WILL WE NEED THEM?

Underground Passageways At Center Of University’s Civil Defense Preparations

By BILL LIEBLICH

Before the advent of Cuban crises and nuclear war scares, steam tunnels were little-known, seldom-seen holes in the ground that served mundane purposes while the more important business of the campus went on overhead.

Now that civil defense has become an urgent concern, however, the steam tunnels will serve vital needs in case campus business needs to go underground.

THESE TUNNELS will be an important part of the fallout shelter system devised by University officials this week in response to the recent international friction arising over the Soviet missile buildup in Cuba.

Communications between the various shelters will be carried out by means of telephone lines and messengers who will travel through the tunnels from Fondren Library basement to Jones College to the Student Center basement.

THE BASEMENT of every building on Campus is connected by these tunnels. The main one, which leads from the powerhouse to the men’s colleges, is ten feet wide, and is tall enough for a man to walk through if that man is able to avoid occasional pipes passing through the tunnel at head level.

The tunnels carry water in most of its physical states and in temperatures ranging from ice cold to boiling hot. They also carry a vacuum and electricity. If all goes well, they won’t have to carry anything else.