

News Bureau
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

immediate release

LEXINGTON, April 25---Chairman Carl D. Swanson and other members of the steering committee for Washington and Lee University's 1956 Democratic Mock Convention will confer Thursday afternoon with Arthur Krock, Washington political commentator for the New York Times.

The Washington and Lee students will meet with Krock in Staunton where the veteran capitol newsman is participating in the Woodrow Wilson Centennial event.

They will seek the benefit of Krock's behind-the-scenes intelligence of Democratic Party plans as a means toward making the Mock Convention on April 30-May 1 even a more authentic mirror of probable party maneuvers at the Democrats' national convention this summer in Chicago.

Accompanying the Washington and Lee group to Staunton will be Dr. J. Harvey Wheeler, associate professor of political science, who helped arrange the interview with Mr. Krock.

Swanson and his aides are in the midst of the final week of plans and preparations for the two-day event beginning next Monday.

He reported today that virtually every state and territorial delegation has received instructions from their respective Democratic party headquarters on the course of action to follow in convention balloting.

Already scheduled to be nominated during the first day's session are former nominee Adlai Stevenson, Tennessee Senator Estes Kefauver, New York Governor Averill Harriman, Texas Senator Lyndon Johnson, Ohio Governor Frank Lausche, Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams, Missouri Senator Stuart Symington, and several "favorite sons."

Meanwhile, elaborate preparations were being made by the various delegations for Monday's big "kick-off" parade.

Lexington Mayor Paul Holstein has proclaimed Monday an official town holiday, and schools will be dismissed early to permit pupils to witness the parade.

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A dozen bands from Virginia and West Virginia schools and communities will take part in the procession, and for the first time prizes will be awarded for the best floats and marching units.

Senator Alben W. Barkley, who will deliver the convention's keynote address Monday afternoon, will lead the parade and then serve as a judge for the float and band competition.

Taking part in the parade will be Sharon Kay Ritchie, "Miss America for 1956," who will ride atop the New Jersey delegation float.

Banners, placards, and campaign slogans have gone up in dozens of different locations along Lexington's Main Street and busy side streets. Campaign headquarters are distributing party literature by the handfuls, and few Washington and Lee students are seen without campaign buttons for one candidate or another.