Just A Meeting!

Editor Decries Chapel Service; Assigned Topic

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Many of those who came to the chapel service last Thursday night were highly disappointed to find that it was not a service but rather, in the words of the speaker himself, a meeting.

An excellent organ recital preceding the speaker was the only feature which seemed to justify holding this function in a chapel.

Assigned Topics
The speaker was assigned the topic of Roman Catholic Education, instead of being allowed to choose a subject on which he might have had something more significant to say.

The speaker did a competent job of acquainting the audience with some of the facts and features, and even some of the shortcomings, concerning the Roman Catholic educational system in this country today. Unfortunately, the topic was one that lent itself only slightly to an interesting or even inspirational talk.

Deviation From Service
Even more distressing than the content of the “service,” was the deviation from the regular non-denominational worship service; distressing because there was no service; no prayers, no scripture readings, no hymns.

It seems unusual indeed that the regular pattern was broken for a Roman Catholic but not for a Jew, an Anglican or a Methodist, all of whom undoubtedly believe just as fervently in the individual teachings and customs of worship of their own denominations.

Not Characteristic
Certainly last Thursday was not characteristic of Rice Chapel Services, which often bring outstanding speakers to the campus; but this incident may well indicate that serious consideration should be given to offering meaningful worship services in this chapel, and that in the future speakers should be free to choose topics which they feel are of vital interest to this academic community.