MINUTES

of

The Liberty Association

of

1963

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

Convened with Niangua Youth Camp

At Niangua, Missouri

Beginning July 30, 1963



MINUTES

of the

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

of

FREE WILL BAPTISTS

Convened with Nignaua Youth Camp Beginning July 30, 1963

OFFICERS

Assistant Moderator	
Assistant Moderator	Rev. William Reeves
Clerk	Mrs. Mickey Cummins
Statistician	Rev. William Reeves
EXECUTIV	E BOARD
Rev. Finis Johnson	5 Years
Rev. Lavern Jones	4 Years
Rev. Henry Long Rev. E. E. Vestal	3 Years
Rev. E. E. Vestal	2 Years
Rev. Cleo Covington	1 Year

The next Annual Session of this Association will be with the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, beginning on Tuesday morning before the first Sunday in August, 1964. The introductory sermon will be preached by Rev. Finis Johnson; assistant, Rev. Henry Long.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- The clerk calls the session to order.

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 10:00 a. m.—Devotional Exercises.
 Calling for letters and enrolling delegates.
 Call for corresponding letters.
 Inviting visiting brethren and sisters to seat in council.
 Election of Officers.
 Appointment of Committees.
 Reports of Ministers.
 Reports of Treasurer, Committees, Boards, etc.
 Appointing delegates to State and other Associations.
 Unfinished business.
 New business 10.
- 11.
- 12. New business. 13. Adjournment.

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PROCEEDINGS

The Liberty Association of Free Will Baptist met for their 26th annual session at the Free Will Baptist Youth Camp, July 30, 1963.

Tuesday Morning

The Tuesday morning session was called to order by singing "Love Lifted Me." Rev. Finis Johnson led the congregation in singing, accompanied by Mrs. George McNabb.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Helsley. Hymn, "His Way With

Thee.'

The ex-Moderator, Rev. Henry Long, called the Association to

order, reading the scripture from Revelation 1:13.

Letters were read, approved and delegates seated from the following churches: Amity, Liberty, Niangua, Springfield First Church, Marshfield, Little Vine, Black Oak, Gardner, Mt. Zion, Lebanon First Church, Lynn Street, Aurora and Macedonia.

Rev. Finis Johnson was elected Moderator for the setting of this session. Rev. William Reeves was elected assistant Moderator.

Motion was made, seconded and carried that a divine committee be elected, as we have preaching service in palce of the feet washing service which was discontinued last year.

Divine Committee was appointed as follows: Bro. Morgan Walker, Bro. Harvey Alexander, Bro. Woodrow Montgomery.

Tuesday, 11:00 O'clock

Tuesday 11:00 o'clock service opened with congregational singing "Are You Washed In The Blood," led by Rev. Selph Jones with Mrs. Jones at the piano. Prayer by Rev. Robert Carlson. Special song "Working On The Road To Glory Land," by Bro. Harold Hilsley and son, Freddie Hilsley. The congregation sang "Praise Him," At this time Rev. Lavern Jones filled the pulpit. He read from St. John 19:25. A Christian handshake was enjoyed at the close of the service. The dismissal prayer and the blessing on the food was given by Rev. Henry Long.

Tuesday Afternoon

The services opened by singing "At The Cross," led by Rev. Hershel Freeman, with Mrs. Raymond Hyde at the piano. Prayer by Rev. William Reeves. Hymn, "There's Power In The Blood." Special song, "Wait A Little Longer, Please Jesus," by Bro. Harold Hilsley and Bro. Freddie Hilsley. Another special song, "Mother," by Bro. Freddie Hilsley. Also a special song by Bro. Louie McNellis. Congregational song, "If Jesus Goes With Me." Rev. Robert Carlson brought the message at this time. He read Acts 4:12-13 for his scripture. Prayer by Rev. Carlson. Song, "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart."

The Moderator, Rev. Finis Johnson, appointed the following

committees:

Business Committee: Rev. Eddie Pearce, Rev. Robert Carlson, Bro. Ray Dodson.

Temperance Committee: Sis. Anna Walker, Sis. Lola Long,

Sis. Gladys Montgomery.
Obituary Committee: Sis. Pansy Jones, Sis. Margaret Wantland, Sis. Dorothy Moiser.

Motion made, seconded and carried that Rev. William Reeves be statistician for the coming year.

Rev. Finis Johnson was elected to serve on the Executive Board for 5 years.

Motion made, seconded and carried that Rev. Finis Johnson preach the introductory message at the next Association. Rev. Henry Long was elected assistant.

