FAMOUS THEOLOGIAN

Paul Tillich Dies Of Heart Attack

By JIM DENNEY
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Dr. Paul Tillich, who died this past Friday, had been scheduled to speak tonight in the Rice Chapel Series.

Theologians were greatly distressed at the passing of Tillich. His eminent career had long been a rallying point for liberal Christian thought. Professor John Randall of Columbia University once wrote that Paul Tillich was “by far the most persuasive exponent of the philosophy of existentialism.”

Many Rice students remember Tillich when he was the Religious Emphasis Week speaker in 1961. At that time the then Harvard professor spoke to overflow crowds in Hamman Hall. He was surrounded by students for the entire three day period he was here.

Well Received
Dr. Tillich had been so impressed by his warm reception on the Rice campus, that he expressed the desire to return. During the professor’s visit, Rice had shown a great religious and philosophical concern that has never been matched.

The Rice Chapel Program asked Dr. Tillich to return in the spring of last year. Although Tillich was eager to come, the date was cancelled for reasons of health.

To Visit Rice
Tillich was rescheduled in the Rice Chapel for tonight, October 28, but announcements of the engagement were withheld until the theologian’s visit could be confirmed.

Rice received a telegram following Dr. Tillich’s October 13 heart-attack. Although the attack was not considered extremely serious at that time, the telegram said that Dr. Tillich would not be able to fulfill the Rice engagement.

Fled Germany
Paul Tillich left his native Germany in 1933 because of persecution by the Nazis. During his professorship at several German universities, the theologian had been a constant critic of the National Socialists and he had been distressed at the rise of Adolf Hitler.

“I had the great honor,” Tillich said, “of being the first non-Jewish professor dismissed from a German university.”

Tillich had become a legend in his own time. The noted scholar is famous for such works as “The Courage to Be,” “Dynamics of Faith,” and “The Shaking of the Foundations.”

Dr. Tillich spoke in wholly new terms in the realm of the theological. The expression he gave to existential concerns found special interest from the students in the United States and western Europe.