCHOOL FUNDING will be a major political and educational issue in 1972. Traditional methods of financing public education may be altered drastically or scrapped entirely. Public aid to private and parochial schools will also be a live issue throughout the year.

RECENT STATE COURT rulings in California and Minnesota and a federal court ruling in Texas struck down as unconstitutional the dependence of public education financing on local property taxes. These rulings may move the whole question of school funding to the U. S. Supreme Court for a national ruling.

THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON SCHOOL FINANCE is expected to make its report on or before March 2. It is rumored that the Commission will recommend a national sales tax, that the states move toward 100% support of local schools, and that it will endorse special revenue sharing along lines proposed by the Administration.

WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE to find ways to aid parochial schools, it is widely expected that his Commission on School Finance will come up with significant suggestions to the nation to achieve this end. Such recommendations will be strongly resisted by public school interests and by religious and civil liberties organizations dedicated to separation of church and state.

LATE LAST YEAR the U. S. Office of Education announced that Dwight R. Crum, Assistant Director of the Division of Vocational and Technical Education, will be a coordinator to help nonpublic school pupils obtain all federal aid services for which they are eligible.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT was made following a conference, from which the press was excluded, in Warrenton, Va., of some 120 public and nonpublic school superintendents from 44 of the nation's largest cities. The meeting was designed to explore ways of implementing President Nixon's pledge to assist nonpublic schools in obtaining all federal aid legally possible.

A NATIONWIDE SURVEY by the American Jewish Congress shows that three new states enacted laws giving substantial aid to parochial schools in 1971 -- Illinois (\$30 million), Maryland (\$12.1 million), and Minnesota (\$21 million).

EFFORTS FAILED in six states in 1971 to enact legislation for public aid to parochial schools -- California, Indiana, Kansas, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Missouri. The Maryland aid is suspended until after the results of a referendum in November are announced.

SINCE THE FIRST STATE measure to aid parochial schools was passed in 1968, the study disclosed, a total of 12 states have enacted measures providing various forms of aid to non-public schools. Only seven states have such programs now in operation, however, and all of these are being challenged in the courts.

Second Session Of 92nd Congress Faces Election Year

(Editor's note:—The second session of the 92nd Congress convened on January 18. Much unfinished business remains before adjournment toward the end of the year. Here, John W. Baker, acting executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, discusses some of the problems now before Congress. Next month, he will discuss "Politics and Religion in an Election Year.")

By John W. Baker

The Constitution provides that all members of the House of Representatives and one third of the members of the Senate be elected in even numbered years. Every fourth year we elect a President. Everyone involved with the Washington scene is painfully aware that all of the actions of the President and congressmen are colored by the fact that they will be held accountable to the voters this November.

For example, this past November 8 the House was scheduled to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment which would have authorized governmental involvement in prayers in public buildings. All congressmen were threatened with reprisal at the polls if they did not vote for the proposal. A parliamentary device was available to the opposition which would have delayed the vote until June, 1972. The opposition leadership was unanimous in rejecting the delay because they knew that the closer a congressman got to election day the more difficult it would be to persuade him to vote against this misunderstood emotional issue.

Practical politics dictates that everything the President and the congressmen do during this session of Congress will have a larger political dimension than it did last year.

Republicans see 1972 as a year in which they have an excellent opportunity to elect a majority in the House and to gain on the Democrats in the Senate. Democrats talk of expanding their majorities in both houses. Members will weigh every statement and every vote on what effect his actions will have on his reelection. Members representing marginal constituencies will probably attempt to avoid committing themselves on issues which may divide their electorate.

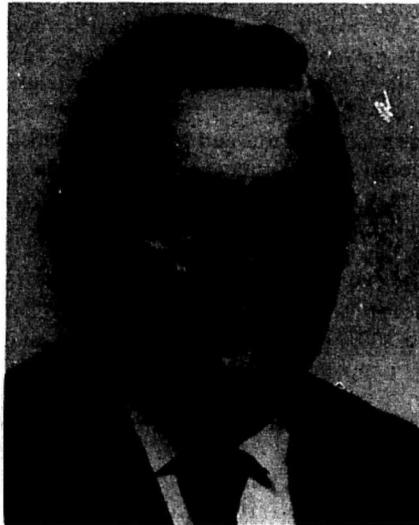
With at least seven congressmen seeking their party's nomination for President, the issues before this session take on another dimension.

