

November, 1949

STRONG INTEREST IN CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

While, as will be seen from Article II of the Constitution of the Joint Conference Committee, provision is made for attention to be given to any matter concerning the relationship of the churches to the government, it will be clearly seen that the definition of purpose requires major attention to be given to the maintenance of the principle of separation of church and state and protection to religious liberty.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Baptists, North and South, are looking to this office for information and counsel concerning phases of this question, both on the national and state levels.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue, the office is dealing constantly with other matters, but there is no escaping the tremendous pressure put upon us for fulfilling the main objective in the establishment by the Baptists of the office. It happens that students in the universities, undergraduates and those engaged in graduate study, make heavy demands for authentic data in preparation of their papers and theses. Other denominations, recognizing our leadership in the matter of church-state relations, make more calls upon us than we are able to answer.

As evidence of the above, the current speaking engagements of the Executive Director are here indicated:

- October 3 Conference at Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- October 4 Address, Augustana Lutheran Church, "The Conflict in Church-State Relations"
- October 5 Conference in the State Department regarding affairs in Germany
- October 7 Address, Wesley Methodist Church, Washington, D. C., "The Battle For America"
- October 9 Sermon, Waterford Baptist Church, Waterford, Virginia
- October 10 Meeting with Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons
- October 11 Conference with attorneys concerning oral hearing before Federal Communications Commission in regard to application of 432 Texas Baptist Churches for permission to operate FM stations
- October 13 Interview with representative of The Christian Advocate, Chicago, for feature story about church-state relations
- October 14 Interview with Presbyterian Life Magazine staff member about POAU
- October 16 Address, Dawson Bible Class, First Baptist Church, "God and the Nations"
- October 17 Luncheon at the Scottish Rite Temple, Washington, D. C.
- October 18 Two addresses over radio and two addresses before Baptist Temple audience, Charleston, West Virginia
- October 20 Address, Maryland Baptist State Association, Baltimore, "The Baptist Principles and American Life"

- October 21 Attended private showing, "Lost Boundaries", Department of Interior
October 23 Sermons, Rockville Centre and Richmond Hill Baptist Churches, Long
Island, "The Baptist Position and Church-State Relations"
October 25 Address, Eastern Seminary Alumni Dinner, Paterson, New Jersey,
"Roger Williams Walks Again"
October 26 Address, New Jersey Baptist State Convention, "The Baptists and
Current Church-State Issues"
October 30 Sermons, First Baptist Church, Clarendon, Virginia, "Baptist Funda-
mentals"
November 2 Attendance, State Department Conference, "Problems in the Near East"
November 4 Prayer, American Bible Society Dinner, Washington Hotel
November 5 Reformation Day Address, Trinity Methodist Church, Youngstown, Ohio
November 7 Address, Lutheran Pastors, Washington, D. C., "Developments in
Current Church-State Relations"
November 8 Attendance, State Department, National Conference on Human Rights
November 9 Attendance, The Cooperative Forum, Leon Keyserling, "State of the
Country"
November 11 Address, American Jewish Congress Convention, New York
November 16 Address, Alabama Baptist State Convention, Mobile, "The Battle For
America"
November 17 Reformation Day Address, Churches of Selma, Alabama
November 24 Sermon, Churches of Southeast Washington Thanksgiving
November 28 Address, Baltimore General Pastors' Union, "Protestantism"
December 16 Address, Protestant Churches, Nashville, Tennessee, "Shall We Maintain
the American Principle of Separation of Church and State?"

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SHALL DISMANTLING OF GERMAN FACTORIES CONTINUE?

As of this date one of the most acute problems in respect to world peace is the continued dismantling of German factories. The hurried trip of our Secretary of State to Europe accents this fact.

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, former president of the Northern Baptist Convention, upon returning from a recent trip to Europe, writes in the October issue of Missions:

"Paramount on the agenda of the Central Committee was the desperate state of 12,500,000 expellees, - German refugees crowded into western Germany. These are not to be confused with the D. P.'s, or Displaced Persons. They are rather the Germans from Eastern Germany, Poland, and the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, who as a result of the Potsdam agreement and the vengeful Morgenthau policy, were expelled from their farm lands in these areas and dumped into the industrial areas of the west. They represent the most explosive situation in Europe, more dangerous than the communists, because their condition is so despairing that they may revert to a nihilism that is likely to set off a chain reaction across the world. They are without homes, without ration cards, without work. Pursuant to the Morgenthau policy of reducing Germany to an agricultural state, they have as their only employment the dismantling of factories and the taking apart of machinery for shipment to France, Russia, Poland and England. Picture what it would mean if a foreign power removed all our agricultural population from our own Middle West, the prairie regions, and the Pacific Coast, dumping it down in Chicago, Detroit, and Pittsburgh, and ordered it to dismantle all the automobile plants and steel mills for shipment to Siberia. That would give a faint picture of the 12,500,000 German expellees in western Germany, who are now 60 to 70% unemployed. They are without hope or God in the world. Some of the Lutheran bishops said there were congregations of a thousand people with only three men employed. One Christian

woman said, 'I am beginning to hate God.' Not only so, but they are beginning to hate the rest of Germany, and the world as a whole. Their only recourse is the black market, and independent political action. They are organizing a separate German bloc, with their own political leaders. We send military aid to western Europe in vain, if we ignore these elemental human situations. As Pastor Niemoller said in his plea for the rebuilding of German industry, 'It is not enough to ask concerning a German factory whether we Germans would use it for a war plant. We must begin to ask now the far more vital question: could this factory become a center of peace purposes?'"

