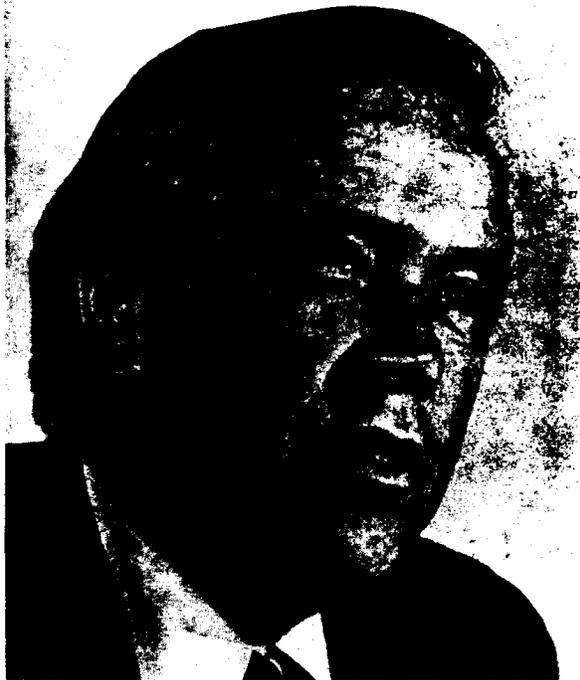


# Jackson Initiates Legal Forum Series

By Reyna Reidland



Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson

As a new institution begun in the bicentennial year of America's oldest law school, the Student Legal Forum promises to perform a beneficial community service by bringing nationally prominent speakers to Williamsburg for a continuing series of public lectures. The forum is the brainchild of first-year law students Michael Holm and Paul Frampton who, with the blessings of Marshall-Wythe Law School Dean William B. Spong, Jr., hope to enlist student and alumni aid in attracting significant speakers to the program. In addition to assurances of law school funds and offers of assistance from community leaders, financial support for the successful March 18th lecture of Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.) has already been received from the American Bar Association, the Graduate School of Business and the Faculty Lecture Series. Encouraged by the favorable response from the students, administration and community, the forum's organizers plan to appear before the Board of Student

Affairs this spring to request funding for next fall's projected lectures and possible debates.

Holm, a veteran of a similar lecture series at the University of Virginia, is confident that the area's historical charm, enhanced by the 1976 Presidential Debate held in Phi Beta Kappa Hall, will be a drawing card for such possible future speakers as former President Gerald Ford, columnist James J. Kilpatrick, former Ambassador Adreshir Zahedi of Iran and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), with whom the organization has already been in contact. Noting that political candidates are typically eager for opportunities to present their views of the world, Holm sees a diverse and fertile field of prospective speakers in the upcoming presidential campaign. Dean Spong, a former senator, is writing to potential speakers, urging many of his past colleagues to accept the forum's invitation to speak on current issues.

There has been a vacuum over the past few years of significant speakers at William and Mary, and the Legal Forum organizers hope to remedy the situation. According to Holm, the Forum would like to sponsor up to ten speakers each year including at least one debate. These would be marketed to the students and community in the form of a series with revenues obtained being used to finance the cost of the series. Of vital importance to the success of the Forum is the support of the community and alumni. The Legal Forum would welcome any contributions or assistance from individuals who could offer help in contacting potential speakers.

Currently, the membership of the Legal Forum numbers around ten, those students who assisted in preparations for the Jackson speech. Officers for the coming year have been elected, however, with Holm as president, Frampton, vice president, and Cindi Cobbs, another first-year student at Marshall-Wythe, as secretary.

At the Forum's March 18th premiere, guest lecturer Jackson, who chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, devoted much of his speech to the Mideast, energy and the proposed SALT II agreement. An active question and answer period, stimulated by the Senator's hour-long speech, provided the audience with the chance to probe many of Jackson's comments. In all, the Student Legal Forum's founders were well-pleased with the success of the evening and predict a long future for the organization.