There are a number of major unfinished items of business carried over from the First Session. Some of them do not have a strong church-state character unless one defines the term broadly. They all, however, illustrate issues that should be of concern to churches and church people. Among important pending legislation are the following bills:

Women's Rights (S.J. Res. 8, H.J. Res. 208). This proposed constitutional amend-

ment has passed the House and, despite some vocal opposition, will probably pass the Senate in an election year unless it becomes the vehicle for a different and less popular amendment. More will be said on this later.

Welfare Reform (H.R. 1). Many church groups have been particularly interested in the President's proposal to reorganize the welfare system. The House has passed the measure but it has been bottled up in Senator Long's Finance Committee. Some form of the House bill will be reported out in March. Many amendments will be attempted on the floor. An election year almost



John W. Baker

guarantees that some form of the bill will be enacted into law.

Water Pollution (H.R. 11896, S. 2770). This bill provides \$16.8 billion to fund construction and set standards. Churches have evidenced an increasing interest in this legislation as they have become more concerned about what we have been doing to the Lord's creation. This has passed the Senate and the House will find the proposal difficult to vote against.

Obscene Mail (H.R. 8805). The House has passed this bill to control obscene mail and salacious advertising. The senators may not get to this issue unless they are prodded by their constituents.

Equal Employment (H.R. 1746, S. 2515). Additional enforcement powers are given to the EEOC by this House passed act. The Senate can hardly ignore the issue though its passage is not necessarily certain.

Desegregation Aid (S. 1746, H.R. 7248). This bill to give financial aid to schools which are desegregating has passed both houses but must go through a conference committee and then back to the two houses for final approval.

Minister's Social Security (H.R. 11008, S. 1961). This act declares ministers to be "employees" rather than "self-employed" for purposes of Social Security. This measure is in committee in both houses and should be considered on the floor early in this session.

New legislative business, some of which has been talked about but not yet seriously considered in both houses, includes:

Prayer Amendment. Numerous proposed prayer amendments have been submitted in the Senate. Senator Baker (R.-Tenn.) has said that he will attach an amendment similar to the one defeated in the House to some other pending amendment. Hence the women's rights amendment becomes a tempting vehicle to prayer amendment supporters. This combination would be hard for a senator to vote against this year. However, it could also coalesce hardcore opponents to one or the other of the bills into an opposition strong enough to block both of them.

Revenue Sharing. Some form of revenue sharing will probably go through although Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, opposes the general concept. Political pressures will be such that some money will go to the states for such budget items as education (both public and nonpublic), welfare payments, etc.

Anti-Poverty (S. 2007). If the programs of the Office of Economic Opportunity are to be extended this bill must be passed. The proposed educational voucher system is among many otherwise meritorious programs. President Nixon does not seem to be inclined to push vigorously for the agency's programs. The possibility that a crippled OEO will emerge is very real.

Health Insurance. Various proposals which would provide for a wide range of federal health care benefits are before House and Senate committees. Health insurance proposals could provide intricate church-state problems for Baptist hospitals as well as for those of other denominations.

Presidential War Powers (S. 2956). In this bill Senator Javits (R., N.Y.), with supporting statements from Senators Eagleton (D., Mo.) and Stennis (D., Miss.), is reflecting the mood of Congress to reclaim its control of the war making powers. Since World War II, Presidents have taken the military initiatives which have involved us in conflicts in Korea and Southeast Asia and have served to protect the Chinese regime on Formosa. Peace elements of the churches will, no doubt, be active in supporting the Congress in this struggle between the legislative and the executive branches of government.

Foreign Aid. Both economic and military foreign aid will be completely reevaluated. (See, SECOND SESSION, page 6)

Public Affairs . . . and the Courts

EDUCATION GOALS IN THE 70's

The National Education Association lists public school financing at the top of its legislative goals for the 1970's. The NEA believes that "the federal government should assume at least one-third of the cost of elementary and secondary education by 1976."

Other priorities listed by the NEA are: (1) integration of schools and society, with busing of students where necessary to achieve integration; (2) enactment of a national collective bargaining law for public employees; and (3) establishment of a cabinet-level U.S. Department of Education.

On aid to nonpublic schools, the NEA says it recognizes the financial plight of private schools, but it opposes direct aid to nonpublic schools and indirect aid to private school pupils or parents. To use public funds for the support of nonpublic schools "would be wrong both legally, in view of recent Supreme Court decisions, and morally, considering that further division of already inadequate funds available to public schools would be disastrous."

