

**Other Editors**

MOUNT OLIVE TRIBUNE

**Baptist Leaders Condemn Themselves**

Since the close of the recent convention in Atlantic City where seven Baptist denominations of North America came together in a grand third jubilee celebration of organized Baptist work in this hemisphere, many leaders of these Baptists, from local churches to the very pinnacle of convention officialdom, have condemned their constituents for failing to measure up in the fields of race relations, modernization of thought in approach to current social and religious problems — and many other things.

Here in North Carolina the Biblical Recorder, state Baptist weekly, has been full of the editor's expressions of disappointment and condemnation for Southern Baptists' refusal to follow the lines he thought they should have. His views have been echoed in many Baptist pulpits throughout the state since the convention closed.

As one Baptist among almost a million in North Carolina, there are several things this editor would like to call to the attention of the Recorder editor, and those Baptist ministers who have been so disappointed as "they" in the Convention who did not do as these folks believed they should have.

First of all, it should be remembered that by far the majority of the delegates, or messengers, to this convention, are ministers — members of the "hierarchy" of the church, if there is such in the Baptist denomination — and that when they condemn the convention's action on any matter, they are in effect condemning themselves, or fellow ministers — not the average member of the average Baptist church. These folks usually can't, or don't, attend these week-long affairs.

Secondly, if the Baptist churches of the Southern convention are so far behind in their thinking, so unaware of the great social upheaval which is "going on all round them," as these purist officials claim, whose fault is it? Who have their leaders been? Why haven't the congregations been illuminated, instructed, and brought up to date? Does anyone have more to do with shaping the thinking of a church than its pastor?

Thirdly, why is it that these Baptist leaders all believe, or say they believe, that integration of the churches is the answer to the modern needs of the church, and is the Christian way for all churches to behave, but we never hear any of these Baptist ministers answering calls to predominantly Negro churches?

To be sure, not many of them have received such calls, which may suggest our Negro Christian brethren might not want any of the white minister's preaching. As one who has heard both kinds, we must admit the Negro preachers are way ahead of their brothers in interest, fervor and sheer entertainment.

No, if the truth were known, any Baptist minister in the great majority of Southern Baptist terri-

tory would give a long, hard look at any call to become pastor of a truly integrated church, at this stage of integration development. Given a few more years, they might, but not now. And as for accepting a call to a church with a preponderance of Negro members, we doubt there's more than a small handful of Baptist ministers, or editors, either for that matter, who would interpret such an invitation as a "call" from the Lord, and therefore would turn it down, laying the blame for his decision squarely on God, who, fortunately, can take it.

The real trouble, as we see it, is that over the years Baptist laymen have abdicated their responsibilities as church and denominational leaders. Therefore, the ministers had to take over. They, in turn, have fallen down on their obligations to be true shepherds of the people, which means their congregations have never learned any better. Anyway, as just one Baptist, we're getting mighty tired of preachers and editors looking down their noses at us for being what we allowed them to make us.—CB.

**SENATOR  
SAM ERVIN  
★ SAYS ★**

As Congress begins the fifth month of the current session, the deadlock over the civil rights bill continues. The Dirksen Amendments have been offered to point the enforcement of the bill toward the South.

No test of strength has occurred since May 6 when by a razor thin margin the Senate rejected the Morton jury trial amendment granting defendants jury trials in all criminal contempt actions arising out of the proposed civil rights bill.

While this struggle has been going on in the Senate, other legislative proposals have been undergoing hearings in the early morning hours before the Senate convenes.

Last week the Senate Appropriations Committee, preparing for the next Federal fiscal year which begins July 1, was conducting sessions on seven of the fifteen money bills. The Senate Armed Services Committee was receiving testimony on the authorization bill for military construction. The Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee was concluding hearings on the revised Federal pay measure.

At the same time, House committees were considering three major major pieces of legislation. The House Labor Committee cleared the \$962.5 million anti-poverty bill, the House Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee approved the \$35 billion foreign aid authorization bill, and the House Ways and Means Committee approved a new \$9 billion boost in the Federal debt limitation.

All of these measures are subject to House and Senate floor action. As in the past, mounting Federal debt continues as an issue in

most spending programs.

The current \$315 billion national debt ceiling expires on June 30 when the Treasury's borrowing limitation drops to \$309 billion and then reverts the next day to the permanent debt limitation of \$285 billion. The new debt resolution would raise the ceiling to \$324 billion for the year ending June 30, 1968.

The 25 member House Ways and Means Committee is reexamining the controversial medical care for the aged plan under social security. Since this is a tax measure the House Committee has original jur-

isdiction over the proposal.

Spiraling estimates of what it will cost to finance even a pared down version of the medical care program under social security have raised new questions.

Social security benefits are financed by a direct tax on wages and salaries, and this tax is already scheduled to reach 9 1/4% on annual earnings of \$4800 in 1968.

Under the medicare plan, these benefits through the social security program would be financed by an increase in tax rates and the annual taxable earnings ceiling which

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**Richardson Preyer  
and Civil Rights**



Judge for yourself which candidate can keep peace and calm in North Carolina for our children and our families. Richardson Preyer has taken a sensible and realistic view on the problems of race relations. Listen to what he says:

**"I am opposed to the Civil Rights Bill now before Congress."**

**"We can handle our own problems in our own way, and we don't need the federal government or anyone else to come in and handle them for us. I believe in local initiative, so that each community can approach this problem in our own way."**

**"I will not inflame the race issue for political purposes. I will not throw kerosene on the fire."**

**"I believe in the North Carolina way of approaching race relations — the way that avoids violence and preserves law and order for everybody. The people of North Carolina have demonstrated good will and made us all proud to be called North Carolinians."**

**Vote for the North Carolina Way**

**Vote For**

**Richardson Preyer**

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