LCB Clarifies Position As Students Hold Inquiries: Rice Asks “What Next?” Following Soph Party Raid

Police Hit Dance And Could Again--Will Enforce Law

By BILL BROYLES

Sadly enough, the rumors were true—Flush had flashed.

Three members of the Liquor Control Board, twenty patrolmen, and assorted newsmen made a grand entrance at the Sophomore class party, Saturday night. Dodging the toilets and quickly discarded beercups, the policemen moved rapidly through the crowd, examining both drinks and I. D.'s.

LESS THAN TWO hours later, SA President Max Jaffe was paying $240 in bonds for the release of fourteen of the sixteen students arrested. Two girls were turned over to the juvenile authorities, and were not booked.

"Why?" one puzzled student asked a policeman.

"You were breaking the law. Wherever the law is being broken, we will raid," was his answer.

A conversation with Mr. H. C. Knoles of the Texas Liquor Control Board gave a more reliable answer to this oft-repeated, puzzling question—why?

"WE WILL NOT tolerate or condone any person under 21 consuming an alcoholic beverage at parties such as this, or in any public place. If we receive information of a party like this taking place, we will take steps to arrest and prosecute any violator."

The information leading to the raid was received Friday from an unreleased source. According to Knoles, “We checked our files, and found no record of a license to sell or serve beer at the place where the party was held.

"The information had said that underage people would be there, and that beer would be served. We then obtained a search warrant."

IN ORDER TO prevent a false raid, Knoles and a policewoman preceded the assembled squad into the hall. "At the time, a policewoman and I went to the Oddfellows Hall, paid $2.75, and entered to verify the information."

Mr. Knoles had "no trouble"
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buying a ticket. During intermission, as Jaffe announced that order in the beer lines had been demanded by the officer on duty, Mr. Knoles made his call to the assembled policemen, and the raid began.

“Why now?” another puzzled student asked a policeman. “Why not before?”

WHEN ASKED why no Rice parties in the same location had been raided previously, Knoles replied, “To be frank, I didn’t know about them. The fact is, these things must be brought to our attention. We have three men in the field to cover several counties. We depend on them and upon individual information. If we know, we will be there.”

Two policemen, hired by the Sophomore Class, were on duty at the dance. Neither was exactly sure of his duties. Knoles emphasized that the presence of officers in no way made the party legal. “Just because police officers were there does not prevent violators from being arrested and filed on.”

KNOLES WAS asked whether this successful raid on a Rice function would lead to a greater surveillance of Rice affairs. “No, we are not discriminating in that sense. I do regret that it was necessary to do this. I know this was adverse publicity for Rice, but I am duty bound to enforce the law, and have no choice.”

The Liquor Control Board is continuing an investigation of the situation.