

of your office with a picket sign. Thank you that is not doing my thing, and you doing your thing, and all things are equal, and everything is lovely. (Applause.) That is not what an educational community is.

Gentlemen, I would like to say to you that a real educational community means that all the people who are part of that community--the black workers on this campus, the students on this campus--have the same degree of authority to put into practice what we agree we want. We do not have that authority. You do.

What's more--you say, Mr. Ducommun, you will not lay down your weapons but that the war is a terrible thing. If you will not lay down your weapons and your friends don't lay down their weapons (I don't have weapons to lay down) how does the war end? Mr. Hewlett, you say to me: shut up; you say that people should live together and everybody should be free, but the Vietnamese live with the consequences of your power. I don't on this campus, but the Vietnamese do. And I'm saying, since they're not here, I am saying to you that the kind of man who makes his living out of producing nerve gas six months ago--I know you don't make it this week (laughter)--but the kind of man who did it six months ago is not the kind of man I want to set the framework in which I study freely. I don't study freely when I'm in that framework. (cheers and applause.)

Floor (A foreign student): I feel embarrassed to talk after this applause, but I was trying to establish a train of thought, and first of all, the fact that a university should be, which was very well put just now, the fact that a university should be an open place is neither good nor bad. It's the results that come out of that kind of university (these noble abstract notions to me don't mean anything.) A university is not supposed to be just a place where the criminal war-monger has the freedom to do what he wants along with the peace-loving person and the human, real human, to have freedom to do. It should be a place where only constructive research and constructive study and development should be done. So it's not an abstract form of freedom for the criminal and the non-criminal at the same time.

Secondly, I find it completely absurd to stipulate that Stanford is not politically involved. This is just completely ridiculous--anybody who stays two days in here realizes that SRI is definitely involved in the political struggle in the world today. They are aiding one side. We in the Third World have not received any research from SRI, but the American government gets a lot of it--so they have taken a side. Don't tell me they don't take a side.

And I'm not against the university taking political sides--positions. I think they should. I think institutions of higher learning, and as human beings in here, we have to take a political stand. The only thing is that I'm questioning which side should we take?

Until now Stanford University . . . it's no doubt that they have taken the side that I think they should not take. SRI should be transformed. I would not say throw SRI away--it's a very useful tool to get all these scientists together, but don't have them doing research for the Defense--I call it the Offense Department.

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you call it what you want. They should not be doing research for them. Have them do research to solve the problems of the ghetto inside the United States, if you don't want to give your resources to the rest of the world. (Applause.) We have a lot of problems. You want research problems? I will give you a list that will take you fifty years! (Roar from the audience.)

So I would suggest, if you wanted our ideas, that you as the Board of Trustees should try to transform Stanford University. First of all, kick out all of the professors that know nothing but to do research on war projects, and there are many of them--I can give you another list on that. Secondly, take political stands, even more vigorous political stands, but take the political stands on the side of the people who are oppressed and the people who have the right to ask for what they are asking, not on the side of the oppressors. (Loud applause.)

THE QUESTION IS POSED

Floor: We're not going to question that you're conscientious and that you're moral, because these are words that can be thrown around and don't necessarily relate to what you do. Now the university's resources, the institution that was mentioned by one of the men on the panel, have been made consistently available to one side in a war which is now going on. The resources of Mr. Ducommun's companies have been made available to one side. I would like to ask Ducommun and Hewlett, "Will you make the resources of this university, the resources of your companies, available to the sides that are opposing America in the war--that of the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong?" (Applause.)

Hewlett: No. (Slight applause.)

Ducommun: I want to qualify again--you keep getting my companies mixed up--my company is Ducommun, Inc. We sell all kinds of things that are not related to the war effort at all.

Floor: But you're director of Lockheed; am I right?

Ducommun: That is correct. But I'm not totally involved. I'm involved with Ducommun, Inc. (Laughter and shouts.)

Floor: Well, since you've decided that your resources are going to be made available to only one side, and you also said something that is totally contradictory: that you're neutral, we're not even going to talk about your companies now. In this university, are you willing to say that the resources of this university, its laboratories and its faculty, will not be used on either side since they can't be used on both? (Long silence.)

Moderator: Would any of the trustees care to answer to that entire line of questioning?

(The trustees ask for a restatement of the question.)

HEWLETT CHOOSES SIDES

Floor: The point is that you previously stated, and the man you selected as president of this university--Pitzer--stated, that the university is neutral. Yet its resources have been utilized by one side in a war which is now going on; and you have said previously that you wouldn't make those resources available to the other side. Now, it seems that if you're going to be neutral that you should say that the resources here, if they're not available to both, should not be available to either side. And, what this means in plain language: are you going to get Stanford out of its involvement with the Department of Defense and its involvement in Southeast Asia?