In complete agreement with this view, O. K. Armstrong of the Readers Digest and well known as a Baptist, called an informal conference in Washington November 7, to consider what might be done. It was decided by the conferees to take the matter to the President and to the people.

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POPE INSTRUCTS PUBLIC OFFICIALS ADMINISTER LAW IN BEHALF OF THE CHURCH

In America there is legal prohibition against making church alignment the test of holding office. Accordingly, this Committee opposes the contention of appellants in the New Mexico case now pending, which would exclude Catholic nuns and priests as a class from teaching in the public schools. Only on proof of particular individuals teaching their religion in violation of the Supreme Court decision forbidding sectarian instruction in the public schools can any religionist be excluded from teaching in the public schools. We agree with President Truman in his appointment of a successor to the late Mr. Justice Murphy in saying that he did not think, all other things being equal, a man's church membership has anything to do with appointment to public office. That is sound Americanism.

However, here is the dilemma: It appears that Catholic legislators, in obedience to the church, make it their business to enact the Catholic policies into law, as shown by Mr. Lesinski; Catholic judges are inclined to interpret the law according to Catholic interests, as now acknowledged; Catholic public school teachers are inclined to teach the Catholic doctrines; and Catholic administrators endeavor to grant the requests of their Church. The open proclamation of this fact is now startlingly made plain by the Pope's instructions to all judges to render decisions in keeping with the interests of the Roman Catholic Church. If this sort of thing goes forward it will not be long until in sheer protection of the religious liberties of all, Americans may come to think it necessary to exclude by due process of law all candidates for office who are foresworn to make the interests of their church prior to the interest of the people at large, or to the requirements of the civil law itself. This will be extreme -- in line with the doctrines of the old APA. Conceivably it could lead to a revival of KuKluxism which fostered fanatical and violent anti-clericalism. The madness of the Roman Catholic Church is incomprehensible.

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DOES RELIGIOUS RADIO VIOLATE THE SUPREME COURT RULING?

A most interesting matter is now before the Federal Communications Commission in the joint petition of the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in respect to the application of 432 churches in Texas which wish to install small FM stations with power of ten watts or less under their ownership and direction. Oral hearings have been requested by the Commission to determine whether this would in any wise violate the United States Supreme Court decision in the Champaign, Illinois case in respect to the separation of church and state.

The hearing is attracting widespread attention. Arguments to be advanced pro will be watched with keen interest. At this moment we do not see, with the operation of such stations open to other private organizations, how they possibly could be construed as a violation, inasmuch as like any commercial, educational or religious stations now in operation, there will be no joint ownership between church and state and no government funds sought. There is only a desire on the part of the Baptist-owned stations to conform to the just and fair regulations of government established for the protection of the

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WHAT OF THE HOLY PLACES?

The United Nations, at its present session, is called upon to consider how the problem of Jerusalem will be settled. The General Assembly has before it the proposal from its Conciliation Commission for the establishment of a permanent international regime for a 100-mile area encompassing Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Obviously such an arrangement must have the consent of the national groups affected, otherwise a strong military force would be necessary to carry it out. A group of distinguished Americans, widely representative of religious and civic opinion, among whom is our Committee member, Dr. Donald M. Cloward, are offering a substitute proposal which would establish instead an international curatorship for the Holy Places to be administered by the United Nations. We approve of their substitute proposal and have so indicated to President Truman the personal support of our Executive Director.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT TO AID HOLY YEAR

Assurances from E. C. A. were given the Joint Conference Committee sometime ago that no aid to churches was to be supplied out of the Marshall Plan provisions. A report in the New York Times of an allocation of \$2,850,000 out of these funds in aid of pilgrims to Rome during Holy Year seems to contradict such information. Dr. Dawson had inquired of E. C. A. at the instance of Mississippi Baptists. Does the action as reported here accent suspicions as to the meaning of Myron Taylor's ambassadorship to Rome? Douglas Parmentier, Office of Information had written us: "ECA has allocated no funds for the rehabilitation or restoration of church properties....It is the consensus of ECA officials that if such requests were submitted, they would be rejected as not being within the scope of ECA authority as established by Congress". He added, however: "It is quite possible that European governments have allocated some of their funds - not ECA funds - to the rehabilitation or restoration of church properties." Now the New York Times says:

"Of the sum allocated, about 42 per cent is in the form of an outright grant. The remaining 58 per cent is in the form of a loan. The money will be used to transform some public buildings into lodgings for pilgrims, to buy beds and furniture and to build pilgrims' camps on the outskirts of Rome."

Must we understand that the Roman Church has been able to outwit the officials of ECA? All who resent the application to sectarian purposes of tax monies paid by all the people should cry out against this violation.

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IMPORTANT BOOKS COMMENDED

Note: The price of American State Papers on Freedom in Religion, published by the Religious Liberty Association, Washington, D. C., erroneously stated recently, should be \$3.75.

A Catholic Dictionary. Edited by Donald Attwater. The MacMillan Company, New York, \$5.00.

We, The People. Alan F. Pater. The Paebar Company, New York, \$3.75.