

'NEWS BY RULES' DISCUSSED

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A discussion of "news by rules" by CBS White House correspondent, DAN RATHER, and awards to professional Sigma Delta Chi chapters highlighted Thursday night's program.

In his speech, the Washington newsman discussed recent criticism of the news media resulting from its actions at the time of the Kennedy assassination last November in Dallas. He pointed out as a result of this criticism, the most recent being the Warren Report, there are now many advocates of a code of ethics or rules for the press.

Rather, a native Texan, who covered the events in Dallas following the assassination said, "I have heard and read a great deal of criticism from the legal and medical professions on how bad the press looked in Dallas.

"There were suggestions that some sort of rules or code of ethics be drawn up governing the conduct of newsmen. I am one who is concerned about drawing up a definite set of rules."

Raising a voice of caution, Rather observed, "If there had been such rules last year in Dallas, we would not have done the job we did. If we had a set of specific rules, we would have

been in trouble and I believe the country would have been in trouble."

While admitting the press made some mistakes in Dallas, he emphasized that a definite set of rules would endanger freedom of the press. Commenting on the mistakes, he said, "I think we performed at least as well as the members of the legal profession who were there, and the police there."

Prior to the speech, the Chicago Professional chapter was presented the QUILL award by C. O. SCHLAVER, executive editor. This award, to the chapter giving the most assistance to the magazine in the past year, was received for the Headline club by JOSEPH O'BRIEN, past president, and ALFRED BALK, who had been largely responsible for the help given The QUILL.

The Akron chapter was winner of the chapter sweepstakes contest, announced Executive Officer RUSSELL HURST, who made the presentation. He also cited as outstanding chapters the Chicago Headline club, the Fort Worth Professional chapter, the Los Angeles Professional chapter and the New York Deadline club.