

September 11, 1951

NASHVILLE, Tenn. --(BP)-- Dr. Porter Routh, forty-year-old Baptist layman in denominational work since 1934, was elected executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention in the semi-annual meeting of the executive committee of the Convention here today.

Elected to succeed Dr. Duke K. McCall, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Dr. Routh has been secretary, Department of Survey, Statistics and Information of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville since 1945.

He was awarded the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, June 4, 1951. He received the A.B. degree "cum laude", from OBU in 1934.

George Fraser, attorney from Washington, D.C., was re-elected president of the Executive Committee, as was Dr. H.W. Tiffany, vice-president. Dr. Tiffany is pastor of the Park Place Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia.

Elected as interim executive secretary-treasurer was Dr. Austin Crouch, for more than twenty years executive secretary preceeding Dr. McCall. Dr. Crouch is retired and living in Nashville.

Dr. Merrill D. Moore, director of promotion, and Albert McClellan, director of publications, were re-elected as full-time employees of the Committee.

Dr. Routh, a native Texan, began his service to the Baptist denomination in 1934 when he became director of publicity and instructor in political science, debate and journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University after his graduation there. After graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, in 1938, he returned for a year to the same position at OBU. He was publicity director for the Seminary while attending there.

Before coming to the Department of Survey, Statistics, and Information in Nashville, he was editor for two years of the Baptist Messenger, state denominational paper of Oklahoma. Previous to his editorship, he served as secretary for both the Sunday School and Training Union Department and the Brotherhood and Promotion Department of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

He has been senior secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of the executive committee of the Convention since 1946. He is a former member of the board of trustees of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary and the commission on the American Baptist Seminary . (Negro) in Nashville.

As an outstanding statistician, he holds membership in the American Statistical Association and is vice-president of the American Association of Church-related Statisticians. He is listed in the 1950-51 volume of Who's Who in America.

He is now editor of the Quarterly Review, Southern Baptist statistical publication; the Survey Bulletin, weekly news release; the Southern Baptist Handbook; the Southern Baptist Book of Reports; and the Southern Baptist Annual.

He is the author of a mission book, My World Too, published by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1948.

Following the election of Dr. Routh, the following statement was announced by Dr. J.W. Storer, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and chairman of the committee recommending Dr. Routh to the Executive Committee.

"That Porter Routh is a man of poise, careful in thought, concise in presentation and firm in his unequivocal stand for all things that are right is recognized by every segment of our Convention.

"He is a keeper of confidences; his character is beyond reproach. He stands high, both mentally and physically, and will make a secretary and a workman of whom no one need be ashamed."