

# President Clarifies Speaker Policy, Masters, Dean To Make Decisions

President Pitzer has clarified speaker policy at Rice, stating that the college masters and the Dean of Students have the authority to approve invitations to speakers.

In a letter sent to Charles King, Chairman of the Forum Committee, on January 8 President Pitzer made the following statement:

"The University officials, by delegation of the Board of Governors, have the ultimate responsibility and authority to approve invitations to outside speakers for programs on the campus.

"This responsibility and authority is held by the Dean of Students with respect to all student organizations except the college governments, and these fall under the jurisdiction of the respective college masters.

"It is the policy of the Uni-

versity that no person shall automatically be barred from speaking on campus because of his affiliations or beliefs; but any programs presenting speakers from organizations which may be considered conspiratorial or subversive must include another speaker or a discussant (from on or off campus) to give a contrasting point of view."

This policy statement clarifies the speech made by President Pitzer on December 4 in which he stated that "the University does not have to allow its educational effectiveness to be weakened by outside speakers whose primary purpose is to indoctrinate or proselyte, rather than to engage in rational debate."

Copies of the President's letter were sent to Dean of Students S. W. Higginbotham, the college masters, and SA President Bill Timme. King read the letter to the SA last Tuesday night as part of a report on Forum Committee Activities.

## Forum To Reply

In an off the record portion of the senate meeting King read a reply which the Forum Committee will send to President Pitzer. This letter will be sent to President Pitzer next week and copies of it will then be made public.

Controversy over student sponsored speakers on campus began early last semester when the Forum Committee was discouraged from bringing Communist Gus Hall to speak on campus.

In a statement of policy approved by the Senate at its meeting November 19, the Forum Committee requested the administration allow them "to

bring to the Rice campus qualified speakers on controversial subjects in contexts such as communism, civil rights, and the so-called moral decay of American society."

## Forum Makes List

After presenting the committee statement to President Pitzer early in December, King stated that he planned to "draw up a list of speakers for next semester and present it to Dr. Pitzer for discussion sometime next week."

This plan was reconsidered by the Forum Committee. Instead of preparing a sample list of potential, controversial speakers, they have waited until this semester's actual speakers could be tentatively scheduled. A list of the scheduled speakers will be submitted to the Administration in the near future according to King.