IN HOUSTON ‘SERMON’ . . .

Political Realms Hit By Noted Revivalist

By LYNDON HENRY

Last weekend “Dr” Billy James Hargis, the pudgy leader of the ultra-conservative, violently anti-communist, anti-practically everything Christian Crusade, visited Houston and led what was virtually a patriotic revival in the San Jacinto High School auditorium.

REPLETE WITH a boisterous, hymn-growling master of ceremonies, an organist who looked like a gelding, and an exuberantly emotional, ultra-conservative audience, Hargis screeched out against everything ranging from crying babies to both the major presidential candidates.

His fat jowls quivering with apparently sincere indignation, Hargis came forth with such statements as, “There are still just 48 states in mah Union!” “Trying to convert Nikita Kruschev is like trying to preserve a snow ball in hell . . . I’m not praying for his conversion; I’m praying that he gets shot!” “We gotta talk a language people understand — you’d run me outta Houston if I used the language Jesus Christ did!” These were embellished with outbursts of applause and shouts of “Amen!” from the audience at various intervals.

HARGIS particularly attacked Dr. John Craig of the Central Presbyterian Church for criticizing him and defending the National Council of Churches, an organization which Hargis claims to be communist-infiltrated. Making stabs at Craig’s Canadian origin, Hargis said, “He called me a liar . . . He doesn’t know the meaning of Christianity,” and came as close as possible to calling him a communist without actually calling him one.

Hargis further called for us to “send our army against Castro” and blasted Eastern Airlines for featuring “Fly to New York City to see the United Nations.

HE SPOKE against both Presi- (Continued on Page 8)
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President Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson, and indicated a preference for Nixon over Kennedy, quoting his friend the late Sen. McCarthy as saying that Nixon would become “a great conservative” as soon as he “escapes from Eisenhower’s control.” He commended the Constitution Party, but apparently made no endorsement of it.

Hargis then made some predictions, such as, “We will go to war during the next presidential term ... over the Panama Canal,” and “This may be the last time you’ll ever cast your votes!” To back up his assertions, a film of the University of California students demonstrations against the House Committee on Un-American Activities was shown, and Hargis complained about communism among college professors and there being “no god” in American universities.

In his prayers he called for financial help: “Speak to these people’s hearts ... They must do their share ... Our hope is in God ... Pass the collection buckets!”