Pitzer Announces Speaker Veto, Gives Power to College Masters

Forum Plans for Communist Guest Prompt Statement

By PHIL GARON
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President Kenneth S. Pitzer told a convocation of students and faculty Friday that "there will not be any suppression of ideas on the Rice campus; but the University does not have to allow its educational effectiveness to be weakened by outside speakers whose primary purpose it is to indoctrinate or proselytize, rather than to engage in rational debate."

Dr. Pitzer made his remarks during his introduction of Columbia University historian and political scientist Philip Mosely, who had come to the Rice campus to lecture on the ideological rift between the Soviet Union and Red China.

The president's comments were made with reference to the current discussion on campus concerning Forum Committee's recent request that they be given the right to invite more controversial figures to campus in their all-school speaker program.

'Dangerous to Forum' In reply to Dr. Pitzer's prefatory remarks centered around the "essence of academic freedom" at Rice, Forum Committee chairman Charles King had the following comments: "We (the Forum Committee) feel President Pitzer's statement on academic freedom is dangerous to the University and to the Forum Committee." King added that "I do not feel the basic question to be that of academic freedom, but that of the role of the Forum Committee at Rice."

On the speaker's platform with President Pitzer and Mr. Mosely was Mr. J. Newton Rayzor, long-time member and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University. Rayzor recounted his own experiences at "blasting the university" when he was a student at Rice in an article he wrote for the school paper; Rayzor added that he then felt his actions had been completely justifiable.

'Right or Wrong' Speaking for the Trustees, Rayzor commented that "the Board of Trustees will not interfere in the execution of policy by the president, but will support his decisions whether they are right or wrong."

In his speech President Pitzer pledged his support to maintaining the student's right to express his views without fear of punishment or harassment.

He stated that visiting speakers on affairs outside the cloisters of the university are necessary in the sphere of college activities that the students and faculty might remain informed; he cited the chief responsibility of the University: "to offer its students the best possible educational opportunities."

Dr. Pitzer then re-emphasized the place of the Board of Governors at the head of the University power structure. "The Board delegates authority to the (Continued on Page 7)