

The Vatican Envoy

WHEREAS President Nixon has seen fit to appoint Henry Cabot Lodge as his personal representative to the Vatican, who is scheduled to make his first visit to Rome this month; and

WHEREAS this appointment constitutes what we consider to be a clear and definite violation of the principle of the separation of church and state implied in the First Amendment of our United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS this appointment is what could be the first step upon a journey which could lead to either the church being subservient to the state or the state being subservient to the church such as characterized other eras in history, mainly the Middle Ages; and

WHEREAS previous attempts of presidents to appoint a representative to the Vatican with "Ambassadorial" status were turned back due to an alerted and alarmed public opinion, which viewed this as an attempt to recognize the Roman Catholic Church as a political entity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado, June 22-26, 1970, go on record as opposing this action of our President and urge him to recall his envoy to the Vatican and thus to reestablish the separation of church and state called for by our United States Constitutional guarantees and historically blessed of God for the maximum of liberty for all religious groups in our nation.

*Denver, Colorado
June 22-26, 1970*