

Please grant me your patience, for these are words off the top of a head that is starting to wander for lack of sleep; but perhaps they can convey part of what is in me and part of what I want to give to you.

Last night in an open meeting of the April Third Movement a large number of Stanford Community members had a very serious decision to sit-in at AEL to protest and publicize the war-related (i.e. death-producing) research done at Stanford University and SRI. But many people are liable to look upon a sit-in as something done for kicks and a good way to spend spring-quarter time. In order to demonstrate our true commitment to the goals of the April Third Movement and to protest and publicize in a new way I am asking you to join me in a fast. My fast personally is in conjunction with the sit-in, and I plan to fast from all solid foods until progress has been made and the sit-in ends (or until I give up). But what I do need not bind your activities in any way. You may want to use a bread and liquid fast, a partial fast (like eating only one meal a day), fasting on alternate days, or anything else. But whatever we do, we must do it together. The power of such action is the numbers of those who choose to express their commitment. Without large numbers and the resulting publicity such action is practically useless. And that means YOU, dammit! I'm doing this in conjunction with the sit-in, but there is no reason that you must feel this is in support of the sit-in itself. In fact, this could be considered to be in protest to the use of sit-ins. But to those who cry about tactics (and perhaps justifiably so) every time someone acts at this University, and to those who are now lamenting the use of a sit-in to express a point, to these people who complain about strategy, yet profess to be "concerned" persons: I challenge you to find one argument - moral, political, ideological, you name it - to contend that this fast is wrong. Where are you at? Where is your commitment? Where is your "concern?" I'll tell you where a lot of your brothers on the other side of the world are at - They are in ditches dying of God knows what disease while their U.S.-supported government spends millions on producing death. They are in some village or jungle burning from the hell-fire we've rained down on them. They are in some part of Viet-Nam or Laos or who-knows-where torn by the bombs Stanford has helped deliver. And where are a lot of your brothers in Palo Alto? They're in labs working on particle (read: poison) dissemination by explosives and the enzyme work of certain bacteria (read: plague, anthrax, and all kinds of shit ways to kill and immobilize). And where are you at? A lot of you are standing around being "concerned" and complaining about tactics. Now, dammit, give me one reason why a fast is a wrong thing. Just where is your commitment, brother? Where is your "concern"?