

Special to Richmond News-Leader  
For release Friday afternoon,  
April 25, 1952

LEXINGTON, Va., April 25—Lexington might well be called "Little Chicago" these days with all the political banners, posters, and streamers going up in town.

Even fat cigars and smoke-filled rooms are evident as Washington and Lee students and townspeople join in preparing for the quadremial Mock Convention.

It used to be strictly a University show. But within the last few decades, the town of Lexington has joined in the fun. It's everybody's game, insofar as joining in the holiday festivities is concerned. But it is still the students who simulate activities of the real McCoy scheduled later this year in Chicago.

Merchants have hung gigantic pictures of favorite sons in their windows. Others have given over part of their stores as State Delegation headquarters. The town of Lexington has proclaimed Monday, the day of the big parade and Senator Duff's keynote speech, an official holiday. Flags will line the street, just as they do on the Fourth of July and Memorial Day. The schools will let the kids out in time to watch the parade, beginning at 2 p.m. The parade will contain six or more bands and over 50 floats, at least one representing every state of the Union.

The Eisenhower-for-president headquarters is located in a vacant building where Barkley Sturgill of Prestonsburg, Ky., chairman of the student Eisenhower movement, has been busily conferring with his assistants.

Sturgill said today that he is confident the W&L students will support Gen. Eisenhower when the balloting begins the second day of the mock political affair.

But the Eisenhower headquarters is not the only one set up, Senator Robert A. Taft's student backers have been preparing his campaign from one of

-more-

the fraternities on the W&L campus.

Frazier Reams Jr. of Toledo, Ohio, campaign manager for the senator's nomination, has been conferring closely with the Ohio student delegation gathering information and posters to give Sen. Taft full support.

Headquarters have also been set up for Douglas MacArthur, Gov. Earl Warren of California and Harold E. Stassen, the other leading Republican contenders in the political battle for the presidency.

Several store windows display as many as five or six posters designating the headquarters of different state delegations. The Wyoming delegation painted a large GOP elephant on a downtown store beneath a 15-foot sign giving the state's nickname, "The Cowboy State." The elephant is pictured eating peanuts labeled Democrats.

The Virginia student delegation has also painted an elephant, this one superimposed on a map of the Old Dominion. Robert E. Glenn of Radford is chairman of the student Virginia delegation.

Glenn said today, "All indications are that the State is leaning toward Sen. Taft." He added that there is some Eisenhower sentiment in Virginia and that he did not believe the Ohio senator would receive all 23 of the State's votes.

George W. St. Clair of 1217 Rothesay Circle, Richmond, is chairman of the float committee for the Virginia delegation to the student mock convention. He said that the Virginia students will probably have two floats in the mile-long parade that initiates the two-day political ~~maneuverings~~ maneuverings.

One float will depict one phase of Virginia's industrial progress while the other will display some Virginia beauties giving a royal welcome to the other state delegations.

Lee A. Putney of Rt. 11, Richmond, is secretary of the Virginia student delegation, and has been carrying on correspondence with leading state Republi-

ans in an effort to follow the State delegations' sentiments as closely as pos-

sible. Virginia will send 23 delegations to the real GOP convention to be held in Chicago this summer.

All 48 states will enter floats in the pre-convention parade that begins at 2 p.m. Monday. From all indications, the floats ~~in~~ this year will have a statue of an elephant standing atop a plaster of Paris model of the Capitol. The North Carolina float will try to convey the idea that the Democratic party is dead in the Tarheel state. Maryland's delegation will support their "favorite ~~son~~" Governor Theodore R. McKeldin.

After the parade, the students will convene at "Convention Hall" to ~~begin~~ ~~start~~ begin politicking.

Senator James H. Duff (R-Pa.) will highlight the afternoon session Monday with the keynote address. The former Pennsylvania governor is a staunch supporter of General Dwight D. Eisenhower and is expected to back the general at the mock convention.

The students will begin the nominations Monday night and the balloting <sup>afternoon</sup> will follow during the Tuesday/~~session~~/session. Five times in the 44-year history of the convention at W&L, the students have chosen the "nominee" who was later given the nomination by the national conventions.

For the first time in its history, the mock convention will be covered by television. Edward R. Murrow, radio and television news analyst, is sending a three-man crew to film the events for possible use on his Sunday afternoon television program, ~~the~~ "See It Now."

#####