

Blaze Destroys Stanford's Naval ROTC Building

Officials Suspect Arson but See No Link to Sit-In by Rebellious Students

PALO ALTO (UPI)—The Naval ROTC building at Stanford University was destroyed by fire early Tuesday as rebellious students continued a sit-in at a school administration building.

Although campus fire officials said there was little doubt arson was involved, a school spokesman said there was no reason to link the fire with the demonstration.

"The students have been scrupulous about respecting property and have not broken a pane of glass," said Bob Beyers, a spokesman for the administration.

The one-story, six-room Naval ROTC building was demolished by the fire. Asst. Chief Frank Jurian of the campus fire department said the intensity of the blaze left little doubt that it resulted from arson.

Damaged in February

The building was undergoing repairs from a February fire which caused \$35,000 damage. The earlier fire also was labeled arson by investigators.

About 200 students spent the night in the three-story old union building, now an administration building, as part of a protest over the recommended suspension of seven classmates. Several slept in hallways in sleeping bags because most of the offices were locked.

The students broke into and seized control of the Old Union Building Monday after a protest rally. Unable to enter through doors already chained and padlocked by university officials, students climbed ivy vines and forced up a second-floor window.

The protestors then cut chains across the door bars and secured the doors in an open position.

One campus policeman was knocked down and a few newsmen were jostled but no serious injuries occurred. Most building employees left for home after lunch.

Nine hours later, all but 15 of the protestors left the building to air their grievances in a meeting with Stanford Vice Provost Richard Lyman in Memorial Auditorium. But the meeting, attended by about 2,000 students, became a shouting match and the protestors returned to the Old Union Building to spend the night.

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At noon Tuesday, about 800 students attended a rally in the Old Student Union courtyard. Two-thirds of them appeared to favor a continuation of the sit-in as a means of exerting student power on the administration.

A minority, however, maintained that the tactics were all wrong.

Key demand is the lifting of recommendations by a five-man faculty committee last week that seven students be suspended for participating in a Nov. 1 campus demonstration against the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Student Judicial Council had exonerated the seven students.