**Famed Atheist Speaks At Will Rice**

By HANK COLEMAN

Thrasher Reporter

Atheist Madalyn Murray O’Hair spoke on the separation of church and state Thursday night, November 18, before a standing-room-only crowd in the Will Rice Commons.

Mrs. O’Hair, whose law suit in Baltimore led to the 1963 Supreme Court decision banning compulsory prayer in New York public schools, told of her current project to break up “the marriage of church and state and money.

“The church owned enterprises ought not to be tax-exempt,” said Mrs. ‘O’Hair. She cited a Wall Street Journal article which estimated church wealth at $80 billion, and then proceeded to give a forty-five minute itemization of representative church investments.

**Secular Church**

The atheist spokesman warned of an alarming increase in church wealth which is exemplified by the fact that the assets of the Catholic Church in America exceed those of A.T.T., Standard Oil, and U. S. Steel combined.

Another reform urgently needed, according to Mrs. O’Hair, is an end to federal aid to religious schools, colleges, and hospitals. She proclaimed that as Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, “Anthony Celebreze, a Roman Catholic, gave away more land to the Roman Catholic Church in three years than the U. S. Government had given away to anyone in 150 years.” She cited no sources.

**Liable For Jail**

Afterwards in a question period which she asked to be “wide open”, she commented on the following subjects:

On her legal status: “I am accused of assaulting eleven police officers by myself . . . due to a Maryland ex post facto law . . . I am (liable for) 560 years in jail.”

On atheism: “Go home and read your Bible tonight, and you will be an atheist in the morning . . . The only difference between an atheist and an agnostic is guts. . . . We (atheists) need to stand up and be counted.”

**Playgirl Philosophy**

On sex: “I have believed in free love for forty-six years. Sexual relations between two consenting adults is their own damn business . . . our dating system is basically dishonest. . . . (the Playboy Philosophy) is very near and dear to my heart.”

**Pseudo**

On college students: “You’re all phoneys, every single one of you. You’re all putting on a facade. The aim of everybody in the world should be to use yourself in such a way as to bring out every possibility you have.”

On Viet Nam: “I am ideologically opposed to the war in Viet Nam.”