Motion made, seconded and carried that Item No. 6 of the Constitution be tabled to be acted upon tomorrow.

A letter from Rev. D. S. Jones was read at this time praising his fellow preaching brethren and sisters for the past fellowship when he was in this Association.

Motion made, seconded and carried to suspend business until tomorrow. Dismissed in prayer by Bro, Louie McNellis.

Tuesday Evening

The evening services were opened by singing "A New Name In Heaven." Prayer by Bro. Harvey Alexander. Hymn "Send The Light." Special singing was rendered at this time by the following: "I Surrender All," by Rev. and Mrs. Marion Allsman; "How Far Is It To Heaven," by Carolyn Mae Day; "Speak My Lord," by Sis. Stella Walton, Sis. Ancel Alexander, with Sis. Joan Kittrell at the piano. Rev. Henry Long brought the message at this time, using for his scripture Isaiah 54:2. Dismissed with prayer by Sis. Ada Jones.

Wednesday Morning

The Association began the activities by the Moderator calling the meeting to order. Rev. Selph Jones led the congregation in singing. The Assistant Moderator, Rev. William Reeves, read Psalms 26. Prayer by Rev. Reeves. Hymn, "Still Sweeter Every Day."

Letter from Waynesville Church was read, received and delegates seated.

Rev. Harry Beatty gave a verbal report on the quarterly con-

ference of the Southeast Missouri Association.

Motion made, seconded and carried to accept this report as

valuable information.

Motion made and carried that the assistant clerk fill out the Minister's Certificates and sign the clerk's name, Mrs. Mickey Cummins, and the assistant clerk sign as by Sis. Ancel Alexander.

Motion made, seconded and carried that a copy of the minutes of this Liberty Association be sent to Rev. Harry Beatty, who is our promotional secretary.

Rev. Paul Bliss gave a verbal report on the Niangua Association. Motion made, seconded and carried to receive this report.

Motion made, seconded and carried to receive this report.

Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the report of the business committee of the financial report of the purchasing of food and hiring of the cook for the Association. The expense was the following:

Groceries	\$58.55
Miscellaneous	16.90
Cook	25.00
Chickens	5.00
Rev. William Reeves	5.00

Total \$110.45

The recommendation of business committee for the Association to pay balance of expense. Motion made and carried for the Association to pay the remaining expense of the purchasing of food and paying the cook out of the Associational treasury.

Motion made and carried to discuss whether or not the Association be a permanent program at Youth Camp.

Motion made and carried to continue the Association session at Youth Camp and recommend to our churches to send \$7.00 instead of \$5.00.

Wednesday, 11:00 O'clock

The services were called to order by singing "Amazing Grace." Prayer was offered by Rev. Harry Beatty. Rev. Dale Jones filled the pulpit, using for his scripture lesson the 1st chapter of Thessalonians. A Christian handshake was enjoyed by all present at the close of the service. Rev. Ezra Vestal asked the blessing on the food and dismissed in prayer.

Wednesday Afternoon

Wednesday afternoon services were called to order by singing. Prayer by Rev. Paul Bliss. At this time Rev. Harry Beatty gave a talk on our denominational work.

Motion made and carried for the Executive Board to carry out the business of hiring a cook, purchasing food and making a complete report for the Liberty Association.

Motion made and carried to accept the Temperance report.

Motion made and carried to accept the Obituary report.

Motion made and carried that Item 6 of the Constitution be changed.

Motion made and carried to change Item 6 of the Constitution from the original reading to read that the Youth Camp be a permanent place for the Association sessions.

The following delegates were elected to the State Association: Sis. Stella Walton, Sis. Ancel Alexander, Sis. Vinita Broyles, Sis. Mary Lindsay, and Bro. Woodrow Montgomery.

Motion made and carried to continue the recommendation to our churches to send \$25.00 until there is enough to build a cabin.

Motion made and carried that the Liberty Association send \$15.00 to the State Association for minutes fund.

Motion made and carried that the Liberty Association send \$10.00 to State Association for expense of secretary and treasurer.

Motion made and carried to change the Financial Report of the Business Committee from Utilities to Miscellaneous.

Motion made and carried to give Rev. William Reeves \$5.00.

Minutes were read and approved.

Dismissed in prayer by Rev. Maynard Moore.

Moderator, Rev. Finis Johnson. Assistant Clerk, Mrs. Ancel Alexander.

ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS AND WIVES

Rev. Vinita Broyles, Rev. Eddie Pearce and Mrs. Pearce, Rev. Henry Long and Mrs. Long, Rev. Finis Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, Rev. William Reeves and Mrs. Reeves, Rev. Selph Jones and Mrs. Jones, Rev. Lavern Jones and Mrs. Jones, Rev. Maynard Moore and Mrs. Moore, Rev. Edward Climer and Mrs. Climer, Rev. Marion Allsman and Mrs. Allsman, Rev. Ezra Vestal and Mrs. Vestal, Rev. George Deckard and Mrs. Deckard, Rev. Dale Jones, Rev. Robert Carlson.

VISITING MINISTERS

Rev. Hilsley, Rev. Hershel Freeman, Rev. Harry Beatty, Rev. Paul Bliss.

DELEGATES

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Guthrie, Harley Cook, Lemon O'Dell, Mary Lindsey, Dorothy Johnson, Mildred Cook, Bill Fryan, Eilene James, Lucille Inmon, Earl Hodges, Ben Lasswell, Lois Douglas, Walter Barker, Phronia Barker, Thelma Arthur, Nora Letterman, Hershel Stigall, Vera Stigall, Mary Lowery, Freada Hays, Dortha Johnson, Nancy Fagan, Mary Rue, Verda Jones, Ervin Fain.

DEACONS AND WIVES

Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Price, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Walton, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dodson, Mrs. Homer Moiser, Mrs. Ernest Clift, Mrs. Bill Johnson, Mrs. George McNabb, Mrs. Monroe Hargus, Mrs. Ray Forrester.

CHURCH CLERKS

Mrs. Ella Patton, Mrs. Dorothy Fain, Mrs. Gertrude Rue, Mrs. Margaret Wantland, Mrs. Effie Pearce, Mrs. Opal Hyde, Mrs. Minnie Price, Mrs. Anna Walker, Mrs. Effie Hodges.

REPORTS

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE

We, the Temperance Committee, recommend:

We as Free Will Baptists should be an example of Christian living by being obedient unto the Gospel. II Peter 1:6, teaches us to add to knowledge, temperance and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness.

Committee:

Sis. Gladys Montgomerv. Sis. Anna Walker,

Sis. Lola Long.

OBITUARY COMMITTEE

We, the Obituary Committee, find that our Heavenly Father has called our beloved brothers and sisters from our midst. We recommend that this body stand in silent prayer in memory of

those who have gone on.

Those passing are: Bro. Charley Taylor, Sis. Elizabeth Garrett, Sis. Vina Heafley from Lebanon First Church; Bro. Leo Doty and Sis. Fannie Little from Lynn Street Church; Bro. Jessie Edwards and Bro. Lee Justice from Aurora Church; Bro. Lige Gann from Mt. Zion Church; Bro. John Garner from Niangua Church; Bro. Johnny Mackie from Amity Church; and Bro. George Duren from Black Oak Church.

Committee:

Sis. Margaret Wantland, Sis. Pansy Jones, Sis. Dorothy Moiser.

STATISTICAL REPORT O

	Springfield First Church		Waynesville Church	Lebanon First Church		Amity Church		Macedonia Church
State of Religion Members Received This Year	Good 40		Good	Good 20		Good		Good
Number Baptized	7		2			1		2 2
Number Deceased Total Memberships	366		61	3 85		60		32
Condition of Sunday School	Good		Good	Good		Good		Good
Condition of Prayer Meeting			Good			475.00	0	Good
Amount Paid Pastors Amount Paid Evangelist	\$3,975.00 \$ 235.00	SS	545.00 60.00	\$3,695.00 \$ 96.50		95.00		480.00
Amount for Foreign Missions Amount for Missions		Ψ	00.00	1	1	00.00	\$	60.00
				\$ 30.00				
Amount for Home Missions Amount for Cooperative Fund	\$ 271.00							1
Amount for Special Offerings				\$ 143.67	\$	5.00		
Amount for Building & Repairs	\$2,866.99	\$	927.18	\$ 55.36	1			
Amount for Publications		\$	45.89				\$	28.00
Amount for Youth Camp		***	15.00 19.22				\$ \$ \$	$25.00 \\ 60.00$

LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

Black Oak Church		Aurora First Church	Gardner Church		Mt. Zion (Cuba) Church	Marshfield Church		Liberty Church		Little Vine Church		Lynn Street Church	Niangua Church
Good 3		Good 11 11	Good 7 6		Good 5 6	Good		Good 25 14		Good		Good 2 2	Good 1
1		2			1	2.0						2	1
122 Good		Good Good	Good Good		207 Good	Good Good		178 Good		94 Good		Good Good	Good Good
540.00 115.23	\$1 \$,032.88	\$ $\frac{430.44}{168.50}$	\$	360.00	\$ 115.00	\$2 \$	$,815.05 \\ 150.52$	\$	$199.75 \\ 210.00$	\$1 \$,040.00	\$ $750.00 \\ 100.00$
16.00	S	180.00		\$	36.50		\$	121.63					\$ 107.00
5.00	\$	135.00				\$ 5.00	\$	272.15			\$	5.00	
744.51	\$	110.00	\$ 50.00	\$ \$ \$	5.00 44.53 30.00	\$ 48.00	\$	439.48	de th	64.00	\$ \$	25.00	\$ 68.10 74.60
			\$ 96.00	Ψ	00.00				\$	52.00			\$ 176.85

Treasurer's Report

Balance in Treasury from Session 25	\$234.95
Disbursements: Amount for printing minutes Clerk fees To State Association for minutes fund	68.00 10.00 15.00
To State Association for Secretary and Treasurer Amount for postage Amount paid for expense of Liberty Association	10.00 5.00 40.45
Total Disbursements	\$148.45
Balance in Treasury before this session started	\$ 86.50
Money received from session (26)	127.00
Balance in Treasury at this time	\$213.50

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Rev. Vinita Broyles—Sermons preached 72; miles traveled 824; pastored one church from October 1, 1962, to July 1, 1963; money received \$314.95.

Rev. Henry Long—Churches pastored 1; sermons preached, over 150; professions witnessed, over 40; revivals held 2; number baptized 14; funerals preached 8; money received \$3,900; and married 11 couples.

Rev. Edward Climer—Sermons preached 85; churches pastored 1; professions witnessed 18; number baptized 9; additions to church 9; funerals preached 3; money received \$1,077.33; and married 1 couple.

Rev. Dale Jones—Sermons preached 194; churches pastored 1; revivals held 7; professions witnessed 31; number baptized 4; additions to church 20; funerals preached 27; miles traveled 13,200; money received \$3,695.00; and married 13 couples.

Rev. Robert Carlson—Sermons preached 16; professions witnessed 3; funerals preached 1; miles traveled 2,532; and married 1 couple.

Rev. William Reeves—Sermons preached 61; churches pastored 1; professions witnessed 2; additions to church 14; funerals preached 1; miles traveled 2,300; and money received \$110.00.

Rev. Melvin Nelson—Sermons preached 78; churches pastored 2; revivals held 1; professions witnessed 8; additions to church 5; number baptized 7; funerals preached 1; miles traveled 2,060; and money received \$1,021.21.

Rev. Eddie Pearce—Sermons preached 100; churches pastored 1; revivals held 1; professions witnessed 6; miles traveled 150; and money received \$100.00.

Rev. Maynard Moore—Sermons preached 145; churches pastored 2; revivals held 3; professions witnessed 7; number baptized 3; additions to church 6; miles traveled 10,000; and money received \$501.31.

Rev. Finis Johnson—Sermons preached 119; churches pastored 2; revivals held 1; professions witnessed 3; additions to church 1; funerals preached 3; miles traveled 4,749; and money received \$1,465.90.

Rev. Cliff Bowman—Sermons preached 157; professions witnessed 122; revivals held 5; number baptized 14; and married 8 couples.

Rev. George Deckard—Sermons preached 18; professions witnessed 4; funerals preached 2; and married 4 couples.

Rev. Selph Jones—Sermons preached 71; churches pastored 2; revivals held 2; professions witnessed 7; number baptized 6; additions to church 5; miles traveled 5,325; funerals preached 19; and money received \$878.76.

Rev. Cleo Covington—Churches pastored 2; revivals held 2; professions witnessed 14; funerals preached 1; and married 3 couples.

Rev. Lavern Jones—Churches pastored 3; revivals held 1; professions witnessed 1; number baptized 3; additions to church 1; funerals preached 3; money received \$1,205.00; and married 15 couples.

