

Handlin Discusses Judaism In America At Hamman Hall

By BILL LIEBLICH

Dr. Oscar Handlin spoke on "Freedom and Restraint in American Life" at Hamman Hall last Thursday, February 15, in a program sponsored jointly by the Rice Student Forum and the Houston Chapter of the American Council of Judaism.

Dr. Handlin is Professor of History at Harvard and director of that university's Center for the Study of the History of Liberty in America.

THE AMERICAN Council represents the segment of Jewish opinion which feels it is necessary to affirm the fact that Judaism is a religion and not a nationality.

Handlin spoke on the nature of voluntary associations in the United States, with special emphasis on Jewish organizations. He mentioned as a serious problem what he thinks to be the recent trend of these associations toward centralization.

THE TENDENCIES, Handlin said, cause the associations to lose their voluntary nature. Contributions to them, he continued, tend to be more like coercive taxes than voluntary gifts as the members of the associations become less and less directly active in them.

A question and answer period followed Handlin's talk, in which he was queried concerning his reference to the "tax-like nature" of gifts to certain Jewish charities and concerning the role which he implied that Zionism plays in the attempted centralization and unification of Jewish opinions and associations.