

7/10 Save

1099 Marina Blvd. — Apt. 301
San Francisco, California 94123
April 10, 1969

Dr. Kenneth Pitzer, President
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear President Pitzer:

In my view, any classified work is incompatible with liberal education and academic freedom; development of efficient procedures for killing and bombing is inhumane and irrational; and perfection of techniques to counter political change is undemocratic and imperialistic. Therefore I agree with the protesting Stanford students that secret work for the "military-industrial complex" is inappropriate at the University. I strongly urge that SRI's contracts and grant holdings be reviewed immediately, and that any of this nature be terminated. To guard against future involvements of a similar nature, the supervisory relationship of the University administration to the Institute should be clarified and strengthened, and the University should issue an unambiguous policy statement.

Sincerely,

Frances Merchant Corp

BS 1940
BA 1942
PhD 1950

cc: Board of Trustees, Stanford University
Academic Council, Stanford University
April Third Coalition

Save 4/15

A personal position statement

Communication is essential to a community; there is no doubt that lack of information and misinformation has limited effective dialogue in our present situation. Specifically, the community is not well informed as to the nature and degree of military research being done at Stanford. In part this is because most people have not taken advantage of the slightly involved procedure for obtaining information from the files in Encina. It is also because the publications of the Baxter committee (more easily accessible, and hence the source of most students' information) present systematically distorted descriptions of the classified contracts. That is (as I have tried to illustrate in a three-page summary), the applied military applications of the sponsor are not usually mentioned, but are replaced by very general aims couched in scientific terminology. In an attempt to alleviate this problem, I have summarized several STL projects in an explicit context: military applications. Of course these applications do not represent the only ones, or necessarily those in the mind of the investigator, but this is not the point.

The conclusion I draw from this data is simple: applied military research is being conducted at Stanford, and this research has won explicit approval of the Baxter committee.

Stated in more relevant terms, people in the Stanford community are helping the military find better ways of killing, and their efforts are sanctified by the Baxter committee.

Those made uneasy by this state of affairs ask for communal restraint in the form of guidelines for research, review boards, legislation. Perhaps such rational approaches will help; I don't know.

I do know that we as a nation are at this moment killing other peoples. I know this intellectually, but I also know this in a more direct, irrational way. Thus I am not able to respond merely rationally to proposals for change. I have seen how a rationally constituted body has approved institutionalized killing, and can no longer trust such bodies.

Therefore I must do whatever I think will be effective and consonant with my own values, both within and without the law, to stop military research at Stanford.

R. W. Lee
Research Associate
Applied Electronics Laboratory