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS TO MEET

The American Association of School Administrators will meet in annual convention in Atlantic City in February. AASA supports a variety of choices for pupils within public education, but opposes the use of vouchers which may divert already scarce funds from public schools.

Among the resolutions to be considered by AASA will be opposition to the allocation of funds for nonpublic schools and opposition to any support, governmental or private, of segregated private schools.

PRAYER AMENDMENT NOT DEAD

Although a proposed constitutional prayer amendment was killed in the House of Representatives last year the movement is far from dead. Attempts will be made in the U.S. Senate to revive the issue by avoiding hearings before the Judiciary Committee and by attaching it as a rider to any appropriate measure that comes through the Senate.

In spite of efforts on the part of church leaders to keep proposals for prayer amendments out of the political arena, the politicians are bracing themselves to face the issue in the primary elections and the general election in November.

Congressmen who voted against the prayer amendment last November 8 have been threatened with "bill-boarding" in their districts. The threat is to erect large bill-boards announcing that the Congressman voted against prayer in schools.

Other attacks on those who opposed the prayer amendment include a request for investigation by the House Ethics Committee of what is claimed to be unfair lobbying against the amendment last year. Another move may be to ask state legislatures to call for a constitutional convention for the purpose of approving a school prayer amendment.

COURT VOIDS NEW YORK 'AID' LAW

A law providing \$33 million in additional tax funds to non-public schools in New York State was declared unconstitutional by a three-judge court. The decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals, New York Southern District, was based almost entirely on the June 28, 1971 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court which knocked down state aid laws in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island on the grounds of "excessive entanglement" between church and state.

The New York ruling was hailed immediately by those groups who oppose state aid to parochial and private schools. Equally as fast Governor Nelson Rockefeller and parochial school interests declared their intention of continuing the search for ways to give state aid to the financially pressed parochial schools.

NEW PENNSYLVANIA LAW CHALLENGED

Twelve parents of non-public school children have filed a motion before U.S. District Court in Philadelphia for the right to intervene in a case that challenges the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's new law providing aid to the parents of children in private and parochial schools.

The law in question, the Parent Reimbursement Act for Nonpublic Education, was signed by Governor Schapp on August 27, 1971. It will repay parents up to \$75 for each child attending nonpublic elementary schools and \$150 for each child in private high schools.

The new law was quickly passed after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June 1971 struck down the Pennsylvania Non-Public Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Act reimbursed non-public schools for services provided in four secular subject areas. The Court ruled that state supervision of the four areas created "excessive entanglement" of church and state.

SWITCH ON OBSCENITY SEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court may be on the verge of a new era of action in a controversial area—obscenity cases.

This is the view of Lyle Denniston, staff

writer of the (Washington) Evening Star, who covers the High Court.

Mr. Denniston saw in two recent actions by the Court "strong indication" that a 5-4 majority "might soon form in favor of prosecuting distributors of erotic magazines, books and films."

"For years," he continued, "a Court majority—ranging as high as 7-2 at times—has struck down conviction after conviction in this field. A major goal of the Nixon Administration's Justice Department 'has been to get the Court to abandon its view that a challenged publication or film is legal if it has some 'social value.'"

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN BANGLADESH

A policy of secularism "which means freedom to all religions," was reportedly promised by the young nation's acting president, Sayed Nazrul Islam, during a religious function of the Sikh community at Dacca.

Bangladesh Radio said Mr. Islam remarked that "secularism does not mean that there will be no religion," but that "people belonging to different religions will be allowed to freely practice their religion."

He added that the government will help repair the mosques, temples and churches damaged by the Pakistani army during the recent war.

DISESTABLISHMENT IN SCANDINAVIA?

BERGEN, Norway—The centuries-old "state church" systems in Scandinavia are being shaken as deep-rooted ties between religions and governments are questioned by church and secular leaders alike.

It is not yet clear whether the ties between church and state will be broken according to an article in the Bergens Tidende here, but young people are spearheading what is proving to be an intense debate on the issue.

Special groups appointed by either church or state are investigating the situations in Norway, Sweden, and Finland, according to an article published here, and structural problems of the Danish "folk church" are under broad discussion.

The "state churches" in Scandinavia are generally Lutheran, although they vary considerably in their historical backgrounds and in the nature of their relationship to secular authority. In Finland, for instance, the Church has a "recognized" status but a great deal of independence. In Norway, the Church establishment depends heavily on government help, according to the article. (RNS)

Resolutions By Religious Bodies Are Effective

Not often do we argue with newspapers, but this time we do so in an effort to correct some false ideas about "church" resolutions affecting public life.

