THRESHER STUDY MADE

Prices Are Not Unduly High In RMC

By GARY HANOVICH

That prices are not unduly high in the Rice Student Memorial Center is the conclusion of a Thresher investigation made in response to student complaints.

Recent increases in prices at Sammy’s were prompted by increases in wholesale food prices during the summer, according to Mrs. W. C. Hardy, director of food services for Sammy’s and Cohen House.

JOHN KENNEDY, director of the Student Memorial Center and manager of the Campus Store, said that most of the trouble with prices in Sammy’s is due to the high overhead of a small available clientele and long hours in which only inexpensive items are sold.

Prices on books are not established by the store but by the publisher, according to Mr. Kennedy. Any increase in price, including one over the figure printed on the cover of some books, is made by the publisher. Most of the prices in the store are below the manufacturer’s suggested list price.

A THRESHER check of the independent Cougar Book Store, 3824 Wheeler, and of the University of Houston Book Store disclosed three important points. Prices on books and comparable items were generally the same. Where prices were lower, the standard of quality was correspondingly lower. On many items, moreover, the Rice Campus Store offers a price that is substantially lower than either of the other two.

The popular Rapidograph pen sells for $4.00 at the Cougar Book Store and $4.95 at the University of Houston Store. The same pen sells for $3.50 at Rice. Spiral note books which retail for lower prices at Houston University store are of much lower quality than those for sale at Rice. Cougar Book Store charges 90 cents for 200 sheets of notebook paper; the Rice student can buy this for only 69 cents.

THE RICE Campus Store maintains no used book department, Mr. Kennedy stated, because of administration policy on textbooks. Faculty members are allowed to use the best book available in each subject and are not required to turn in textbook lists far enough in advance to make a used-book department worthwhile. They are not re-