By FRYAR CALHOUN

Rice has joined the National Student Association primarily in order to gain the benefits of association with other student bodies, Reed Martin stated in defense of last week's Senate action.

The vote to join reversed the position which Rice has traditionally taken toward state—or nation-wide student government organizations. Just last year, then-SA President Harry Lynch concluded after a study that membership in NSA would be of no value to Rice. Rice is not a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Student Association.

THE SENATE DECIDED to affiliate, Martin said, "because the individual student in a member school benefits directly through tours, speakers, films, information from other schools, conferences, and personal contact with fellow students on a national and international level and student government can benefit even more."

NSA has recently come under fire for its expressions of student opinions. Martin, in clarifying the position of member schools, stated, "Affiliation means we have adopted the constitution and by-laws of the NSA. These do no in any way supersede or supplement our constitution—we merely approve of the 'idea' of a national association of students. By approval, we do not affirm any or all of the NSA's policies until we choose to do so in separate, explicit action."

THE ORGANIZATION has over 400 member schools—about 60% of the accredited schools in the country—whose student bodies comprise over one-half of the national student population.

Outlining some of NSA's services and activities which will prove worthwhile to Rice, Martin emphasized the organization's speaker bureau service as an aid to the Forum Committee. The bureau provides tourscheduled speakers of national significance at a reduced rate—"a service which could itself prove worth the annual dues," Martin said.

Regional NSA activities include frequent student workshop conferences featuring nonstudent personnel experienced in the relevant problem area. The national office helps by sending these advisers and subsidizing travel expenses of some delegates.

ON THE NATIONAL scale, NSA owns and operates the Educational Travel, Inc., a worldwide tour service. ETI tours can be arranged at reduced rates with student guides, and ETI also provides information for non tour trips.

NSA also holds a National Congress each summer, during which student policies are formulated and virtually every area of student government and student activities is discussed.

Moreover, NSA provides US representation in the International Union of Students. Other international activities include a summer International Student Relations Seminar and support of the World University Service, which is an information agency and financial supporter of education in underdeveloped countries.

Dues for national affiliation are $35 per year and regional dues are $14 per year.