

Southeastern News

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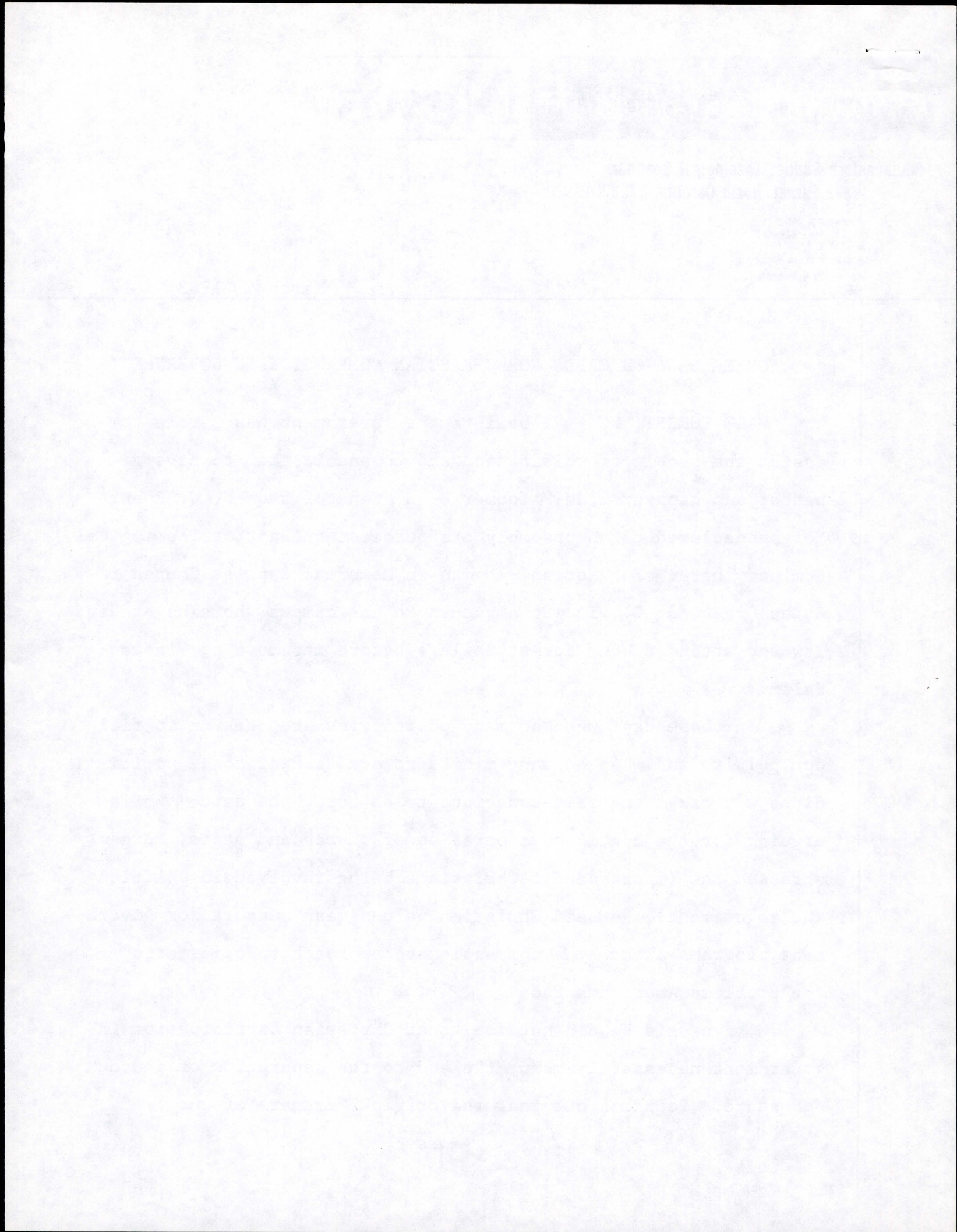
FORMER SENATOR CALLS FOR CHRISTIAN COMPASSION IN GOVERNMENT

WAKE FOREST, NC - "I believe the government has a role to assist the people of this nation and to enable them to have a better and happier life," former U. S. Senator from N. C. Robert Morgan declared to an assembly at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here. For Morgan, layman in Memorial Baptist Church in Buies Creek, N. C., it was a return to the campus where he studied law and attended Wake Forest College before its move to Winston-Salem.

"In these days when so many politicians are seeking to fill our pulpits and when so many ministers are seeking to be politicians, it makes one self-conscious to be here," he said. While arguing for the continued separation of church and state, Morgan stressed the importance of Christians being involved in politics and government. He said Christian values mean support for government programs aimed at a compassionate approach to alleviating the problems Americans face.

Morgan said he did not feel that Christian participation in government necessarily meant the end to the separation of church and state. Pointing out that the original framers of our

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government lived in a predominately Christian society and used Christian references in the Declaration of Independence and other early documents. He held that their intention was to "prevent the establishment of a particular church," not to deny religion altogether.

Maintaining, "We cannot and we must not keep our religious faith separate from the political processes," he said the basis of American submission to government is because we believe in its "commitment to high human values." Noting Christ's compassion for all people and His healing of those in need, Morgan stated, "We in government should be concerned about those people in need." He added that Christians concerned about the lack of government programs in the human services area should write their congressmen.

Morgan cited failings in such areas as homes for the elderly, prisons, and food stamps, and urged Christians to investigate these kinds of things to see if they are truly meeting the needs of those they serve. "I don't believe that any real Christian can see a person in need of assistance without having a heavy heart," he said. "Here in North Carolina I think we can be justly proud of our schools, our colleges, and our hospitals. But I believe we can do so much more."

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