In the January 15 issue of the *Washington Post* an analysis by the UPI in the religion section expresses a negative opinion about the impact of resolutions passed by religious bodies.

"Actually, their impact on public policy, as a rule, ranges from very slight to indiscernible," the analysis opines.

The article then asserted that the official pronouncements of religious bodies on the proposed constitutional prayer amendment had little influence in Congress last year when the issue came up for vote on November 8.

The fact is that it was the opposition of most of the major religious bodies in the United States that caused the defeat of the prayer amendment. If it were not for the opposition of the denominations, already there would be a "prayer amendment" added to the Constitution.

How is it then that it could be concluded that denominational resolutions have "little," "slight," or "indiscernible" impact on public policy?

The conclusion comes as a result of playing the numbers game and by basing one's views on false assumptions.

All three major Lutheran denominations opposed the prayer amendment. Yet nine

out of 11 Congressmen who are Lutherans voted for it.

The analysis continued, "Baptists, traditionally alert guardians of church-state separation, also vigorously opposed the amendment. But of the 42 Baptists in the House, 27 voted for it, only 10 voted against it, and 5 ducked the issue by not voting either way."

Similarly, Congressmen who are Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic voted for the prayer amendment in spite of the opposition of their respective religious bodies.

The final vote in the House of Representatives was 240 in favor of the prayer amendment to 162 opposed. This was 28 votes short of the two-thirds majority required to approve a constitutional amendment. So it is concluded that "church" resolutions had little, slight or indiscernible impact on Congress.

Look at some false assumptions.

One such assumption is that Congressmen should vote in Congress in accordance with their professed religious faith and according to the official positions of the denominations with which they are affiliated.

To which we point out that Congressmen do not represent religious bodies. They represent the people in the district that send them to Congress. We further add that Congress is a political entity and that Congressmen act in accordance with policies and principles of politics.

Another false assumption is that a Congressman normally votes his personal convictions and viewpoints. The fact is that he usually votes the way he thinks the voters in his district want him to vote or the way he may think to be most politically profitable.

There are times, of course, when a Congressman is torn between his own conscience or his own best judgment about what is right or what is politically necessary. In many instances, the real reason a Congressman votes a certain way may never be known to anyone but himself.

Another false assumption is that the prayer amendment was largely a "religious" issue. The fact is that it was mostly a political issue, with large amounts of misdirected emotion and "anti-Supreme Courtism" thrown in.

It is also important to know that resolutions by religious bodies are important to many Congressmen, especially when the resolution speaks on a subject on which the "church" is competent. Frequently, Congressmen make inquiry of offices representing religious bodies as to the "church" position on certain subjects. Positions on civil rights, the Viet Nam war, abortion, pornography, capital punishment, and public aid to church-related schools are illustrative.

Not only are resolutions on public issues important to Congressmen, but they are important to the denominations themselves. The processes of resolution-making help religious bodies determine what their position on a subject should be.

Denominational resolutions set policies for their agencies, and they determine actions and positions taken by their representatives in the field of public affairs.

If it had not been for denominational resolutions, it would have been impossible for their representatives in Washington to lead in such a massive protest against the prayer amendment that was defeated last year.

If it had not been for denominational resolutions, much of the impetus for civil rights legislation in recent years would not have developed so strongly.

Yes, denominational resolutions are important. But it is also important that the resolution process be efficient and that denominations be intelligent, informed and articulate on the subjects under consideration. Strong resolutions from religious bodies in areas of their competence and appropriateness will always be needed in the processes of a national democracy.



Garrett

Second Session . . .

(Continued from page 4)

ated. An unusual coalition of liberals and conservatives who oppose the President's proposals for different reasons may make it difficult for the administration to get a substantial aid program through Congress. Shifting congressional alliances on various aid programs are a study in election year politics.

Aid to Education. Signs are clear that there will be more federal aid to elementary, secondary, and higher education. In an election year President Nixon is pushing hard for aid to parochial schools. This, combined with the Supreme Court's decision in *Tilton v. Finch* allowing certain aid to church-related colleges and universities, will make it difficult for Congress to resist the pressures. Aid to church-related educa-

tion will be a presidential and a congressional campaign issue.

Space limitations preclude listing other problems with which Congress must deal. The whole range of program authorizations and appropriations is filled with church-state issues. The year will be a busy one for Congress, whose members must spend more time on reelection and less on their job of representing the general public interest. The process will be well worth watching closely.



