

Tomorrow will see the first installment of another chapter in the history of successful Mock Political Conventions recorded when the Washington and Lee students give a realistic simulation of the national Republican Convention to be held later in the summer. Five times since its inception as an all student event, the W & L men have named the nominee that was later picked in the national conventions. They've missed having two conventions - 1920 and 1944 - because of wartime conditions and the resulting shortage of civilian students on the campus. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The greatest selection of the bunch occurred back in 1924 when the amateur politicians chose Dark-horse John W. Davis as the Democratic presidential nominee. This was upheld as a result of the Smith-McAdoo deadlock at the real convention at Madison Square Garden.

This quadrennial event of Washington and Lee first began back in 1908 when the Mock Convention chose William Jennings Bryan as the Democratic standard bearer, and the nomination was later confirmed in the national convention. Through 1936, the students saw five of their six predictions come true. They missed in 1912 with their selection of Judson Harman as Democratic candidate, but four years later correctly picked Charles Evans Hughes in a Republican Convention.

In 1924, John W. Davis - a W&L grad - was picked and the convention scored again in '28 by picking Al Smith in the Democratic Convention. The nominee in 1932 was



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Franklin D. Roosevelt. Twice the convention proved ~~inaccurate~~ inaccurate in picking Arthur Vandenburg - they chose him for the presidential nomination in 1936 and then again in 1948 - the last convention that the Generals have held. In 1936 however, things were going well until a last minute switch by one delegation threw the nomination to Vanderberg - ~~with~~ a switch that did not occur in the actual convention. Another near miss was 1912. Then, the convention nearly chose Woodrow Wilson.

Campus leaders have been hard at work since last fall trying to make this 1952 convention the best in history. The voting policy of the real-life delegations has been determined by the student delegation leaders. They've written to them and seen the GOP leaders in person. The major point is this: the mock convention delegates don't vote by personal preference. They must vote according to information received from their respective counterparts in every state and territory. It is for this reason that politicians around the nation assign so much importance to the convention that will be held here in Lexington tomorrow and Tuesday.

A big pre-convention parade with floats, bands and the works is planned. The University gymnasium will be decorated as Convention Hall - it will be here that the nominees will be named. Convention procedure will follow to the letter that of the real Republican conclave. Broad press coverage will be on hand this year. The wire services, newsreel



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companies, newspapers, magazines, radio stations and for the first time - television by a network.

And as is the case in all political conventions, the campaign managers claim certain victory for their respective candidates. Eisenhower supporters say that the general has it sewed up while Taftites say it's in the bag for the Ohio Senator. Then, too, there are certain victories for Warren, MacArthur, Stassen and McKeldin if you are to believe the campaigners.

Actually, Senator Taft will go into convention with the largest number of pledged votes with Eisenhower occupying second place spot. What the outcome of the convention will be is anyone's guess, but strong indications are that many of the delegates' votes now going to Stassen or Warren may later go to Eisenhower if things look good for the General. If so, it may well be a tough race for Taft - a race that will consist of a host of separate ballots before a nominee can be determined.

Opinions ~~x~~ on the campus vary greatly of course. The supporters of the various candidates have great hopes for their men. For example:

(TAFT TAPE)

And just as sure of victory are the supporters of the SHAPE commander, Kansan Dwight David Eisenhower.

(EISENHOWER TAPE)

But what will happen should Taft and Eisenhower end up in a tie so to speak? That ~~question~~ probability throws ~~the~~ the fate of such dark horses as Minnesota's Stassen.



(STASSEN TAPE)

And it appears that the old soldier hasn't faded ~~an~~ away either. MacArthur supporters are certain of their victory in the event of a Taft-Eisenhower tie-up.

(MacARTHUR TAPE)

~~WARREN~~

And what about California's Earl Warren?

(WARREN TAPE)

The Maryland delegation will be supporting Governor McKeldin of that state at least on the first several ballots. Their votes will later probably go to Ike.

(McKELDIN TAPE)

With all of these opinions floating around, there is one feeling that is not too prevalent on the campus as the students have a day off from classes.

(SCHOOL TAPE)

But this feeling by the very, very few won't dampen the enthusiasm of the many who have gotten themselves ready for a lot of political maneuvering the next few days. Who'll cop the nomination would be hard to say, but all indications point to a tough fight for the leading contenders all the way.

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