



## REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL

### BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The American Baptist Convention  
The Southern Baptist Convention  
The National Baptist Convention of America  
The National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.  
The North American Baptist General Conference  
The Baptist General Conference of America



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#### DECORATION DAY IN WASHINGTON

The Capital, perhaps more than any other city, observes the day set apart to honor the war dead. "Men who died that American freedom might live" were saluted in appropriate services in Arlington Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and at dozens of other places in the Capital. Wreath laying, parades, religious services, speeches, and musicales were used to give expressions of patriotic remembrances.

On these occasions the emotions tend to be so very mixed. The thoughts regarding the personal courage, the sacrifices willingly endured, and the high commitments fulfilled by ordinary men and women caught in times of crisis, make one recognize the meaning of the Marines' inscription so sharply cut into the new Iwo Jima statue, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." But even in this inspiring milieu of thought one cannot prevent an awareness of the self-seeking power politics and the personal abuse of political authority which have played so large a part in causing wars.

World politics ordinarily claims to be "realistic" and disclaims concern about morality. Christian love is viewed as impractical, and power becomes the ultimate definition of right. The meaning of Christian faith to international relations is, then, one of the most difficult problems presented to the serious minded Christian.

It was Nietzsche who wrote:

"Ye shall love peace as a means to new wars--and a short peace more than a long."

"Ye say it is the good cause that halloweth every war. I say unto you 'It is the good war that halloweth every cause. War and courage have done more great things than charity.'"

"Thou shalt not rob! Thou shalt not slay! Such precepts were once called holy."

"...Is not all life robbing and slaying?"

"This new table, Oh my Brethren, put I over you, 'Become Hard!'"  
(Quoted in Kalijarvi, Modern World Politics)

An extended and well prepared resolution on peace was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention at Miami. It is worthy of careful study, as is the whole field of international relations, for this field merits much more Christian thought and influence than it has ever received. Nietzsche may be descriptive of current realities but the New Testament describes another way of life.

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The American Baptist Convention, in the report of the Committee on Resolutions submitted at Atlantic City, noted six historic Baptist principles as having special reference to participation in public affairs, national and international. They were as follows:

1. We reaffirm our loyalty and obedience to God, our Maker, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Sustainer, who is supreme over all other authority;
2. We reaffirm our devotion to liberty of conscience under God and under law;
3. We reaffirm our loyalty and devotion to truth fairly arrived at by free inquiry and debate without restriction, without coercion;
4. We reaffirm our allegiance to the historic principle of the separation of church and state;
5. We reaffirm our loyalty and devotion to the United States of America;
6. We believe in a) the Bible as the Word of God, b) the church as made up of regenerate believers, c) the priesthood of all believers before God.

The report then went on to apply these to a number of current issues, covering, among others, political participation, the church and racial tensions, the United Nations, world relief, refugee relief and immigration.

Public affairs, and especially international relations, may seem very impersonal and far away from the interests or concerns of the local church member. Such impressions, however, are erroneous. We are in this world together, and Christ's concern is for all people. As Christians we should be as vocal as possible, sharing our discernments in the making of public opinion.

#### SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE IN ARGENTINA

The news of legislative action in Argentina in favor of separation of church and state caused church people who believe in religious freedom to stop and look. However, one does not look long at the Peron regime before one recognizes that freedom does not consist in a simple act of legislation or in a constitutional amendment. True freedom is an atmosphere, a tone of personal and group relations, a way of life. These require spiritual foundations which are solid.

Peron is writing one of the modern chapters in the history of dictatorship, and receives his share of space in books on that subject. He has played the role of an opportunist, starting as a military officer and ardent admirer of Hitler and Mussolini. The manipulations of the public mind which he, aided by his late wife Eva, was able to use in his struggle for power give little confidence for true spiritual freedom in Argentina in the near future.

A significant fact regarding all modern dictators is that they have gained their power by propaganda devices which the people have failed to see through. The techniques have varied. The psychological appeals have been adjusted to the opportunity but basically dictatorship represents the failure of the people to be adequately analytical of the methods, the ethics, and the programs of the politician who is a would-be demagogue.

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Ignorance regarding the history and development of a regime might easily give rise to a false optimism at the sound of familiar and highly valued phrases. The world has become so small, and the forces both of evil and of righteousness have become so involved that the Christian citizen must now make every effort to keep broadly informed. Our people are asking for more help in keeping intelligently abreast of their times. They know that influence depends on knowledge, and that the cause of Christ is never promoted by error.

