Speculation Flourishes On Possible Successor

By BILL DELANEY

Soon after the announcement Monday of President William V. Houston's elevation to the chancellorship of Rice, the search began for a new president to continue the growth in academic stature of the university so success-fully carried on by Dr. Houston and his only predecessor, the late Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett.

The Faculty, Student, and Alumni Committee, a standing committee of the Board of Governors headed by J. Newton Rayzar, currently has the task of recommending a new president to the board.

CAMPU\ SPECULATION as to who will be Dr. Houston's suc-cessor centered around several top Rice administrative figures, although "historical evidence" makes many Riceites think the new president will be a distin-guished educator from another university. In 1946 Dr. Houston came to the Rice presidency from California Institute of Tech-nology, where he was professor of physics.

Dr. Houston will be Rice's first chancellor. Dr. Lovett was given the title "President Emeritus of the Institute" on his retirement in 1946, which he held until his death in 1957.

DR. CAREY CRONEIS, provost of the university, will con-tinue to fulfill the president's duties as he has been doing since Dr. Houston was granted a six months' leave of absence in Au-gust. Aiding the Provost in his administrative affairs is Mr. Thad N. Marsh, assistant to the president.

Provost Croneis issued the fol-lowing statement to The Thresh-er on Tuesday:

"It is gratifying to know that students and faculty members will maintain the usual high level of all phases of the Rice academic program during this transi-tional period in our history. The many assurances of coopera-

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tion are proof — if proof were needed—of the fundamental unity of all members of the Rice "family" and their active concern for the welfare of the University.

“Everyone is, of course, pleased to learn the good news that Dr. Houston will be returning to the campus in a very few months.”