Amateurs Hurt Industry, Declares NYU Sociologist

By HUGH RICE KELLY

“Marriage represents monopoly,” said Friday's Forum speaker with a wry grin. "You might say that I have come here in support of free enterprise."

Speaking before a large audience in Hamman Hall last Friday night, Dr. Ernest Van den Haag, a NYU sociologist and psychoanalyst, constrained the outlawing of prostitution in this country with our traditions of liberty, giving significant emphasis to the private nature of prostitution.

"THE BASIC documents of freedom in this country," he said, "clearly establish the right of each to pursue what he considers happiness, as long as he does not thus interfere with the same right of others." He rejected the notion that prostitution, be it moral or otherwise, imposes upon the liberty of those who object to it.

The legal ban on prostitution, the speaker asserted, "imposes the moral views of someone upon an unconsulted someone else," and therefore "directly contradicts the spirit of liberty underlying the institutions of this country."

Moreover, Dr. Van den Haag held, outlawing prostitution does not eliminate it. "Prostitution is inevitable," he continued, "in a society which idealizes monogamy and expects virgin brides," yet in which "the virility of men is demonstrated by sexual intercourse."

Illegal prostitution, he asserted, is common in all parts of the U.S., although he added that it is presently "what President Kennedy would call a 'depressed industry.'"

"OR AS ONE of my 'informants' puts it," he added, "'It's all those amateurs that screw things up for me.'"

Dr. Van den Haag pointed out that prostitution is "especially needed in the United States due to 'distorted ideas in regard to sex in general' in this country."

"The typical man who uses prostitution is a man with problems," he continued. "He characteristically associates 'sexy' women with 'dirty things' as opposed to 'good' women like his mother or his wife. He cannot enjoy sex with any but 'debased' women such as prostitutes."

In regard to the question of the prostitutes themselves, Dr. Van den Haag dismissed the possibility of such things as white slavery, etc., as "nonsense." Prostitutes, the speaker said, usually have a businesslike attitude about their profession, although they are frequently neurotic in their attitude toward men.