

LEXINGTON, Va., March 29--Senator Robert A. Taft's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination has officially begun on the campus of Washington and Lee University in preparation for the mock political convention to be held April 28-29.

Senator Taft (R-Ohio) announced his candidacy for the presidential nomination nationally Oct. 16. Since that time a student committee has been in contact with the Taft headquarters in Washington in an effort to bring about his nomination at the mock student affair.

Frazier Reams Jr., a senior academic student from Toledo, Ohio, is Taft's campus campaign manager. Reams has set up headquarters for the Ohio presidential aspirant and has been campaigning among the student body to have Taft chosen by the students when they convene to nominate their choice for the president.

In a statement today, Reams stressed the importance of the 1952 election with regard to both the domestic and foreign scenes. Reams, commenting on Taft's capability, said, "We need a man who is capable of coping with problems found here in the United States, as well as those important foreign relations. We have that man in Bob Taft."

The student state "delegation" from Ohio has been working with Reams' committee in the "boost Taft" campaign on the Washington and Lee campus.

W&L's mock convention is following a traditional policy of supporting the party currently out of power. The student politicians have been very successful in the convention's 44-year history, and all indications are that this year's mock conclave will prove to be as successful as it has been in the past.

The mock convention--one of the highlights of the Spring activity--follows to the letter the scheme used in the national convention. "Convention Hall"--the W&L gymnasium--is decorated just as are the national convention halls. The voting procedure followed is also the same, for student chairmen keep in close contact with their real-life counterparts.

Student political leaders are keeping a watchful eye on the outcome of the political state primaries in an effort to determine the political outlook of the different states where the primaries are held.

The mock convention is actually a barometer for the state delegations. Student state delegations do not vote by preference alone but must vote as directed

-more-

by the political leaders of their respective states. This gives a realistic touch to the mock event and also points out the stand taken by the state leaders on the various presidential aspirants.

Taft, who is opposing the present administration on its foreign policy, has met with considerable favor among the W&L students. The announcement of his active campaign getting under way on the W&L campus aroused considerable student comment.

The majority of the students who are favorable to Taft support him for what some have called "his clear-cut, fighting campaign." They also want to pick a man who can lead the party. Commenting on party leadership, Reams said, "Bob Taft has risen to a topmost position of leadership in the nation through his ability and foresight."

Although Taft has not met with the expected popularity at the state primaries, Charles Rockel of Cincinnati, Ohio, assistant chairman of the Taft committee, said that these state primaries are merely state "popularity contests" and give no indication of the national political feeling. He said that these "popularity contests" are merely "rushes to leap on the band wagon in one state."

Reams' comment on the state primaries was: "We feel that we can call the results a moral victory as Taft did a great deal better than many predicted he would."

The active campaign for Taft on the W&L political scene opens up a hectic political battle which will wind up on April 29 when the student politicians elect their choice for the Republican presidential and vice presidential nominations.