

# BAPTISTS ASSAIL TRAFFIC IN GUNS

Support Johnson's Plea but  
Back Right to Bear Arms

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Special to The New York Times

HOUSTON, June 7—The Southern Baptist Convention ended its four-day annual meeting here tonight after adopting a resolution supporting President Johnson's plea to Congress to "pass laws to bring the insane traffic in guns to a halt."

The resolution, which also condemned violence and disregard for law, was overwhelmingly approved, but only after an amendment was added urging the President to "maintain the constitutional rights of the legitimate possession of arms."

The 11-million-member-Southern Baptist Convention is the largest Protestant body in the nation.

A move to delete entirely the section on gun control had the support of a number of "messengers," or delegates, on the ground that it would "penalize sportsmen" and violate the rights of an individual to purchase and own weapons.

One delegate said that "with crime on the increase, I want the right to defend myself." The move to delete was decisively defeated after a short, but at times heated, debate.

## Sense of Resolution

Church officers presiding over the meeting repeatedly told the delegates that the sense of the resolution was to stop "uncontrolled" traffic in guns, not to deprive a citizen of his rights.

The resolution went on to declare that "the glorification and exploitation of violence in television, movies, newspapers and fiction have legitimized violence as a way of life, made heroes out of criminals and exerted an adverse influence on the character of our nation, particularly our youth."

Admittedly generated by the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the resolution observed that "a permissive atmosphere has developed in our society where many people are psychologically conditioned to violence, crime and anarchy and disrespect for law."

It urged all citizens to support their local police "not by words only but also by paying taxes to raise police salaries and improve police training, insisting upon responsible use of force, and creating open communication between citizens and their policemen."

## Social Justice Cited

"We commend those responsible leaders of all groups who have shown, and are showing, remarkable determination in seeking to hold violence in check while working for social justice, and we urge all leaders of all groups to refrain from encouraging others to disobey laws with which they are not in agreement but to seek redress of their grievances.

through proper legal procedures," the resolution declared.

In other actions, the delegates reaffirmed their opposition to obscene, pornographic and "offensive" publications, asked the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service to make a study of the effect of alcoholic beverages on physical and mental health, and urged leaders on all sides of the Vietnam war to seek an immediate cease-fire, a termination of all hostile activities and no further build-up of military power.

The resolution on the Vietnam war was regarded by observers here as considerably stronger than one adopted last year in Miami Beach, Fla., and closer to the stance taken by other Protestant bodies.

In Miami Beach, the convention called for support of the Administration in its pursuit of a just peace in Vietnam and in "helping to maintain order in the world."

At a news conference earlier today, the Rev. Billy Graham, the evangelist, predicted the return to earth of Jesus Christ, at which time, he said, peace will be restored to the world.

Under heavy security guard, Mr. Graham said he was ready to die at any time, and that if being shot or killed would glorify God, he would accept death unflinchingly.