

NATIONAL *PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS* ASSOCIATION, INC.

CC: O. W. Riegel, Director  
Lee Memorial Foundation

11533 Nemours Building  
Wilmington 98, Delaware

May 4, 1956

Mr. Frank Parsons  
Director of Publicity  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Parsons:

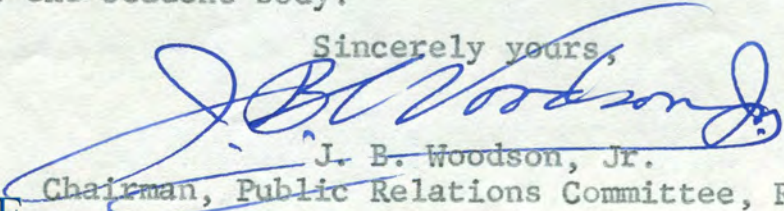
The eyes of the nation were focused upon Washington and Lee University upon word that the beloved former Veep, Senator Alben Barkley, had died of a heart attack while addressing a mock Democratic Convention on the campus.

The death of Senator Barkley came as a great shock, and undoubtedly this shock has bearing upon the reported action of some Washington and Lee students in forcibly preventing Cameraman John Gilbert, WSLS-TV, Roanoke, from recording this historic event for posterity.

No one is more aware of the matter of good taste and decency than the news photographer and his editors. While we appreciate the concern of the students in this matter, we of Region Three, National Press Photographers' Association, must point out the seriousness of the students' attempt to censor the scene. We are certain that as a newsman you will agree that it was not within the province or the ability of the students to "edit" pictorial history.

From a statement from Mr. Joe Moffatt, news director of WSLS-TV, we understand that a student sergeant-at-arms has issued an apology for the incident. We are pleased that the apology has come forth. However, lest students attending the convention get the idea that this interference with the work of a news cameraman is a proper course of action, we of Region Three request that President Gaines inform them otherwise at an early meeting of the student body.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. B. Woodson, Jr.  
Chairman, Public Relations Committee, Region Three