Senate Directs Forum To Submit Radical List

By CHARLES JASTRE
Thresher Staff Reporter

With the aid of four proxies, the Student Senate Tuesday night took far-reaching action on the current speaker policy problem. Forum chairman Charles King defended his position and in so doing acquired partial support from the Senate.

The ticklish question of Thresher finances was also explored, and Osa Harris presented a Student Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) report.

Less Controversial

Two resolutions were passed instructing King to submit a list of all speakers under contemplation to University President K. S. Pitzer and Dean Higginbotham and voicing an opinion that the Forum Committee should have autonomy in selecting speakers.

King said that he had originally intended to discuss individual speakers as they were considered, and he had already been over the less controversial speakers with Dean Higginbotham. He further stated that he would regard President Pitzer’s failure to reply to his letter of last week (Thresher, Feb. 11) as an approval of his course of action.

Impounded Books

The Thresher’s books are being audited at the present time and when the reports are received, further recommendations will be used to draft amendments in the near future.

Osa Harris reported on the SCEP activities foremost among which was the course evaluation survey—a compiled report of departmental evaluations received from alumni. He also presented plans to conduct a similar evaluation among freshmen and sophomores. In order to help solve the exam controversy, SCEP will continue to aid freshmen in having conflicting exams rescheduled.

Further Plans

King said he had received approval from Dean Higginbotham to schedule “Point of Order,” an Americans for Democratic Action—John Birch Society panel on political extremism, and a panel of newly elected college presidents and the SA president. He had not, however, (Continued on Page 9)
SENATE

(Continued from Page 1)
presented his plans for inviting Gus Hall or Arnold Johnson, Dr. Martin Luther King, or a Catholic priest to moderate a panel on birth control.

King's position was that he should submit speakers individually to Dean Higginbotham for approval of funds, time, and place rather than to President Pitzer for arbitration over the speakers themselves.

World Community

He argued that Rice was not merely a member of the local community but rather a member of the world community and should therefore place academic freedom above concern over neighborhood opinion.

He further contended that Rice students are quite capable of listening to Gus Hall without being immediately converted to card-carrying Communists.