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Nearly 10,000 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention are en route today to San Francisco for their 1962 session opening June 5 in the Civic Auditorium.

Although the Convention now has churches in all 50 states and is no longer accurately described by the geographical term "Southern," the majority of the 32,598 churches and approximately 10 million members are in the traditional dozen Southern states.

Two main issues confront the messengers, or voting group, attending the Convention: (1) whether to permit representatives from churches in Canada and other areas outside the United States to have messenger status at the annual Conventions, and (2) the allegations of liberal theology among faculty members of two Convention seminaries.

To allow extended messenger representation, the Convention would have to amend its Constitution. An amendment was introduced last year and is scheduled to be voted on this year. Proponents say these churches are as entitled to send messengers as those within the U. S.

Opponents say that existing Canadian Baptist bodies feel this is an invasion of their country, and that approval of the amendment may strain relations between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Canadian organizations.

Traditionally conservative in theology, Baptists--chiefly in the Southwestern states--have become alarmed by what they call liberal doctrines in a book written by one seminary professor and public statements by another professor.

Current feeling centers around a book, "The Message of Genesis," written by Dr. Ralph H. Elliott, professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

His treatment of historical accounts and methods of presenting material found in Genesis has been declared by his opponents as contrary to the conservative position of the Convention.

Dr. Dale Moody of Louisville, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was attacked last summer for statements he is said to have made at a ministers' conference in Oklahoma--also branded liberal theology.

San Francisco is not new on the Southern Baptist Convention meeting circuit. Messengers gathered here for their 1951 Convention. Just across Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, Southern Baptists operate one of their six theological seminaries, appropriately named Golden Gate.

The Convention runs through Friday, June 8. Preliminary meetings of the Woman's Missionary Union, Convention auxiliary; the Pastors' Conference, the Religious Education Association and the Church Music Conference will be held June 4-5 in San Francisco, but all end in time for the opening session of the Convention proper Tuesday night.