

DULUTH--Dr. M. Harry Lease, Jr., an assistant professor in UMD's political science department, assumes the role of a "practical politician" in mid-March with the Western States Democratic Conference.

A graduate of Indiana University, Lease has accepted a one year research fellowship with the organization.

Dale Olsen, a 1954 UMD graduate, will join the department during Lease's leave. Olsen presently teaches political science at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

The WSDC, with headquarters in Portland, Ore., concerns itself with three chief responsibilities: it keeps Democrats of its 13-member states informed on key issues through specific investigative committees, aids in lobbying and assists in the conduct of campaigns.

Lease will serve as coordinator for investigative committees under the WSDC director, C. Gerard Davidson, a former assistant to the Secretary of the Interior.

The fellowship is sponsored by the National Center for Education and Politics in New York, formerly called the Citizenship Clearing House. Its director is Dr. Bernard Hennessey.

Lease acts as Citizenship Clearing House director at UMD.

The WSDC's membership is comprised of the national committeeman, national committeewoman and state chairman from each of the member states, according to Lease.

Lease completed requirements for his Ph.D. last June at Indiana University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin H. Lease, 155 North Street, Plainfield, Indiana.