Student Group Hears Silber In Austin

By DOUG HARLAN

Another in the abundance of planned conferences on racial segregation was held in Austin on December 15-16, 1961, under the auspices of the National Student Association. Among the forty-odd delegates from about a dozen Texas colleges and universities were Rice delegates Reed Martin, Griffin Smith, and Joel Hochman.

THE THEME of the conference was "Racial Discrimination in Institutions of Higher Learning and the Student's Responsibility."

Delegates listened to three addresses and attended two workshops at the conference to examine this theme. They learned the legal background of discrimination—for example, on what legal basis Negro students stand when defending themselves for sit-ins. In one address, Dr. John Silber of the University of Texas examined the means of terminating segregation. He felt that segregation as practiced today is legally insupportable. He added, however, that he had little patience with sit-ins or violent methods of resisting segregation.

IN THE WORKSHOPS the delegates discussed action taken on their campuses in regard to the problem of segregation and searched for methods to help resolve the problem. Smith reported that the conference helped modify and solidify his own personal opinions in regard to the problem of segregation. He remarked that he was glad to see that Rice delegates had more of a rational attitude toward the problem and that they had engaged in deeper thought concerning the matter.

Student Association President Martin reported that "we attended the conference expressly for the purpose of learning more about the National Student Association since we have considered membership in this organization."

LAST YEAR RICE dropped membership in the Texas Intercollegiate Student Association and failed to establish ties with any other such group. Martin stated that there are many small organizations such as the TISA which provide no useful benefit to member schools; he added, however, that the National Student Association, in addition to holding conferences, provides certain services for member schools—such as arranging for speakers, dance bands, and providing a travel bureau.

The N.S.A. has been accused of being "communistic in tendencies," but Martin denies this possibility. He said that we should examine this organization to see if Rice can benefit from membership. A study of possible membership is now going on with results due soon.