

LEXINGTON, April 27---Keynote speaker Alben W. Barkley, Miss America for 1956, a two-mile long "kick-off" parade, a tooth and nail fight between supporters of Stevenson and Kefauver, and the prospect of two days of political excitement and intrigue---all these ingredients point to the serving up Monday and Tuesday of the best national Mock Convention held at Washington and Lee University in the event's 48-year history.

The former United States vice-president will be in the lead car of the giant parade which will set off convention activities at 2 p. m. Monday, and the action will continue with only slight interruptions until late Tuesday night.

In the interim, Washington and Lee's 1,000 students will take part in the parade, hear Senator Barkley's opening address, and then "nominate" Democratic candidates for the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States.

The odds are 6-4 that the W & L mock politicians will come up with a presidential nomination which will be confirmed by the National Democratic Convention in Chicago in midsummer.

The W & L affair has been held in ten election years since 1908 when the event was inaugurated, and six conventions made the correct prediction for the party-out-of-power's standard-bearer.

The last triumph came in 1952, when a Republican Mock Convention nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower on the third ballot, following a brush of opposition from backers of the late "Mr. Republican," Senator Robert Taft of Ohio.

The 1956 convention will mark the first time since 1932 that the Democrats have been the party involved. And if the record means anything, W & L students have been wrong only once on the Democratic nominee. That was in 1912, when W & L's choice of Judson Harman was sidestepped and the real nomination given to Woodrow Wilson.

At least thirteen names are expected to be placed in nomination for president during the course of the convention. Included are front-runners Adlai Stevenson and Senator Estes Kefauver, as well as Governors Averill Harriman, G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams, and Frank Lausche, and Senators Stuart Symington and Lyndon Johnson. Former President Harry S. Truman and his ex-veep, Senator Barkley, are slated for "courtesy nominations," and the names of a number of "favorite sons" will be placed before the convention.

As in the conventions of 1948 and 1952, the Washington and Lee affair is attracting much attention from the press, radio and TV people, for the balloting often is a barometer of how the early voting will go in the bona fide convention.

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Press associations, leading state and regional dailies, and radio and TV newsmen will cover the 1956 event.

The Mock Convention has a firm reputation for authenticity, and student delegates vote not by personal preference but on the basis of information gleaned from Democratic party leaders in all 48 states and six territories. National convention procedure is followed to the letter.

The student in charge of the convention this year is Carl D. Swanson, an intermediate law student from Kansas City, Mo. He will serve as Permanent Chairman of the convention, but he will take over only after Senator Barkley delivers his keynote address as the convention's Temporary Chairman.

The senator will be introduced by Virginia Governor Thomas B. Stanley at the convention's opening session in Doremus Gymnasium. The assembly will be called to order at 4 p. m., and after organizational procedure is complied with, Senator Barkley will take the speakers stand at 5 p. m.

Over 1,000 spectators are expected to jam Doremus Gymnasium to watch the convention's opening activities. Many thousands more will line Lexington's streets for the kick-off parade.

Neighboring Virginia Military Institute's 60-piece band will have the position of honor as the parade's lead-off unit. Then will come Senator Barkley's convertible, followed by 114 bands, floats and other parade entries from the participating states and territories.

Besides VMI, other bands taking part include William Fleming High School of Roanoke, Fishburne Military School, Lylburn Downing High School of Lexington, Halifax County High School, Augusta Military Academy, Greenbrier Military School, Parry McCluer High School of Buena Vista, Radford College's all-girl Scotch Kilts, Allison High School of Roanoke, the Randolph-Macon College Jazz Band, and Washington and Lee's own Southern Collegians' Dixieland group.

Highlight of the parade will be the appearance on the New Jersey float of Sharon Kay Ritchie, Miss America for 1956. She is scheduled to arrive in Roanoke Sunday evening by air, and will be present for the entire first-day activities at Washington and Lee.

Monday has been proclaimed Mock Convention Day in Lexington by Mayor Paul Holstein, and school children are being excused early to witness the big parade.

Lexington and State Police are making extensive plans to reroute through traffic by way of Lexington's newly-completed by-pass while the parade is in progress.

Ted Kerr, a junior from Midland, Texas, is the parade chairman. Assisted by a corps of 12 marshals, he will begin forming units for the procession as early as

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7:30 a. m. Monday.

Classes at Washington and Lee are suspended Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday.

Nominations for president are expected to take up all of the second session, beginning at 8 p. m. Monday. The first ballot will be taken on Tuesday's morning session, with as many other ballots as necessary to nominate following.

During the convention, spontaneous floor demonstrations and student oratory lend color and flavor to the proceedings.