Warren R. Magnuson



Warren Eastlund



Donald E. Anderson

MEET THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS—The Baptist General Conference is represented on the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs by three persons. Warren R. Magnuson, general secretary of the Conference, is currently serving his second year as chairman of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Warren Eastlund, an attorney in Minneapolis, Minn., is president of the Board of Trustees of the Conference. Donald E. Anderson, a native of Jackson, Tenn., is serving his second five-year term as editor of **The Standard**, the official publication of the Conference.

Baptist General Conference Grows . . .
(Continued from page 2)

involve a maximum of human relations so that the Christian witness can be extended effectively to other people. Dr. Carl Lundquist is the president of Bethel College and Seminary.

Vancouver Bible Institute is a Bible College under the control of the Baptist General Conference since 1958. It serves in the training of Christian workers and has grown to serve a student body of 100 under the direction of Walter Anderson, President.

The Baptist General Conference provides churches a full program of services in support of the evangelical cause. Its Christian education ministry is under the leadership of Lawrence F. Swanson and has fixed its focus on five centers of ministry: Christian conversion, Bible knowledge, Christian living, church relationship and outreach in missions and evangelism.

The Department of Christian Education is divided into sections to achieve growth in the stated areas of interest: Children's Work and Camping, Youth Work, Adult Work, Sunday School and Curriculum. The adult section is further structured for programming for men and for a women's work. Trained personnel are available for leadership and counsel to the churches in each of these fields. In-depth studies of programs are provided for the upgrading and expansion of local church ministry.

A close tie prevails between the Christian Education department and that of the Board of Publication. Oriel L. Hansen is

giving leadership to the acceleration of development of communication and directs the preparation, development, and distribution of materials in behalf of the churches of the Conference.

The *Standard* is the official organ of the denomination, edited by Dr. Donald Anderson who also serves as a representative to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. With a circulation in excess of 27,000, this magazine has a forward-looking editorial policy and an attractive format for its readership.

The five take-home papers used in Christian education ministries are tailored to specific age groups: "Read to Me" for preschoolers, "Story Treats" for primaries, "Adventure" for juniors, "High" for teenagers and "Today" for adults. They have a circulation of 435,000 copies each week.

Under the name of Harvest Publications, a mail order service distributes a full range of supplies used by individuals and local churches in the ministry: books, imprinted Sunday School materials, paperbacks, visual aids, audio-visual materials and the distribution of a series of spot radio programs for use by local churches.

The Board of Trustees, though currently being considered for re-structuring by Conference action, is presently made up of 16 members who represent the various boards and the constituency at large. They are vested with the responsibility for the corporate and general affairs of the Conference. Warren R. Magnuson is the General Secretary of the Conference and the Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Warren Eastlund, an attorney from Minneapolis, Minnesota, is the current chairman of the Trustees. Magnuson and Eastlund serve also as members of the Baptist Joint Committee.

The expanding outreach of the ministries of the Conference has led the churches and individuals to enter a \$3,319,000 capital fund drive to strengthen their outreach in foreign missions, home missions and in the educational institutions. Though just half of the three year period of the campaign has transpired, commitments have gone over the \$2,700,000 mark to date. Under the theme of *Mission: SHARE!*, this effort has caught the enthusiastic commitment of Conference people. Sacrificial giving has brought this achievement though economic circumstances have not particularly favored this project.

Cooperation without compromise with the service agencies in the wider fellowship is effected on behalf of the churches in such areas as the chaplaincy, (General Commission on Chaplains), the publishing of the Scriptures (American Bible Society), work in the field of public affairs (Baptist Joint Committee), and fraternal relationships with kindred groups (National Association of Evangelicals and the Baptist World Alliance).

The International Service and Administrative Center is located in Evanston, Illinois. Service to the cause of Christ, leadership in the strengthening of local church outreach and corporate affairs of the Baptist General Conference are performed from this base of operations.

Poll Shows Many Southern Baptists Would Limit Traditional Rights

By Floyd A. Craig

NASHVILLE (BP)—A majority of Southern Baptists questioned in a recent survey seem willing to restrict some of the basic freedoms constitutionally guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

The survey, conducted by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention with the assistance of the research services department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, questioned Baptist pastors, Sunday School directors, Woman's Missionary Union directors, and Baptist Student Union presidents concerning their views on freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

Patterned after the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) news poll taken in 1970, the survey asked the same questions as the CBS poll. The questionnaire, sent to 914 Southern Baptists in a national random sampling, was answered by 478 respondents (53 per cent).

