

# DA, Texas Prof Debate Penalties At WRC Tonight

"Abolition of Capital Punishment" will be the topic of a debate at Will Rice College tonight. The debate by Mr. Frank Briscoe, Houston District Attorney, and Dr. John Silber, Chairman of the Philosophy Department at the University of Texas, will highlight College Night activities at Will Rice.

Dr. Silber is Chairman of the Texas Society for Abolition of Capital Punishment. The society maintains that the death penalty neither fulfills the function of preventing murders nor is administered fairly in Texas. Society statistics show that a larger percentage of Negroes and impoverished offenders is executed than are other murderers.

The T.S.A.C.P. also points out the religious and moral aspects of capital punishment. Texas juries are presupposed toward the death penalty since those opposed to capital punishment are excluded from duty in such cases.

Mr. Briscoe questions the statement that murder rates in states without capital punishment are no higher than those in states maintaining the penalty. The District Attorney adds that the lives of police officers are endangered if killers of policemen are not required to face execution.

The debate will follow dinner in the Will Rice Commons.

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