

Third, That we protest against every effort to weaken the law and urge Congress speedily to enact all legislation now pending whose purpose is to strengthen the law.

Fourth, That we brand as false the insinuation in the Houston press that there is a sentiment in this Convention in favor of beer and wine.

Fifth, That we are unanimously and unalterably opposed to beer and wine as the inveterate enemies of the human race, bringing blight and curse whenever and however used."

29. After announcements the Convention adjourned with prayer led by A. J. Holt, Florida.

### FIRST DAY—Evening Session

30. After song service conducted by E. O. Sellers and prayer led by Bruce McKinney, Texas, W. D. Nowlin, Florida, read and commented on 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18, and led in prayer.

31. The report of the Committee on Better Church Music was presented as follows by I. E. Reynolds, Texas, and adopted after remarks by W. W. Hamilton, Louisiana:

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BETTER CHURCH MUSIC TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Among the fine arts music has had a most conspicuous place in the religious worship and service of all peoples, both civilized and uncivilized. In all Christian worship it occupies from one-third to one-half of the entire time allotted to the worship. No kind of religious meeting is complete without some sort of musical program. Music is the handmaid of religious worship in the greatest sense and adapts itself to the spirit of the occasion, it matters not whether it be of praise, adoration, joy, thanksgiving, exhortation, supplication or sorrow. Music begins where speech ends. As Breed in his "History of Hymnology" so well says, "Music seems to be the instinctive utterance of the human soul." It is absolutely indispensable in the Christian churches. In the Old Testament Scriptures we are told of the very large place that both vocal and instrumental music had in the stately worship of Jehovah. There were trained leaders and instructors in music who were in charge of large choruses and orchestras that furnished the music for the temple worship. All of these musicians were of the tribe of Levi set apart for this particular service and were compensated for their services out of the same treasury as that from which the priests received their compensation. We find no difference made between those who played or sang and those who served in other portions of the temple worship. In the New Testament we find some references to music being used by the early Christians, and Paul admonishes the churches to make melody in their hearts through Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Then, too, music has had a great part in all religious reformations; in fact, Luther's Reformation was a singing reformation, and his enemies said that he did more harm by his hymns than he did by his sermons. The reformation under the Wesleys was also a singing reformation. The place of music in religion today is just as important, and its power and influence just as great as it has ever been in the past. The greatest need at the present time is higher standards in the grade of music used in our churches, in its rendition, and in its leadership.

Herewith are given a few figures based upon some little investigation and much observation that may be of interest to those who are concerned regarding this matter. Of course, these figures are only an approximation, but your committee believes that the approximation is a very conservative one. We have 3,500,000 white Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention, and 28,000 churches. This being true, it is easy to believe that we have 28,000 choir directors or leaders of song, also 28,000 organists or pianists. Then, allowing an average of five choir members for each of the 28,000 churches, there would be 140,000 choir members, making a grand total of 196,000 people who are directly

connected with the music programs of our churches without making any mention of those who play instruments in the orchestras and bands of these churches. Again, including hymnals, song books, octave music, cantatas, oratorios, instrumental music, instruments of various kinds, hire for choir directors, leaders of song, of orchestras and of bands, accompanists, soloists and quartets, a very conservative estimate would place the cost at \$1,000,000 annually for the music programs in the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is also estimated that at least 90 per cent of the leadership of our church music programs is of the amateur type, and that 10 per cent of it is of the professional type, and that one-half of the latter type of leadership is inefficient from the practical standpoint for putting on an adequate musical program in our evangelical churches. Your committee also believes that 50 per cent of the 28,000 churches use music of an inferior grade both in text and in musical arrangement, and 40 per cent of them use music of a medium grade, and that only 10 per cent of them use the very best grade of church music. Except for the splendid instruction offered through the Music Department of the Baptist Bible Institute, New Orleans, La., and The School of Sacred Music of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the music taught at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky,—which is only a drop in the bucket when compared with the great need along this line—nothing is being done by our denomination in an educational and inspirational way for the cause of church music.

