Senate Discusses Rice Part In NSA Assembly

By SHIRLEY JONES

A critical discussion of the University’s participation in the National Student Association Congress was led by Bob Clarke, Student Association President, at the first meeting of Senate members, September 19.

IN HIS opening statement Clarke said that legislation was railroaded into passage. “One ridiculous bill called for blanket endorsement of seven bills pending before the United States Congress,” he informed his colleagues.

“The only information we had on these bills was supplied by lobbies,” Clarke continued. “We were urged to pass this measure—in effect adding our strength to the special-interest groups wanting these seven bills—even though we didn’t have time to study them.”

DALE FRIEND asked whether we should remain in such an irresponsible group. Clarke pointed out that if we could interest more area schools in joining, we might have enough power to realize the forgotten goal of NSA, finding solutions to common problems of administration-student relations.

Dr. Rimlinger, Senate faculty advisor, took advantage of the Senate meeting to clarify two mistaken impressions from last year. The first one was the Campanile’s grouping of the Commerce Department and the Economics and Business Administration Department under one heading. The second was the recommendation of the Senate last spring that the student committee working on course changes make its suggestions to the administration. Such recommendations actually should be made to the faculty committee. “In many students’ minds there is no difference between a faculty and an administration committee, but the distinction matters to us,” Dr. Rimlinger stressed.

Friend outlined the plans for homecoming and the Senate-sponsored football weekend. The usual homecoming activities will be split over three weekends in November. On October 20 there will be an afternoon game at SMU and a dance that night at the Holiday Inn. “The manager suggested that we could rent suites for informal parties the night before, but we’ve decided the Senate is not going to sponsor such activities,” Friend added with a sly grin.

AFTER DISCUSSION the Senate decided to investigate the financing of the sound system in the Memorial Center. Part of the cost was paid from the Permanent Improvement Fund without the advice and consent of the Senate. “It’s a matter of principle,” Kenn Carr asserted. “And with our small budget, $750 is a lot of principle.”

At the end of the 2 1/4 hour meeting the Senate decided it needed a parliamentarian to speed up the handling of business. Paul Cornel was elected to replace Sears McGhee who is now the Rice exchange student at Cambridge.

Clarke concluded the meeting by extending an invitation to all students to attend regular Senate meetings. They are normally held at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings in room 120 of the Biology Building.