Goodman Gives First Talk Tonight

BY RICHARD BEST

Thresher Editorial Staff

Paul Goodman, noted social critic who has written extensively on the Berkeley demonstrations last fall, arrived in Houston today to be the Hanszen Symposium Speaker for 1964-65.

Goodman has contended that at present in the United States, “students—middle-class youth—are the major exploited class.” He advocates direct action by students to secure an education “befitting free men rather than slaves.”

Speaks Twice

Goodman will make two major speeches in the Hanszen Commons. Tonight at 6:45 pm he discusses the “Current State of Youth in American Society.” Friday evening he will speak on the topic “Berkeley, 1965” at 7:30.

Friday at 4 pm he will engage in an informal discussion with Professor Jasper Rose of the Department of Fine Arts in Hanszen House.

While students become the natural leaders of protests, faculty backing for their efforts is imperative, Goodman maintains, because “the students are transient, they do not definitely know what they want, they do not know the score behind the scenes and thus they can be abashed by administrative double-talk.”

Scolds Administration

Not unexpectedly, Goodman finds that the source of many educational difficulties lies in administrative irresponsibility. “When administration becomes the dominant force in the community, however, it is a sign that extra-mural powers are in control—state, church, or economy—and the administration is their agent. Notoriously, image-burnishing and fund-raising disregard or even prevent teaching and learning.”

In his book, “Compulsory Mis-Education,” Goodman expresses his belief in an academic community solely devoted to teaching and learning, in which mature students and instructors are engaged in a common search for truth unencumbered by the demands of administration (which he regards as “otiose”) and research and development.

He also finds fault in U.S. secondary education for teaching irrelevant material for the sole purpose of keeping adolescents off the streets.