Three Rice Historians Interpret '64 Campaign For LBJ Partisans

By EDDIE PRICE

“The 1964 election is a showdown between conflicting value systems — pitting 19th century rural individualism against an essentially urban attitude toward government, labor, and economics, which sees freedom with a social dimension.”

With this statement of the issues, Dr. Allen Matusow opened a panel discussion among three Democratic sympathizers of the Rice history faculty in the West University Place Civic Auditorium last Monday for local Democratic enthusiasts.

On the panel with Dr. Matusow were Dr. Wm. H. Masterson and Dr. Frank Vandiver, who were introduced by Program Chairman Dr. Louis Galambos as outstanding men in their respective fields of American history. The Panel was moderated by Mr. Wm. P. Hobby of the Houston Post.

See More Goldwaters

The great complexities of modern life — bigger cities, longer life, the readjustment of the races — have introduced new problems into politics, questions of degree and not simple alternatives, Dr. Masterson suggested.

Goldwater, he continued, working with a very high-level political organization, voices the discontent which has arisen as a result, and there are going to be more Goldwaters, and more discontent, before our problems are solved.

But Dr. Masterson insisted that even if Goldwater were elected President, he would not have the strength to dismantle what America has done in the past thirty years. He would be forced to disavow the extremist elements which are now supporting him and to seek support from other groups in order to govern.

Rap Total Victory

Dr. Vandiver, widely respected as a military historian, felt that America’s history has not prepared it for the role of a major world power which we have suddenly been forced to assume.

Dr. Vandiver labeled the idea of total victory as a dangerous doctrine in the atomic age, and not necessarily the goal we should seek. He did not believe that Goldwater would be capable of talking reasonably with the Russians in pursuit of peace.

Dr. Matusow, in response to a question from Mr. Hobby, denied that Goldwater himself is an extremist. He represents a legitimate part of the American tradition, reminiscent of Woodrow Wilson, but a part of which has been submerged for

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The long range goals and achievements of President Kennedy served as a focal point for the dissatisfaction of the people who believed in this tradition, Dr. Matusow contended, and it was against the New Frontier, that they reacted. Goldwater with his western background and personal charm, was the obvious rallying point for them.

One of the most catastrophic things Dr. Matusow thought Goldwater could do if he were elected President would be to balance the budget. This would, he said, drastically curtail American spending power and make the problem of Negro unemployment virtually insoluble — with explosive consequences.