In view of the vital place which music occupies in every phase of our church life, and of the inefficient musical programs in so many of our churches, both in leadership and in rendition, and of its neglected state by our denomination, your committee believes that some action should be taken by this Convention in behalf of the improvement of the music in the churches of this Convention and beg to submit the following recommendations for its consideration:

1. That we recognize that music is worship with all that it involves of reverence, spirituality, and instructiveness;
2. That we insist that hymns should, in their language, carry religious truth expressed in simple but adequate terms;
3. That we urge that music should fit the hymn, be thoughtful and reverent in character, not mere jig tunes or what might be called musical doggerel;
4. That we plead that leaders and conductors of music should be both competent artistically and serious religiously, that the musical leader should have a deep and definite sense of his responsibility in leading worship and not make a music class out of a worshiping congregation, nor put on a vaudeville performance himself;
5. That we insist that ministers and laity alike respect the musical part of the program and accord it the place in the service which it should occupy;
6. That we urge our pastors and churches to exercise greater care in the selection of hymn books and other music, from the literary, musical, doctrinal and practical standpoints. More attention and encouragement should be given to choirs, orchestras and especially to congregational singing. We urge a closer supervision of the special musical programs, insisting that when such programs are rendered on the Lord's day, they should be made worshipful instead of purely entertaining from the musical standpoint;
7. That we admonish our pastors and churches to be on their guard lest they be imposed upon by unscrupulous music publishers and song book dealers, inefficient choir directors, song leaders and accompanists, also schools and conservatories of music whose only interest in the church choir or music is that therein is offered an opportunity for self-exploitation, the gaining of reputation or money;
8. That when at all possible the pastors and churches should employ Church Music Directors whose duties shall be to arrange and direct the music programs for every service and department of the church, instead of the employment of Choir Directors whose duties are only to direct the music for the two regular services on Sundays;
9. That we urge pastors and churches to call out the young men and young women in their churches who have musical talent and a conviction that

they should dedicate that talent to the Lord's service, and also encourage and help them in every way possible to attend some one of our Southwide institutions for such musical and other training as they may need to fit them for acceptable service in their chosen field of labor. We would in this connection, call attention to the very rapidly increasing and widespread demand for trained leaders to take positions in our churches as Musical Directors, often combining with their musical duties work in Religious Education, finances or as assistant to the pastor (and at comfortable salaries), the demand far exceeding the supply;

10. That in a special way the pastors encourage those who are interested in church music to attend the "Better Church Music" conference to be held at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, August 1st to 12th, next, under the direction of the Education Board of the Southern Baptist Convention;

11. That State Conventions, ministerial gatherings and other assemblies be requested to provide a place upon their programs for an intelligent presentation of the cause of good church music;

12. That we ask our denominational schools to pay more particular attention to Church Music in connection with their Fine Arts Departments;

13. That this Convention instruct the Sunday School Board to give careful consideration at its earliest convenience, to the advisability of establishing and fostering a Church Music Department for the purpose of improving the musical conditions in the stated church, Sunday-school, and B.Y.P.U. services of the various churches of this Convention. Tenn.; and the Hospital Commission.

We acknowledge with gratitude to God the opportunity and obligation which is ours because of the bestowal upon us of this wonderful agency of worship and praise. Some of the deepest and most intimate emotions of the human heart can best sometimes only be expressed in song. An intelligent, thoughtful and prayerful revival of congregational song will arouse the church, will fuse our hearts in praise and activity, convict and convert sinners and prepare us all for that day when, before the Great White Throne, we shall unite in the song of Moses and the Lamb praising him with motives unchallenged and hearts full of joy.

I. E. REYNOLDS  
E. C. DARGAN  
CHAS. W. DANIEL  
E. O. SELLERS  
J. FRED SCHOLFIELD.

32. With Vice-President Bennett in the chair, the report of the Committee on the Report of the Sunday School Board was presented by Harold Major, Texas, as follows:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

Your committee has enjoyed the privilege and profit of carefully reading and analyzing the 35th Annual Report of the Sunday School Board, and in the person of its chairman has surveyed the Board's equipment at Nashville, Tennessee, and observed the operation of its work. A study of the report will increase one's information regarding this phase of our denominational life, and a visit to the headquarters will prove a delightful surprise to all who have not taken time and pains to examine this great and growing asset of Southern Baptists. Its history reads like a romance. Its achievements sound like a fairy tale. And its possibilities are almost unlimited. One cannot review the record it has written without a feeling of mingled gratitude to Almighty God for his evident blessings, and appreciation of those brethren whose loves and labors have registered such phenomenal success.

A conservative estimate of the Board's present financial worth, as reflected in property holdings and material investments, shows its net resources to be practically \$1,700,000. Its real worth, however, cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, and the service it renders is beyond the power of figures to tabulate. Its principal contribution is of a spiritual quality—exerting circles of influence