

National Headquarters
DRAFT STEVENSON DRIVE
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(FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE)

NATIONAL "STEVENSON DAY"
TO CLIMAX ADLAI PUSH

June 15, 1960

Petition Drive Taken to Sidewalks
of the Nation -- Volunteers to Swarm
Main Streets Seeking Signatures.

Climaxing the nation-wide petition drive for 5,000,000 signatures requesting the Democratic National Convention to draft Adlai Stevenson for President will be a national "STEVENSON DAY", set for Saturday, June 25th, it was announced today by the national parent group which started the petition drive two years ago at San Jose, California, and which has its national headquarters there.

Sidewalks to Take on New Life

Quietly pushing the drive for signatures, 43 States have now joined in the grass roots move which has sprung up spontaneously all over the nation (Alaska, North Carolina and Oregon being the latest States to join) to give concrete expression to what is considered to be a deep-rooted desire of the American people not to be deprived of the services of the man "with the touch of greatness", as his enthusiasts put it. Thirty thousand volunteers have recently enlisted in the cause throughout the land and their efforts are now to be crystalized into one big "PUSH", in which the most energetic of them will take to the sidewalks of the nation -- on every MAIN STREET where sentiment for Adlai has become activated. They will carry masonite clip boards to facilitate petition signing and many will wear carpenters' aprons with Adlai pictures, buttons, badges and bumper strips stapled on them for attention gathering purposes and carry petitions, contribution cards, etc. Card tables and folding chairs will complete the equipment where permitted.

State and Local "S Days" Have Proved Successful

For many weeks State and local "S Day" drives have been tried out with much success, according to Arthur L. Johnson, National Director of the drive, who originated the petition signature plan on May 5, 1958, when he obtained the signature of Mayor Clarence L. Azevedo of Sacramento, California, to head a mammoth "DRAFT ADLAI" petition, which 60 other Mayors from California, Nevada, Idaho and Utah joined in heading as sponsors of the drive, followed by 2,500 other leading citizens from all walks of life and from all parts of America and who formed a National Citizens League for Adlai at San Jose on November 29, 1959, as a national or parent sponsoring Committee for the petition drive, which has now spread to all but 7 States, according to today's announcement.

"Such State and local sidewalk drives will be continued on Saturday, June 18th, in various parts of the nation preliminary to the 'big push' on June 25th when activities are to be coordinated on a nation-wide basis", Mr. Johnson stated, adding:

"We have every confidence of reaching our goal of 5,000,000 signers with all the support we are getting from the various independent State groups that sprang up from the grass roots everywhere once the petition seed was sown.

"In every crisis in history a born leader arises. Adlai Stevenson is such a leader. He stands out as such a giant that the delegates to the Convention will be blind indeed if they don't see and select him as the ablest man we have in the whole free and frightened world which may be gobbled up by Communism if we don't select a man of his intellectual and inspiring type as our world leader. We must, to survive, meet the brute force of the Krushchev gutter type with the best brains we have in the nations outside the iron curtain of dictatorship -- those of Adlai Stevenson.

"That is why this petition drive we started and are now in the process of completing takes on new significance as an expression of the popular desire for a man with many of the characteristics of Lincoln to lead us in combatting the evil and sinister forces which threaten to destroy mankind itself and may do so, if leadership passes to any but the ablest. "AMERICA NEEDS ADLAI STEVENSON" has been our slogan throughout this two-year draft campaign and we know that citizens everywhere see this now. So we're going "ALL THE WAY WITH ADLAI"."