

## **Church and State**

WHEREAS a special Committee on Church and State in a report given to the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA in 1962, the report to be presented to the 1963 General Assembly this week in Des Moines, encourages the state to use coercive power to establish a welfare state and seeks to reform society by legislative acts (Note the following statements which appear in the report: "Only action through civil law could remedy the social crisis on a national scale"; "The Christian must advocate national reform by legal measures"; "the solution must be found in state actions"; "American Protestants now had to find how they could relate themselves to state power as the instrument by which the Christian responsibility for economically depressed persons could be met"); and

WHEREAS the report seeks to deny the state its autonomy and freedom from ecclesiastical supervision; and

WHEREAS the Bible enjoins a separation of church and state, Christ Himself commanding, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's"; and

WHEREAS Baptists historically have advocated and defended the Biblical ideal of a free church in a free state;

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches emphatically disapprove all efforts by ecclesiastical organizations to coerce the state to implement their programs of social reform and to reaffirm its historic position on the complete autonomy of both the church and the state.

*May 13-17, 1963  
Omaha, Nebraska*