RELIGION ON CAMPUS . . .

Dr. Speer, Chapel Organist, Has International Background

By NEAL HOLIFIELD

For this year, the Chapel service organist has been Klaus Speer, whose concerts before each service have been well received.

Dr. Speer, a native of Berlin, was in his youth an organ student of and frequent substitute for the late Fritz Heitmann of the Berlin Cathedral and Academy for Church and School Music. As the Nazis dominated the country, intolerance and persecution caused Dr. Speer to come to the United States for safety.

Since 1938, Professor Speer has been engaged in extensive concert tours as an organist. Audiences from Colorado to Massachusetts and from Texas to Minnesota have heard his masterful presentations. During this time he spent four and a half years in Europe in U. S. Army service as well as some time at Indiana University in earning his Ph.D.

For seven years, from 1946 to 1953, Doctor Speer headed the Music Department at Lincoln Memorial University in Eastern Tennessee, where he directed the a cappella choir, on campus and on tour. Since coming to Houston in 1957 to join the University of Houston faculty as a professor of music history and literature, he has remained not particularly idle as an organist. During Lent of 1958 and 1959, Dr. Speer played weekly recitals at Christ Church Cathedral, part of a series of daily presentations. He has given solo recitals locally a First Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Church, and at Rice Institute last year.

In addition, he has published articles on interpretations and technique of organ music and has translated five of Heinrich Schutz's motets.