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 hang-up two days at Washington and Lee on April 30 and May 1.

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, will speak at 6:30 p.m. on April 30.

W&L's Record Since 1908

1908—Right with William Jennings Bryan.
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.

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 "Highty 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.