

LEXINGTON, Va., Nov. 15--As the political tempo of the Nation quickens with the approach of another Presidential election year, students at Washington and Lee University have begun to lay plans for their traditional mock party convention in the Spring.

In keeping with a custom begun 44 years ago, the stunt will be a replica of the convention to be held later in the summer by the party out of power. The University's Doremus Gymnasium will be decorated as the convention hall and more than 1,000 W&L students will participate as delegates and alternates.

The keynote speaker will be a national Republican leader yet to be announced. All other convention officials will be chosen from the student body.

To begin the six-month task of planning the spectacle with its mass of organizational detail, Convention Chairman Townsend Oast, first year law student from Portsmouth, has appointed a five-man steering committee. A faculty committee will act in an advisory capacity.

The student members are Richard McMurrin, freshman law student from Newport News, Thomas R. Shepherd, senior from Washington, D. C., Willis M. Anderson, senior law student from Roanoke, Joel Cooper, a Norfolk senior, and Marvin H. Anderson, a junior from Annapolis, Md.

Student officials have expressed a desire to equal, if not surpass, the 1948 convention when a mile-long parade of "delegates" led by a Republican elephant, pretty girls in convertibles and two bands preceded the actual formalities in the gym. The keynote speaker that year was Rep. Clarence J. Brown (R-Ohio), a Washington and Lee alumnus.

Presidential "nominee" of the 1948 convention was the late Sen. Arthur Vandenburg (R-Mich.). At the real party convention that year, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York was chosen as the Republican standard bearer.

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The mock convention also picked Al Smith in 1928 and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932.