WRC Speaker Program Features Noted Atheist

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Atheist Madalyn Murray will speak next week at Will Rice on the separation of church and state.

The speech by Mrs. Murray, on Wednesday, November 17, and one by Kermit Beahan, the bombardier of the plane which delivered an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, to be on Monday of that week, are being presented as part of the Will Rice Speaker Program.

Mrs. Murray has attracted nation-wide attention for a variety of activities connected with her avid atheistic and personal rights beliefs. The effect of the Supreme Court's decision in favor of her suit against the Baltimore School Board has been the banning of all prayers in public schools as a violation of the first amendment to the Constitution.

She is at this time attempting to force the organized churches of America to lose their tax-exempt status. Although the state of Maryland has charged her with assault on an officer and contempt of court, the state of Texas has refused to extradite her to stand trial.

In an interview printed in the October, 1965 'Playboy,' Mrs. Murray said that church supported welfares and charities are "nothing but a sop to the clerical conscience, a crumb thrown to the people, alleviating some of the miseries which the church . . . itself instigated."

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Kermit Beahan, a 1940 graduate of Rice, will describe his role in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Besides delivering the Nagasaki bomb, he was in the instrumentation plane which followed the delivery plane over Hiroshima. Lt. Col. Beahan feels no regret about having dropped the bomb on the Japanese: "There was a war going on, I had a job to do and I did it."

The talks will begin at 7 pm in the Will Rice Commons.