

News Bureau
Washington and Lee University
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immediate release

LEXINGTON, Feb. 19--Student delegation chairmen for 48 states and six territories have been named for Washington and Lee University's 1956 Democratic Mock Convention, scheduled for April 30 and May 1.

Carl D. Swanson, intermediate law student who is chairman of the quadrennial event, will meet with state heads Monday to plan organization of student delegations and outline procedures which chairmen will follow in contacting bona fide state chairmen in pre-convention polls.

Student chairmen are charged with the responsibility of determining as accurately as possible how various state delegations will vote at the real national convention in mid-summer. Much of the interest shown in the Washington and Lee mock affair by political leaders and the press has resulted from the authenticity of its organization and balloting procedures, Swanson points out.

Delegation leaders write state Democratic chairmen, seeking campaign literature, advice, and instructions on how to vote on the Mock Convention's initial ballot. Many students call on their respective state chairmen during Spring Vacation for a first-hand acquaintance with Democratic Party functioning.

Students were chosen for delegation leadership by Swanson and Wiley R. Wright, Jr., steering committeeman in charge of state delegations. Selection was based on interest, experience in national and campus politics, and organizational ability.

In addition to liaison work with state headquarters, student chairmen plan and organize floats and other state entries for the gigantic "kick-off" parade, set for 2 p. m. on April 30. A dozen bands and at

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add Mock Convention. ~~xxx~~ bands and at

least four crack drill teams have accepted invitations to take part in the miles-long parade.

Response to a special Mock Convention press brochure sent out to press, radio, and television media indicates wide coverage for the 1956 event. In 1948 and 1952, the Mock Convention was reported extensively by press, radio, and TV.

The forthcoming convention will be the eleventh held at Washington and Lee since the practice was begun in 1908. Six times student delegates have correctly pre-guessed the nominee for the party out of power, while four times the national conventions have failed to "confirm" the W & L choice.

Classes are suspended during the two-day convention, and Doremus Gymnasium becomes a flag and bunting-draped convention hall for the more than 1,000 student delegates.