NEW MORALITY CRITICIZED

Ian Hunt Denounces Definition Of Prayer

By RICHARD BEST

Ian Hunt, the Chichester seminarian, currently living and preaching at Rice, while reasonably described as a theological conservative, is no obscuranist. Last Wednesday he inveighed heavily against the controversial tract by Bishop Robinson, “Honest to God.”

His criticism was unstinting; his invective, while avoiding the word “heresy,” concluded with the remark that many points in the book seemed to involve a “repudiation of Christ.”

ROBINSON’S definition of prayer as significant encounter with others was denounced by Hunt as “totally inadequate.” “In trying to meet people, God can be forgotten.”

The so-called New Morality, based on an attempt to act from love in any given situation, was criticized for not considering the fact that Christ always held murder and adultery wrong. Yet ultimately Robinson and Hunt agree that ethics derives from love supported by traditional casuistry.

FINALLY HUNT derided Robinson’s view that though the traditional framework of Christianity must be heaved into the melting pot, it remains adequate for the “religious.” This for the seminarian was “a fine example of the glorious comprehensiveness of the Church of England.”

It was inevitable that such an attack would call forth refutation. In the discussion following the service, the Presbyterian chaplain, Earl Mulley, castigated Hunt for his cavalier treatment of the Bishop’s book. Another cleric dismissed Hunt’s talk with the statement that “you can’t speak traditional language to students.”

Mr. Hunt has for two weeks been the invited guest of the Dean of Women, Mrs. Lowe, and the Chapel Committee. Living in Baker College, he has noted somewhat more interest in theological works among Rice students than those in “post-Christian” Britain.

HE HAS BEEN impressed by the Rice students who have stopped by his Cloister office to have a cup of coffee (which he prefers to tea) and discuss matters theological.

Hunt found that even in fall Houston is hot. He notes that in opulence and formality Texas social gatherings frequently surpass those in the Mother Country.

His final address will be tonight at 7:15 p.m. in the Chapel. Roland Pomerat will present a special organ recital for the service.