

**INVENTORY TO THE PAPERS OF
JIM HENRY**

AR. 806



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Papers of Jim Henry
AR. 806
President of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1994-1996

I. Biographical Sketch

Jim Henry was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on 1 October 1937. He and his wife, Jeannette, have three children. Henry received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown College (Kentucky) and the Master of Divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained in November of 1960 at Dalewood Baptist Church in Nashville. He served as pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church in Melvin, Alabama, Two Rivers Church in Nashville, and Hollywood Church in Sledge, Mississippi, prior to becoming pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida, in 1977.

In June 1994, Henry was elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention; the following year, he was elected for a second term. During his two terms, a Program and Structure Study Committee completed its work and recommended a major administrative reorganization of the Convention. That reorganization was voted upon at successive meetings in 1996 and 1997 and subsequently implemented. Other significant issues confronting the Convention during Henry's terms included resolutions repenting of the Convention's support for slavery from the 1840s to the 1860s and calling for racial reconciliation, condemning the Walt Disney Company for moving away from "family values," and opposing the nomination of Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States on the basis of his support for abortion rights and for the distribution of contraceptive devices in public schools.

II. Scope and Content

This collection consists primarily of correspondence dating from 1994 to 1996 (4.5 lin. ft.). Much of the correspondence came from friends and constituents congratulating Henry on his election, expressing hope that he would succeed in promoting reconciliation in the Convention, and expressing opinions on various sides of the major issues confronting the Convention during his tenure-- reorganization, racial reconciliation, the nomination of Henry Foster as Surgeon General, and the resolution condemning the Walt Disney Corporation--as well as other issues such as the role of women in the church and a perceived alignment of the Convention with Republican politics. A significant minority of Henry's correspondents consisted of other denominational leaders. Their letters document ongoing efforts to solidify the conservative character of the Convention. Other materials in the collection (1.0 lin. ft.) include Henry's calendar, media articles regarding his election, programs of conferences and panels at which he spoke, texts of his speeches before the Convention in 1995 and 1996, and official statements or comments about various topics that were released to the press.

III. Folder Listing

Box 1

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995

- 1 Ab - Ak
- 2 Al - Ay
- 3 Ba - Bl
- 4 Bo - Bri
- 5 Bro - By
- 6 Ca - Ci
- 7 Cl
- 8 Co
- 9 Cr - Cy

Box 2

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995 (cont'd)

- 1 Da - Di
- 2 Do - Dy
- 3 E
- 4 Fa - Fl
- 5 Fo - Fu
- 6 Ga - Gl
- 7 Go - Gu

Box 3

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995 (cont'd)

- 1 Hac - Han
- 2 Har - Haz
- 3 He - Hi
- 4 Ho
- 5 Hu - Hy
- 6 I
- 7 J
- 8 K
- 9 La - Le
- 10 Li - Ly

Box 4

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995 (cont'd)

- 1 Ma
- 2 Mc
- 3 Me - Mi
- 4 Mo - My
- 5 N
- 6 O
- 7 Pa - Pe
- 8 Ph - Pi
- 9 Po - Pu
- 10 Q

Box 5

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995 (cont'd)

- 1 Ra - Re
- 2 Ri - Ru
- 3 Sa - Si
- 4 Sm - Sp
- 5 St - Sy
- 6 Ta - Te
- 7 Th - Ty
- 8 U - V

Box 6

Correspondence--June 1994 - June 1995 (cont'd)

- 1 Wa - We
- 2 Wh
- 3 Wi
- 4 Wo - Wy
- 5 Y - Z
- 6 Unidentified

Box 7

Correspondence--June 1995 - June 1996

- 1 Anonymous
- 2 A

- 3 Ba - Bl
- 4 Bo - Bu
- 5 Ca - Cl
- 6 Co - Cu
- 7 Da - De
- 8 Di - Du
- 9 E
- 10 F

Box 8

Correspondence--June 1995 - June 1996 (cont'd)

- 1 G
- 2 Ha - Hi
- 3 Ho - Hy
- 4 I - J
- 5 K
- 6 L
- 7 M
- 8 N - O

Box 9

Correspondence--June 1995 - June 1996 (cont'd)

- 1 P
- 2 Q - R
- 3 Sa - Sm
- 4 Sn - Sy
- 5 T
- 6 U - V
- 7 Wa - Wh
- 8 Wi - Wy
- 9 Y - Z

Box 10

Calendar

- 1 1994-1996

Media Articles

- 2 January - June 1994

- 3 July - December 1994
- 4 January - May 1995
- 5 June 1995
- 6 July - December 1995
- 7 1996
- 8 Interview Questions, 1994-1996, nd

Box 11

Miscellaneous

- 1 1994-1995, nd

Legislation

- 2 Gambling, 1995

Newsletters

- 3 1994-1995

Programs

- 4 1994-1996

Speeches

- 5 Executive Committee, 19 September 1994
- 6 Miscellaneous, 1995
- 7 SBC, 1995-1996

Statements

- 8 1994-1995, nd