Generally, the Baptist pastors, Sunday School directors, and WMU directors—the adults polled—reflected similar answers to those responding to the CBS poll. Of the ten questions asked in both polls, less than five percentage points separated the CBS and Baptist adult responses on six questions. Three of the four questions with a 9 to 13 per cent variance indicated more support among Southern Baptist adults for the Bill of Rights freedoms than reflected in the CBS poll.

The Baptist Student Union presidents responding to the questionnaire, however, were at opposite ends of the poll compared to both Baptist adults and CBS respondents on questions relating to peaceful assembly, free press, free speech, double jeopardy, preventive detention, and rights of privacy.

Generally, the respondents most likely to express a willingness to restrict various freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights were (1) women, (2) older people, and (3) those with relatively low levels of education.

Respondents in the Baptist questionnaire ranked slightly higher in the number of years of education than did respondents in the CBS poll, primarily because of the number of pastors with seminary education responding.

Here is the way the majority of the Baptist respondents replied to some of the key questions:

Two out of three (67 per cent) of the adult Baptist respondents, as compared to one out of four (27 per cent) of the BSU presidents, expressed belief that extremist groups should not be permitted to organize demonstrations against the government, even if there appeared to be no clear danger of violence. The question related to the right

of peaceful assembly in the First Amendment.

The generation gap is also reflected in results of the question asking if respondents felt everyone should have the right to criticize the government, even if the criticism might be damaging to the national interest. Half the adults (52 per cent) said no; yet only one-fourth (26 per cent) of the BSU presidents would restrict this right.

The trend held up when well over half the Baptist adults (59 per cent) and only one-third (30 per cent) of the college group felt that newspapers, radio and television should not be permitted to report some stories considered by the government to be harmful to national interests.

The Bill of Rights' guarantees against "double jeopardy" and "preventive detention" also would be restricted by most Baptist respondents. Two thirds of the adults (64 per cent) and two-fifths of the students (39 per cent) felt that if a person were found innocent of a serious crime, but new evidence is uncovered after the trial, the person should be tried again. Nearly one-half (46 per cent) of the adults and over one-fourth (27 per cent) of the students felt that if a person is suspected of a serious crime, the police should be allowed to hold him until they can get enough evidence to charge him with a crime.

These findings would suggest that group protests, vocal dissent, and the resulting publicity apparently have surpassed the public's level of tolerance. The general concern for law and order seems to have led people to a willingness to curtail the rights of the individual.

On the other hand, other constitutional guarantees involving the judicial process appear to be so deeply embedded in society that Southern Baptist respondents, young and old, continue to uphold them.

In particular, more than nine out of ten (93 per cent of the adults and 91 per cent of the students) felt that guilt or innocence in a criminal case should be decided by a jury, not by the judge alone; nearly three out of four (70 per cent adults and 73 per cent students) felt the government should never be allowed to hold a secret trial; and two out of three (64 per cent and 79 per cent) said that police should not be allowed to enter someone's home without a search warrant even if they suspect that drugs, guns or other evidence are hidden there.

When questioned about the rights of defendants in criminal cases to avoid self-incrimination, nearly one-half (45 per cent) of the Baptist adult respondents, compared to three-fourths (78 per cent) of the students, said that a suspect should have the right

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not to answer questions if he feels his answers may be used against him.

More than one-third of the adults (38 per cent) and students (36 per cent) respondents said they believe there are times when the government should be allowed to keep the identity of witnesses secret from the defendant during court trials. The sixth amendment guarantees the right of the accused "to be confronted with the witnesses against him."

When asked if religious training should be provided in the public schools, since many children do not receive "Christian instruction at home," more than half the Baptist adults (52 per cent) and students (53 per cent) responding agreed that religious training should be provided in public schools.

In comments written below the questions, some respondents said that religious training would be acceptable to them if it were conducted by "good Baptist teachers," or "if it were conservative teaching."

Three-fourths (76 per cent) of the adults and 56 per cent of the students responding approved of tapping the telephones of persons involved in questionable activities.

When results of the survey were presented to the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission meeting here, several commission members said the responses were "frightening."

The results seem to indicate, many commission members agreed, that Southern Baptists responding to the survey do not fully appreciate and understand the rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Bill of Rights, nor do they seem to perceive how their desire to restrict freedoms for certain individuals and groups could endanger freedom for all.