Language Labs Promised; Partial Fee Refund Due

By EDDIE PRICE

When classes began this fall with the long-delayed Rayzor Hall open and complete, Rice language students began wondering what had happened to the projected "language labs." Sympathetic with the students' puzzlement, Dr. Wm. H. Masterson, Dean of Humanities, promised: "We will have the labs in operation before the end of this school year."

He indicated that, despite a great deal of planning and effort which has gone into the project, "a succession of disappointments" has prevented installation of the desired high-quality equipment.

When the labs do open, he explained, a part of the fees paid for their use at the beginning of the year will be refunded, so that the students will be charged only for the period when the labs are actually in use.

When the labs were first projected, a group headed by Dr. Andrew Louis, Professor of German examined all available systems in trips to dozens of installations from California to Massachusetts. However the instrument decided upon last year developed cooling problems in factory tests and was withdrawn from the market before production got under way.

According to Dr. Masterson, the local dealer who handled this particular product refused to release the University from its contract because it appeared that the difficulties would be corrected in the next few months to complete the labs before the deadline. But the spring came, and then the summer, and still no labs.

So the search for a high-quality product began again while Houston sweltered and Rayzor Hall stood empty. One good machine was found, but another company promised to supply. Rice with a pilot model of a new instrument by the 15th of September—the 15th passed in silence. When this third company would come through, nobody can say.

As Dr. Louis described them, the plans for the labs are quite mature, and were materially improved during the re-evaluation.

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which took place when the first machine was finally abandoned.

FOUR CHANNELS will be available for group work, and radio receiver, stereo-hi-fi turntables and speakers, and movie equipment will be built in.

The mikes will be attached to the headsets, and each unit will be provided with tone and volume controls. Students will use the equipment during required lab periods and in supervised free time.