Hooton Claims EEC Provides ‘United Front’

By BILL LIEBLICH

Claude E. Hooton, Jr., discussed the Common Market with an informal gathering at Baker College Wednesday, April 11.

Mr. Hooton, a candidate for the United States Congress from the Twenty-Second District of Texas in the May 5 Democratic Primary, presented his reasons for supporting our nation’s participation in the European Economic Community.

THE E. E. C., Mr. Hooton explained, was created by a 1958 Rome treaty signed by West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

It originally planned to eliminate trade barriers between member nations by 1970, he continued, but recent gains have caused the projected year of completion to be moved to 1966.

MR. Hooton cited several benefits to the United States of participation in the E. E. C.: creation of a larger market to consume much of our surplus production, beneficial competition with other nations’ industries, and good effects of political cooperation with other nations without any loss of our sovereignty.

The Congressional candidate stressed the importance of the Western nations’ putting up a united front against Communism.

SIDE EFFECTS of participation in the Common Market, Mr. Hooton said, would involve training and relocation of labor to alleviate much of our unemployment. This particular phase of the program is already succeeding in Europe, he continued.

Mr. Hooton made clear the facts that United States involvement in the E. E. C. could only be on an “associate member” basis, because the organization has for its aims a politically unified Europe. He added, however, that invaluable benefits would be derived from such a membership.