BY-I AWS

- 1. All business meetings shall be opened by singing, reading a portion of God's word and prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.
- 2. The Clerk or Assistant Clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the Association into conference. And in the absence of the Moderator or assistant, the senior minister shall act as Moderator.
- 3. Any ruling of the Moderator may be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- 4. This Association may correspond by Messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.
- 5. This Association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into committee as a whole.
- 6. Any member of this body may appeal from the decision of the Moderator to the Association, and by a two-thirds vote
- 7. The Moderator shall stop all discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit.
- 8. No member of this Association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission of the Moderator.
- 9. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator," but shall not speak further until recognized by the Moderator.
- 10. All business, except routine, shall be brought before the body by committees, but should any committee refuse or fail to present to this body any business given to it by any member of this Association, then such business may be presented to the body by any member, but cannot be discussed unless by a vote of this body.
- 11. No one shall leave the Association without consent of the Moderator.
- 12. All officers of this Association shall be nominated from the floor and elected by majority vote.
- 13. All committees shall be appointed by the Moderator, but any appointment may be changed by a majority vote of this body.
- 14. A majority of all votes cast shall be final upon all subjects except to amend the Constitution or By-Laws, then it shall require a two-thirds majority.
- 15. Churches of the Liberty Association shall not call a pastor who does not have a yearly certificate.
- 16. Each minister in good standing shall be given a yearly certificate.
- 17. These By-Laws may be amended or changed at any regular or adjourned session of this Association.

CONSTITUTION

From long experience we, the Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings and Churches, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of Quarterly Meetings and Churches, to perpetuate our union and communion among us and preserve and maintain a correspondence among each other in our union; therefore, we propose to maintain and keep the orders and rules of our Association according to the following plan and form of government.

- 1. This Association shall be called the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists and shall be composed of such well regulated Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meetings and churches, as may embody themselves under this Constitution.
- 2. The acting members of the conference of this Association shall be two (2) delegates from each church, chosen by the members of their respective churches while in conference, together with all ordained ministers and their companions, deacons and their companions, and church clerks belonging to any church composing this body; also three (3) members from each quarterly meeting under the Association, two (2) to be chosen by the quarterly meeting with the clerk of the said quarterly meeting.
- 3. The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator and an Assistant Moderator who shall be elected; a permanent Clerk and Treasurer, who shall superintend the printing of the minutes; an Executive Board of five members whose duty it shall be to transact all business of this Association when this body is not in session, and whose term of office shall be as follows: One for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, and one for five years, and at the expiration of each of these terms, one is to be elected for a term of five years, and who shall hold their office until their successors are elected. And further, if any vacancies occur between sessions of the Association, the board shall fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next session of the Association; all of whom shall perform such duties as usually devolve upon such officers.
- 4. Any regularly organized Free Will Baptist Quarterly Meeting or church maintaining Gospel order, agreeing with this denomination in doctrine and practices, in favor of the benevolent enterprises, as Sabbath Schools, missions, temperance and education, may be received into this Association by presenting a petition asking to be received; and ministers and deacons desiring to become members, must be recommended by the church to which they belong, appear in person, and then by a vote of this Association, when such vote shall be decided by a majority of all votes cast.

- 5. This Association shall have power to discipline its Quarterly Meetings and churches, exclude them for disorderly walk, if labor proves unsuccessful; to ordain deacons, to license and ordain ministers, such as give evidence of being qualified and called of God, by request of the church to which such persons belong; to settle such questions of discipline and doctrine as the Quarterly Meetings or churches may refer to it; to make any rules or By-Laws necessary to its regulation and not inconsistent with its Constitution; but in no case shall this Association reverse a decision of its Quarterly Meetings or in any way interfere with its internal regulations, nor hold any ecclesiastical power over the Quarterly Meetings or churches composing this Association.
- 6. The sessions of this Association shall be held with the Youth Camp. The Youth Camp will be a permanent place for the Association session.
- 7. The sessions of the Association shall convene annually at ten o'clock a. m. on Tuesday and Wednesday before the first Sunday in August, at which time it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Meetings and churches composing this Association to represent themselves by delegates, and send written reports. The Quarterly Meetings are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, ministers licensed or ordained, and appeals if any have been taken. The churches are to report their spiritual standing, benevolent work, names and addresses of their ministers and clerks, the names of their deacons, meeting days and statistics; at which time the Association shall act upon such questions and topics as may be referred to them through their committees; and transact such other business, not repugnant to this Constitution nor to the denomination, as in their judgment may promote the cause of Christ and the interest of the Quarterly Meetings and churches within the limits of this Association.
- 8. It is the duty of this Association to provide for the general union of the churches, to point out their interests and aid them in securing pastors, to put out evangelists and other ministers in places where the Gospel is most needed, and require a written annual report of each minister belonging to this body.
- 9. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority of all members voting at any regular session of this Association, when written notice setting forth the exact intended alterations or amendments shall have been given at the previous regular session.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saylour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit" in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able promote the success of the church and of the gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in our society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of Missions, the success of Sunday schools, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the World. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of cur Lord Jesus Christ.



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