

May 4, 1956.

Mock Convention.

No one of us was prepared, of course, for the tragic event on Monday afternoon, and in the resulting confusion and shock we were all at a loss as to plans. It was certainly Mrs. Barkley's earnest desire that the Convention would not stop. University officials decided to wait a few days until we had all thought calmly and then be guided by the feelings of the student leaders.

We have tried to do in this connection what we thought the boys themselves wanted to do. Now that the Convention has been rescheduled, I hope the entire student body will give it vigorous support. All the effort and thought and even sacrifice of the boys who have done the work seem to indicate that we should stand behind them. It is true, moreover, that this Convention and this University are perhaps more in the national spotlight now than we have been under any similar circumstances.

Perhaps we could say that we owe it to the nation to demonstrate how authentic and impressive the Conventions in a great Washington and Lee tradition can be.