Croneis Says Higher Costs Force Government Financing

By HUGH RICE KELLY

Speaking at Autry House last Wednesday night to a sparse crowd, Dr. Carey Croneis, Chancellor of the University, commented on various facets of university life, including religion, government aid, and Rice's "too tough" grading policy.

IN RESPONSE to a question from the floor, Dr. Croneis asserted that much grading at Rice is "punitive and unrealistic" and pointed out that Rice graduates' scores on national exams indicates that Rice is "too tough" in its distribution of grades and honors.

Asked if on-campus religion might provide a better-balanced education for Rice students, the chancellor commented that he thought the founder's provision in this regard is a wise one, inasmuch as the competitive nature of various sects would quickly result in an imbalance.

Along these lines, he called the recent incident at Baylor "unfortunate", adding that from his knowledge of the Baylor president's character, Dr. McCall "must have gone through hell and purgatory" before forbidding the showing of the O'Neill play on the Baylor campus.

IN THE CONCLUDING lecture in the series "The University and Its Work," Dr. Croneis began by presenting a "Decalogue" of the marks of a great university, and discussed the degree to which Rice fulfills these ideals.

A university should be "deeply rooted in a tradition," and continually concerned with "the preservation of its ancient verities." The chancellor held that Rice has a superb tradition of excellence, conceived by the founder and brought to realization by the wisdom and toil of Dr. Lovett and his successors.

"Another mark of a great university," Dr. Croneis said, "is the existence of a balanced and dedicated Board."

"THE MEMBERS," the chancellor suggested, "must be at once active and interested, yet not over-eager to interfere in the practical affairs of administration." He pointed out that a university "is not a church or a religious organization," nor is it a business or research institution, and cannot be operated as such, least of all by the Board.

"Rice has been fortunate in this respect," Dr. Croneis added, "having had excellent and far-seeing Boards throughout its history."

The administration is a key factor in the crea-

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tion and preservation of a great university. “The administrators,”
the speaker said, “must be both
ealists and idealists—realistically
interested in things, yet ideal-
istically interested in people and

THE ADMINISTRATION is
the important instrument in the
acquisition and retention of an
outstanding faculty, and they
must help keep alive the carefully
captured spirit of the place. Yet
they must also attend to such
mundane problems as the cul-
tivation of the patrons and
benefactors whose help is needed
to keep the operation solvent.

In this vein, Dr. Croneis com-
mented that the administration
must deal increasingly with the
government, whose influence is
“completely ramifying.”

“Although Rice does not at
present rely heavily on govern-
ment money,” he said, “other
schools such as M.I.T. and Cal
Tech finance as much as 90% of
their budgets through govern-
ment assistance.”

THE CHANCELLOR indicated
that he sees nothing wrong in
this, and predicted that skyrock-
eting costs, particularly at the
graduate level, would inevita-

ly force the government to take
a much larger role in the financ-
ing of U. S. colleges and universities.

Other points in Dr. Croneis’
Decalogue included the neces-
sity of having a formal program for
the growth and balance of the
university, the need of an out-
standing faculty and student
body, as well as a loyal and ac-
tive alumni.