### SECURITY SCRUTINIZED

For a number of years church groups have been calling attention to the un-American elements in the national security program and to the jeopardy resulting for the civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Finally, the tide seems to have turned and a wave of public opinion is rising asking for a restudy of the whole program. Prominent among the knowledgeable people asking for a change are ex-Senator Harry P. Cain, now a member of the Federal Subversive Activities Control Board, and Vannevar Bush, a noted scientist who was the wartime head of the Office of Scientific Research and is now president of the Carnegie Institution. The New York Times published an article by Dr. Bush which has been widely distributed by the Fund for the Republic in reprint form. The Washington Star is running a series of six major articles on the loyalty-security program.

The loyalty-security program was designed to locate and eliminate Federal employees whose first allegiance might be to a foreign power. When the program began in August, 1947, it covered two million government employees. Since that time the system has grown steadily until now one in every ten American adults must be investigated for his loyalty, ideas, associations, relatives and personal habits in order to keep his job.

It was soon evident that the program which was called into being by the international situation had possibilities in terms of domestic politics. Then the contest began between the parties--so for years they have sought to out anti-Communist each other on the front page. Under cover of this foggy atmosphere, interest groups have quietly worked toward their own objectives, military, economic, and ecclesiastical.

The program has had some positive results, in eliminating persons of questionable loyalty from strategic positions in government and in defense plants. But the protection which has been provided has been costly and in some cases has done great damage to the very agencies it was supposed to protect.

In any system that has had such a mushroom growth to great size, some mistakes are inevitable. But we have all seen instances mentioned in the public press which are the result of incompetence on the part of the investigators, for example, the life-long bachelor who was accused in security proceedings recently of being married to a "communist wife." Another of numerous examples which might be cited is an engineer in a West Coast defense plant who was suspended from his job because he and his wife allegedly teamed up to make street-corner Communist speeches in 1938. Through a lengthy appeal he was able to prove the simple arithmetic which the security officers had omitted, that in 1938 he was 15 years old, his wife 11, and that they lived in different cities. To the bystander such incidents may be somewhat amusing, but to the accused and his dependents they can be the cause of

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untold anguish, and, even if the charges are unfounded, may permanently reduce his earning power because of the stigma attached to a 'security' investigation.

More far-reaching and potentially disastrous for our nation, however, is the discouraging effect the present atmosphere of suspicion appears to have on the number of young men entering the fields of science and engineering. With requirements for trained men in these fields rising sharply, in four years the number of those receiving bachelor degrees in science and engineering has dropped from 80,000 to 34,000. The Washington Star reports that in 1953 a poll of science Ph.D.'s graduating from research universities showed them equally divided on where they would like to work, one-third each in government, industry and universities. In 1954, after some of the well-publicized security investigations, another poll of Ph.D.'s showed that the 33 per cent who wanted to work for the government had dropped to 8 per cent. The chief reason given: security.

Many proposals have been made for improving the loyalty-security program. Vannevar Bush, in the article mentioned earlier, gives three suggestions. First, he says that we need the equivalent of a grand jury in our security system. Under criminal law, a District Attorney cannot jail a man and force him to defend himself in court without an indictment; to secure an indictment a grand jury made up of the man's fellow citizens must be convinced of the validity of the charges. Under the loyalty system, on the contrary, a man can be suspended and forced to defend himself at the whim of an official who may have only the flimsiest of evidence against him.

Second, the accused should be furnished with vigorous and capable counsel. When a soldier faces court-martial proceedings, the government supplies him with counsel; a man accused under the present loyalty system must defend himself at his own expense.

Third, Dr. Bush says that, "In addition to positive machinery for detecting and excluding disloyal persons in our midst, there should be equally positive means for insuring that the system is not used for improper purposes--for spite, for thought control, or for political advantage."

In an address before the seventh annual Conference on Civil Liberties held in Washington in March of this year, former Senator Harry P. Cain urged that "to achieve uniform and consistent standards and procedures throughout the Federal structure, I can think of no sounder way to approach the problem than through a detached and distinguished non-partisan commission...A simple announcement that such a commission is to be established would signify that the marriage between security and politics had been annulled."

Mr. Cain suggested the establishment of schools for intensive and specialized training of security program personnel, who deal "with the preciousness of another's reputation." He recommended that government employees in non-sensitive positions should not be suspended prior to hearings. Among his other suggestions was a proposal that contradictions between various security systems should be reconciled so job applicants may know what to do to clear themselves.

The need for improvement of the present program is graphically expressed by Dr. Bush: "We need a new system, not a bit of tampering with the old; we need a 1955 model, not an anti-rattling device to be attached to a Model T."