

1952

LEXINGTON, Va., March 1--Political maneuverings within national Republican party ranks are being scrutinized closely by Washington and Lee University students as they prepare for their quadrennial mock convention on April 28 and 29.

The student mock convention--always simulating activities of the non-administration party--will try again to outguess national political workers by naming the 1952 Republican presidential candidate.

Five times since its inception as an all-student event, the W. & L. men have tagged a "nominee" and seen the choice later sustained in the real national conventions. Greatest political coup scored by the mock convention was in 1924 when the dark-horse selection of John W. Davis as Democratic presidential candidate was upheld as a result of the historic Smith-McAdoo deadlock at Madison Square Garden.

The first mock convention held in 1908 chose William Jennings Bryan as Democratic standard bearer, and the "nomination" was confirmed in the national convention several months later. And until 1936 the student conventions saw five out of six of their predictions come true.

The youthful politicians missed in 1912 with their selection of Judson Harman as Democratic candidate, but four years later correctly chose Charles Evans Hughes in Republican convention.

Conventions were not held in 1920 and 1944 because of wartime reductions in the number of civilian students. In 1924, however, the W. & L. convention nominated Davis, an alumnus of the university, and scored again in 1928 by picking Al Smith in Democratic convention. "Nominee" of the 1932 convention was Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Twice the conventions proved inaccurate in selecting Sen. Arthur Vandenburg as the Republican candidate--in 1936 and 1948. In the 1936 affair, however, a last-minute switch by one delegation threw the nomination to Vandenburg when Alf Landon appeared "in."

Another near miss was in 1912 when the convention almost picked Woodrow Wilson. The "nominee" in 1940 was Sen. Charles L. McNary, who wound up with the vice presidential nod in the real Republican convention of that year.

Campus leaders have been working since last October to make the 1952 convention the biggest and best of them all. To lend a strong element of authenticity, each

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student delegation is charged with responsibility of determining as nearly as possible the voting policy to be followed by their real-life counterparts in the national convention in Chicago.

This will be done both by personal contact during the spring holidays and by correspondence. The point is: the mock convention delegates don't vote in accordance with personal preference. They MUST vote according to information received from their respective counterparts in every state and territory where information is available.

During the 1948 mock convention, telephone lines out of Lexington were busy all night with long distance calls from local state chairmen to real GOP committeemen, some as far away as California, in efforts to get last-minute political advice.

After finding out which candidate will most likely be supported from his state, the chairman inaugurates an intensive, pre-convention campaign to boost his particular candidate. This campaign includes all the usual means of publicizing the shining attributes of a presidential nominee--leaflets, posters, stump speeches, and so on.

Arrangements for entering a float in the convention parade through town must also be made by the chairman or some delegate appointed by him. The float, part of the colorful parade preceding the convention convocation, is to be representative of some outstanding feature of the state or of a candidate, if that state is his home. In 1948's convention parade, West Virginia's float featured sit-down striking coal miners, New York, a Broadway and 42nd Street bus, and Missouri, an obstinate mule attempting to waltz to a tune very familiar to Democrats of today.

As for the convention itself, the chairman again assumes responsibilities. He is in charge of nominating candidates for President and Vice President, usually accompanied by an eloquent nominating speech. He determines votes within the delegation and announces the casting of his delegates' votes for certain nominees up for election.

According to customary convention rules, only chairmen of delegations can be recognized from the floor by the convention chairman. Two exceptions to this rule exist; a delegate may be recognized when authorized by the delegate chairman to give a nominating speech, and a delegate may rise to challenge the vote count as announced by his delegation's chairman.

This year's mock convention will consist of 1025 student delegates, 174 delegates short of the number presently scheduled to attend the actual Republican

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convention this summer. Votes from each delegation will be figured proportionately to fit the shortage of delegates.

Delegations and their respective chairmen are as follows: Alabama, Boyd Leyburn; Arizona, George Pierson; Arkansas, Dick Denny; California, Dave Constine; Colorado, Bill Pickett; Connecticut, Hank Litchfield; Delaware, Bob MacCubbin; Florida, Lynn Lummus; Georgia, I. M. Sheffield; Idaho, George Shanno; Illinois, Dick Baker; Indiana, Frank Summers; Iowa, John Bowles; Kansas, Barkley Sturgill; Kentucky, Ed Schaeffer; Louisiana, Joe Eisler; Maine, John Doherty; Maryland, Leo Barrington; Massachusetts, Don LaTourette; Michigan, Gil Gillespie; Minnesota, Harold Hill; Mississippi, William Hall; Missouri, Mac Holekamp; Montana, Bo Bell; Nebraska, Al Terrill; Nevada, Jack Kaiser; New Hampshire, Horace Roberson; New Jersey, Jim Ruscick; New Mexico, Horace Dietrich; New York, Sol Wachtler; North Carolina, Roger Perry; North Dakota, Mel Hicks; Ohio, Frazier Reams; Oklahoma, Austin Hunt; Oregon, Milburn Noel; Pennsylvania, Beau Wall; Rhode Island, Knox Chandler; South Carolina, Joe McGee; South Dakota, Jim Foltz; Tennessee, John Allen; Texas, Terry Whitman; Utah, John Maguire; Vermont, Gray Castle; Virginia, Bob Glenn; Washington, R. W. Haman; West Virginia, Dan McGrew; Wisconsin, Bill Hogeland; Wyoming, Bill Wirth.

Chairmen of territorial delegations are as follows: Alaska, Russ Applegate; Washington, D. C., Cal Cafritz; Hawaii, Pete Darling; Puerto Rico, John McDowell; Virgin Islands, John Williamson.

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