

END FRATERNITIES, WILLIAMS URGED

Special Study Recommends Ouster From Campus

Special to The New York Times.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., July 2 — A special committee in effect recommended today that the 129-year-old fraternity system be eliminated from the campus of Williams College here.

The eleven-member committee, set up last year to examine the fraternity system, reported unanimously that fraternities were exercising a "disproportionate role" in undergraduate life and that the providing of housing, eating and social accommodations for students by the fraternities had been a "major cause" of conditions described as harmful to educational purposes.

An accompanying statement by the board of trustees, addressed to all alumni, faculty and undergraduates, expressed agreement with the committee's conclusion that provision of housing, eating and social accommodations was properly a responsibility of the college.

The committee suggested that the fifteen fraternities on the campus could continue to function, if they chose, but it was believed generally that none of the fraternities would be able, in fact, to operate if the income they now received for housing and feeding members was cut off.

The committee noted that 94 per cent of the three upper classes ate in fraternity houses, which also housed 44 per cent of the same classes. The committee found that the fraternities "now play a role which is so all encompassing that their influence tends to interfere with the broader, more inclusive ends of the college itself."

A series of steps have been

taken in recent years to modify the fraternity system. These have included a ban against freshmen in fraternities, the outlawing of discriminatory clauses and the voluntary adoption by the undergraduates of a plan by which any student who wished fraternity membership was assured of at least one invitation.

The committee held, however, that, despite the efforts made to erase the "rigors and humiliations of the caste system," too much "otherwise useful energy

has already been wasted in wrestling with the fraternity problem and that the time has come to put an end to the pressure build-ups that for so long and to so large an extent have monopolized the attention of many alumni and most of the undergraduates."

The committee declared that, while there would be many problems involved in transferring the basic functions from fraternities to the college, the shift should be made "at the earliest feasible date."