Sociologist Proposes Middle Road For Man

By EDDIE PRICE

“I don’t want to be Red or dead: I want to be alive and free.” This was the essence of the address delivered by Amitai Etzioni Monday night in the Fondren Lecture Lounge. The program was sponsored by the History Department.

DR. ETZIONI is Associate Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and a research associate of the Institute of War and Peace Studies. He spoke Monday night on behalf of the American Faculty Council for the Gradualist Way to Peace, which includes, among others, Hans Morganthau and Margaret Mead.

Eschewing speculation and emotionalism, Dr. Etzioni listed five aspects of the “balance of terror” which seem to create a very real danger of nuclear war “sometime in the next ten years.”

THE FIRST IS war by accident: a misinterpreted radar signal, a live bomb slipping from a bomber over an inhabited area. (Both situations have occurred already at least once.)

The second is unauthorized action by a submarine commander, airman, or soldier with nuclear weapons. Another danger could arise from escalation: the losing side in a limited war might resort to nuclear weapons, first tactical . . . then strategic.

RELATED TO this is the chance of miscalculation. Could we invade Cuba without retaliation from the Soviet Union? Maybe so. But if we try and we’re wrong . . .

THE FIFTH danger is a technological breakthrough. The first power that develops an effective anti-missile system could annihilate the other with impunity.

The United States has taken many precautions against these contingencies . . . but has the Soviet Union? And China? And France?

THE ANSWER is not to abandon the things we live for in order to live. Dr. Etzioni rejected this alternative and disclaimed any connection with those who advocated it. Any realistic alternative between holocaust and surrender would have to include three elements:

(1) A reduction in the psychological tensions and fears that arise from the Cold War. Without understanding, peace can never be accepted.

(2) An effectively inspected system of disarmament. Dr. Etzioni asserted that the United States is not now willing to accept even this: the disarmament talks are just propaganda.

(3) Some alternative outlet for the East-West conflict. Dr. Etzioni suggested an international police force to maintain status quo borders. Any solution of deeper problems will come in the course of history, if at all.

Japan and the U. S., France and Germany have been reconciled; peace might someday come between Russia and America. But, Dr. Etzioni emphasized, we must devote some effort to it if it is to come in time.