

News Bureau
Washington and Lee University
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Sunday a. m. release

LEXINGTON, May 5---Mock Convention leaders at Washington and Lee University, saddened by the tragic death of keynote speaker Senator Alben W. Barkley last Monday, are finding new encouragement from a charge given them by the ex-Vice-President's widow.

Mrs. Barkley told Convention Chairman Carl D. Swanson, of Kansas City, Mo.:

"You have unfinished business."

Swanson says it was Mrs. Barkley's words which convinced him that Washington and Lee should make every effort to carry on its Mock Convention tradition, just as called for in the original plans.

The convention was recessed indefinitely following Senator Barkley's death late Monday afternoon, and its possible cancelation was a matter of great conjecture on the Washington and Lee campus.

Meeting with a joint faculty-student committee upon his return from Senator Barkley's funeral service in Washington, Swanson relayed Mrs. Barkley's words to the group which discussed the advisability of rescheduling the event only 35 minutes before voting unanimously in favor of it.

Swanson immediately called meetings of the steering committee and the 48 state and six territorial delegation chairman. They were instructed to make ready for the reconvening session at 8 p. m. Monday, May 7.

The university agreed to suspend classes all day Tuesday, May 8. Both faculty and students voiced concern at missing more classes this close to examinations, but all agreed to make the best of it.

Swanson promised every effort would be made to recapture the enthusiasm and political fervor which had characterized last Monday's convention until its tragic moment.

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"It will be no half-way affair," Swanson declared. "Anything else but the convention as we originally planned would be degrading to the Mock Convention tradition."

The faculty-student committee agreed that the session should open with a tribute to Senator Barkley. Swanson reported that Rep. Burr Harrison, who was on the original agenda for the Monday evening session, has asked to be allowed to take part in the resuming activities.

And the committee also decided to ask Washington and Lee President Francis P. Gaines to join in the opening tribute. Dr. Gaines was not scheduled to speak on the original convention program.

First regular order of business Monday night will deal with committee reports which were to have followed the keynote address. Then the convention delegates will get down to the business of nominating a Democratic Party candidate for the presidency.

Thirteen names, including Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver, are due for nominating and seconding speeches.

By Tuesday morning's session, the convention will be ready for its first ballot. As many other ballots as necessary to nominate will be taken Tuesday, and following the election of a presidential nominee, a vice-presidential running mate will be nominated.

Washington and Lee's Mock Convention began in 1908, and in ten previous attempts correctly nominated the party-out-of-power candidate six times.