

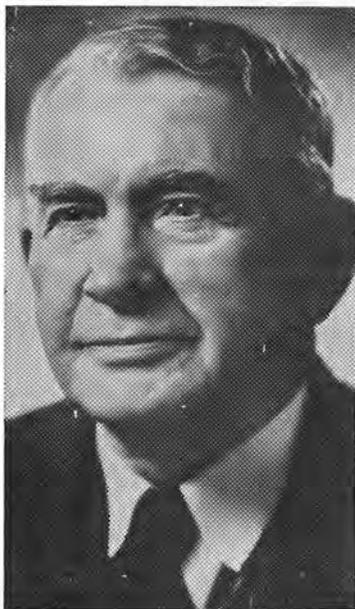
# Washington and Lee University's

## 1956

Democratic

# MOCK CONVENTION

April 30 and May 1  
Lexington, Virginia



**THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER**—Senator Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, former Democratic Vice-President of the United States, who will open the 1956 Mock Convention by delivering the keynote address on Monday afternoon.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
April 30



After considerable persuasion, the mascot of the 1956 Democratic Mock Convention poses with student leaders during one of the pre-convention planning sessions attended by state delegation chairmen. Left to right, are delegate John Alford, Convention Chairman Carl Swanson, and Illinois Chairman Bill Burns.

## AFTER 24 YEARS, THE DONKEY AGAIN

FOR THE FIRST time since 1932, Washington and Lee students will seek to nominate a Democratic Party candidate for the presidency in the schools' quadrennial Mock Convention. Since the convention is always held for the party out of power, and since this is the first election in 24 years with the Democrats on the outside, the 1956 convention is taking on an added air of excitement.

The growing feud between Adlai Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver is being watched keenly by student planners, and Convention Chairman Carl Swanson is predicting the best Mock Convention since 1924 when John W. Davis was correctly chosen as a Democratic dark-horse candidate.

Besides the Stevenson-Kefauver contest, there is also the added probability of fireworks from the Southern Democrats, particularly the Texas delegation, the possibility of dark-horse nominations, and the question of what role Averill Harriman will play. All indications point to a bang-up two days at Washington and Lee on April 30 and May 1.

**THE CONVENTION** is assured of getting off to a flying start with the keynote address delivered by Senator Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, the former Vice-President who made the word "Veep" a household word in America.

Although the theme of the senator's keynote speech is still unknown, there is the possibility that

he may make a major party statement, as Mock Convention keynoters have done in past years.

**WASHINGTON AND LEE** students began conducting their now-famous Mock Convention in 1908. Since that time the event has grown with each election year, and only in 1920 and 1944 when the student body was depleted because of war was the convention not held.

The Convention can boast of no perfect record, although the correct nominations are in the majority, six to four. But the real value of the Washington and Lee method of mock balloting lies in the honest effort for authenticity in convention procedure. Student state delegation chairmen have the great responsibility of contacting, by mail, phone or personally, the party leaders in their respective states. They ask for and receive advice and instructions on the probable course a particular state's delegation will follow at the summer bona fide convention. This is then translated into the action of the student delegation on the Mock Convention floor at Washington and Lee.

**AS IN 1948** and 1952, the Mock Convention is attracting wide attention among the nation's press, radio and TV news people. Radio and TV networks, several nationally-distributed magazines, and the daily press have already voiced keen interest in the 1956 affair and are making plans for coverage.

## W&L's Record Since 1908

- 1908—Right with William Jennings Bryan.
- 1912—Wrong with Judson Harman. Wilson got nomination.
- 1916—Right with Charles Evans Hughes.
- 1920—No convention.
- 1924—Right with John W. Davis.
- 1928—Right with Al Smith.
- 1932—Right with Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1936—Wrong with Arthur Vandenberg. Landon was nominated.
- 1940—Wrong with Charles L. McNary. Wilkie was the nominee.
- 1944—No convention.
- 1948—Wrong with Vandenberg again. Dewey won nomination.
- 1952—Right with Dwight D. Eisenhower.
- 1956—? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

### The Kick-Off Parade

**PARADE PLANS** have already reached the point where it is apparent that the 1956 kick-off event will be the biggest and best of the Mock Convention's long history. State delegation chairmen are displaying unusual originality in the planning of state entries, and one delegation—the Stevenson tub-thumpers from Illinois—is planning eleven procession units. Among a dozen bands already accepting invitations is the famed "Highly Tighties" band from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, shown below as they swung up Lexington's Main Street during the 1952 convention parade. Ted Kerr, a junior from Texas, is parade chairman and should be contacted in regard to entering marching units.





Wash. and Lee 1952  
G.O.P. Mock Convention

Illin  
CONVENTION

NORTH DAKOTA SAYS!  
I USED TO BE A DEMOCRAT  
AS HAPPY AS I COULD BE,  
NOW I WISH I WAS A PUPPY  
AND TRUMAN WAS A TREE

ALASKA

Wash. and Lee  
G.O.P. Mock Convention

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