Rockwell At Rice: A Venture In Modern Xenophobia

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George Lincoln Rockwell, Commander of the American Nazi Party, brought his "crusade for free speech and white supremacy" to the Rice campus January 7 and 9.

This was Rockwell's first invitational appearance at any Southern university.

The Commander read "the most shocking document that exists in the world." This document was a quotation from Sir Winston Churchill which Rockwell interpreted to be conclusive proof that Russian Jews were responsible for the Bolshevist Revolution in 1917.

Subversive Leaders

He further added that the "Jews have been the mainspring of every subversive movement in the twentieth century." As an example Rockwell cited the demonstration at the White House against the Viet Nam crisis. He said, "The leader of those filthy, bearded, peace creeps was a New York Jew."

The Nazi's main attack on the Jews was that "they manage the news." He claimed that the three television networks are controlled by Russian Jews. Rockwell charged, "This is the reason you never see a Jewish bad guy in the movies or television."

Misinformed

Rockwell pointed out that the only recent movie with a Jewish villain, "Oliver Twist," had "not been allowed to show in any theater in the United States." One member of the audience then stood up and said that he had seen the show twice in New York. Rockwell apologized for misinformation.

Continuing Rockwell said, "Freedom of speech is an unalienable right. I think that you should be able to listen to Gus Hall speak just before we gas him."

National Degeneration

Evaluating the national politics, Rockwell claimed "President Lyndon Baker Jenkins is allowing the Jew-Nigger-Communist conspiracy to send this great country down the drain."

He added that John Birch Society was not aiding in combating the "national degeneration."

He concluded his speech by saying, "The Conservatives' motto is 'Better dead than red'; the Liberals' motto is 'Better red than dead'; but we Nazis have the only good motto, 'Dead reds.'"

In the Friday night speech, the Nazi Commander said that he would debate the facts which he had brought forth with anyone, and if he were wrong, then he would "go work for Martin Luther Coon."

Levy Debate

Baker and Jones Colleges arranged a debate Sunday afternoon between Rockwell and Benjamin Levy, Chairman of the Socialist Forum and former head of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Five prepared questions were given to the speakers by Dr. Allen Matusow, Assistant Professor of History at Rice.

Rockwell maintained the same positions he had taken two days before. His main disagreement with Levy concerned the Viet Nam situation in which Levy defended the right of American youths to burn their draft cards and oppose "all aspects of the war."