Wilkens To Speak Here
Under News Blackout

By HUGH RICE KELLY
Thresher Editor

Roy Wilkens, Executive Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will speak here March 17 under the auspices of Wiess College, but no advance information concerning his visit will be given out officially, according to Wiess Program Director Jack Beaird.

Contacted this morning by the Thresher, Beaird said he had been requested by University President K. S. Pitzer and Director of Development Howard Thompson to keep the Negro leader's visit here under wraps.

Beaird said the officials had asked him to keep the matter out of the newspapers as a favor, and he reported that he had agreed to do so.

"I don't really want to talk to you," Beaird said upon being questioned about the visit. Asked if he thought this was a dishonest approach, Beaird replied, "you're entitled to your opinion."

Wilkens' visit, it was learned from other sources, will be prefaced with dinner in the Wiess College commons. He will speak in the Chemistry Lecture Hall later that evening. No topic has yet been released for the civil rights organization leader's lecture.

Wilkens' will be the first public lecture given by a Negro civil rights leader on the Rice campus. University President K. S. Pitzer had already made known to campus organizations that the state of the University's charter change suit "imposes certain restraints" on campus activities, pending conclusion of the suit.

The action has been out of the trial court for almost a year, and is now in the last stages of the usual appeal procedures.