Funds Sought Elsewhere...

Croneis Clarifies Tuition Rumor

By Fryar Calhoun

The rumor that Rice students would be required to pay a tuition fee in the near future was dismissed as improbable by Dr. Carey Croneis in a Thresher interview Tuesday.

Conjecture about the possibility of tuition had followed the publication of articles in two Houston newspapers which discussed Rice's somewhat stringent financial situation. These articles were intended to disprove the popular notion that Rice is an exceedingly rich school with no monetary problems and to make known the University's need for aid; the rumor was simply an exaggerated reaction to these stories.

The rising cost of education, physical improvements of the school, salary increases, and a growing faculty have combined to make Rice's 1961-62 budget the first with the possibility of a deficit. The cost of educating a single student for one year has doubled since 1950 and is still rising: at the end of this year, over $2200 will have been required for each student; in 1959-60 the expense was about $2035. Next year Rice's permanent faculty will increase from 160 to 180, and operational expenses are climbing steadily.

Dr. Croneis said that a conservative estimate of income and a liberal estimate of expenses for 1961-62 show that there is some possibility that next year's budget will end in the red. He expressed his opinion that this will not happen barring unforeseen emergencies.

In the event that a deficit occurs, however, the school has access to a buffer fund which it has built up during the last few years for just such an occasion.

Dr. Croneis said that some talk of tuition had arisen but that there would definitely be no such fee next year and, in his opinion, not in the foreseeable future. Taking such a step would involve some complex legal proceedings since Rice's charter specifies free instruction; the charter further complicates the financial situation by forbidding the school to go into debt, thus eliminating the possibility of government loans.

The University is counting heavily on grants from private foundations, gifts of individual philanthropists, and alumni contributions to continue its program of educational advancement. Sallyport, the alumni newspaper, is the principal agency through which Rice graduates are contacted for support; The Rice Report, a new monthly newsletter, will try to inform parents of Rice students of the University's problems and activities.