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127 Ninth Avenue, North

Nashville, Tennessee

CONSERVATIVE GROUP MEETS PRIOR  
TO NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

BOSTON, Mass., May 23--(BP)--The Northern Baptist Convention opening here today was preceded by a five-day meeting of conservative Baptists, a loosely organized protest group that seems to be building a new denomination. Formerly a strong minority in the Northern Convention, they began to organize mission and publication societies in 1943. They now support over 200 missionaries and have support from 1,500 churches, according to Dr. Chester E. Tulga, Chicago research secretary for the group.

The series of meetings of the independent societies and associations of the movement met in Park Street Congregational Church here and enrolled over 1,000 delegates. Most of those enrolled did not remain for the meeting of the Northern Baptist Convention.

While in Boston the conservatives took steps to bolster their budgets that totaled more than \$800,000 last year and to establish three new seminaries. Little hope was expressed by either the Northern Baptists or the conservative Baptists that the two groups would reunite. Dr. John Bradbury, editor of The Watchman-Examiner, when confronted with a rumor that the Conservative Foreign Mission Society was about to disband, said, "There is not a word of truth in it." Dr. Tulga said, "Could you kill a mission movement that had accumulated 200 missionaries in seven years?" Dr. William B. Lippard, editor, Missions, said that there seemed to be little chance that the movement would soon die.

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NORTHERN BAPTISTS VOTE FOR NEW GENERAL  
SECRETARY AS PART OF 25-POINT PROGRAM

BOSTON, Mass., May 23--(BP)--Northern Baptists will soon have a new general secretary to take the place of the former recording and corresponding secretaries. The new officer will be elected by the General Council and will serve the General Council as an administrative officer and the denomination as representative or spokesman.

The action was voted today as a part of the 25-point program recommended by the Commission on Review for the Northern Baptist Convention. Dr. E. T. Dahlberg, chairman of the Commission, made the report. The General Council is a body that  
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roughly corresponds to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, except that its province doesn't include budget and stewardship promotion. The General Council has all the powers of the Northern Baptist Convention except those which the Convention has reserved to itself or delegated to others. The general secretary will have responsibilities similar to those of the executive secretary of the S. B. C. Executive Committee, an office that had not existed in Northern Baptist life until the action today.

Dr. Dahlberg, in presenting the 25-point Commission plan, said that the plan was devised to clear the dust out from under the davenport. In his address of presentation he called for a great theological congress of Northern Baptists "at which we will seek doctrinal accord, not through creedal statements, but through an understanding and study of the Scriptures together." He also told the convention, "We must take our places in the great co-operative enterprises of the protestant family. We must take our place side by side with all believing protestants in the Federal and World Councils. We must not think in terms of the Baptist world alone. We must think in terms of all the followers of Jesus Christ."

Other points of the 25-point plan will be considered on later days of the convention. A definite evangelistic spirit was noted on the opening day of the convention. Dr. Theoron Chastain, Phoenix, Ariz., preacher of the convention sermon, said, "The gospel is today in danger from only one source: if we do not proclaim it, it cannot save men. No denial can take away its power. The logic of the ages and the armies of the nations cannot defeat the gospel unless we silence it."

Mrs. H. G. Colwell, president of the Convention, in her presidential address said, "Today we hear much concerning mass movements, mass society, the rise of mass man. We are committed to the evangelism of the man in mass society." Sidney W. Powell, pastor, Tremont Temple, in his welcome address said, "I pray that your presence in this city may further the Great Awakening, that because you have been here there may be persons who a week hence may say that they met Christ through a delegate of the Northern Baptist Convention."

Harold E. Stassen, president, University of Pennsylvania, and introduced as a deacon in a Baptist church, reminded the overflow crowd of 7,000 Baptists that their duty was for each to win as many others as possible.