Duniway: Did you say the resources

of this university?

Floor: That's right. It was stated before by Hewlett and Ducommun, less than two minutes ago, in fact, that they would not make these resources available to either the North Vietnamese or the National Liberation Front, and you stated yourself that the university shouldn't take a political stand. Now, would these people up here on the stage suggest that the resources of the university--meaning its faculty, meaning its laboratories, meaning its students--not be made available to the Department of Defense or for any actions taking place in Southeast Asia?

Hewlett: Stanford University is an organization in the United States . . . (applause) . . . supported by the laws of (cont. on p. 13, col. 1)

Fantastic...

(cont. fr. p. 9, col. 1)

their intolerable commitments all along. As Dean of Students Joel Smith is rumored to have said: "SDS is back in business."

The trustees' power has relied on several things: most students saw their own interests as identical to the trustees' interests; the trustees have seemed honest and earnest in their work; and our side has lacked credibility, coherence, and support. At the meeting, a combination of the SDS members' good statements and probing questions and the trustees' blunders and deceptions pointed up the disparity between their interests and ours as well as their lack of honesty with us.

NOT MY KIND OF GUY

One of the most significant incidents occurred when Nick Selby, a junior who is not active in SDS, asked trustee William Hewlett (Asst. Secretary of State David Packard's partner in Hewlett-Packard Co.) if FMC, a corporation which he helps direct, produced nerve gas. Selby went on to say that if Hewlett did that, then he wasn't the kind of guy he wanted running his university.

Hewlett denied the charge, saying "We do not manufacture nerve gas." I interrupted and quoted sources that contradicted him, and asked how he explained this conflict of information. He chided us for having such bad sources, and then went on to say (in his inimitably elitist way) that his source was the president of the company, with whom he spoke only recently. At that point someone in the audience asked if they had ever produced nerve gas. Hewlett admitted that they had just sold the plant to the government six months ago.

Trustee W. P. Fuller III was caught in a similar deception. When he said students were consulted about the selection of the university president, Mike Weinstein, a student panelist, said that Steve Smith, one of the students at the selection meeting, told him the meeting was spent in discussion of sexual promiscuity in Grove House, a co-ed dormitory. Fuller denied that, but a student in the audience who had been at the meeting rose to challenge Fuller and corroborate Smith's account.

Subsequently, SDS member Fred Cohen caught trustees Hewlett and Charles Ducommun on the question of neutrality in the university, when they admitted their unwillingness to offer their facilities to

the North Vietnamese and the NLF.

The trustees were frequently defensive, evasive, and far from candid. They were reluctant to comment on anything of significance, and refused to say how they felt about chemical and biological warfare "until they read the committee report"--the report of the faculty-student committee studying the work of Stanford Research Institute.

In contrast, we made ourselves very clear. We described a vision of a democratic university, where certain standards would control research and the institution would serve its people--by which we meant the world's people. We had done our homework; we knew who they were, what they did, and where they were vulnerable. We were honest and deadly serious in our questions, and the audience responded to that.

The meeting saw a steady erosion of their position, a transfer of the crowd's identification from them to us. It may have been the beginning of the transfer of some power as well. When we started the meeting, we were at their mercy--no more than a quarter of the audience was really with us. But by the time we ended, we were able to demand that they meet on campus publicly to discuss the SRI report. When Ducommun tried to be clever, asking me "Whose demand is this?", almost the entire audience roared back "Ours!"

Clearly we "won." But we are now left with the problem of mobilizing the campus, of consolidating our power, of maintaining and building our legitimacy. And as usual, as long as they have the power to maneuver and call most of the shots, it will not be easy. We have the task of continuing the educational work, finding actions that will build support, and delineating our alternative.

Most likely the trustees will put off their consideration of the SRI committee report until the summer. They will probably meet in April, before the SRI report is out. At their May meeting they will form a committee to "take the matter under advisement," thus avoiding the chance of any confrontation. Again, our interests clash. If we, as a community, feel that this matter is so important that it deserves prompt, open consideration with our participation, then we shall have to move quickly and together. The task of translating the possibility of power into the reality of power is ours. This encounter with the trustees felt good. The next one might just change things a bit.

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the United States and financed primarily through United States funds. In a sense this is an American organization. It is not a North Vietnamese organization. It is not a South Vietnamese organization. It is not a Chinese organization. It's an organization of the United States, and these services are performed for the United States of America. I hardly call that a political decision. (Roar from audience.) Now if the university chooses to teach in its courses what the issues are between North Vietnam, South Vietnam, the United States, I think this is a most appropriate function to be doing because this is an educational function. But, one must not forget that this university is an institution of the United States.

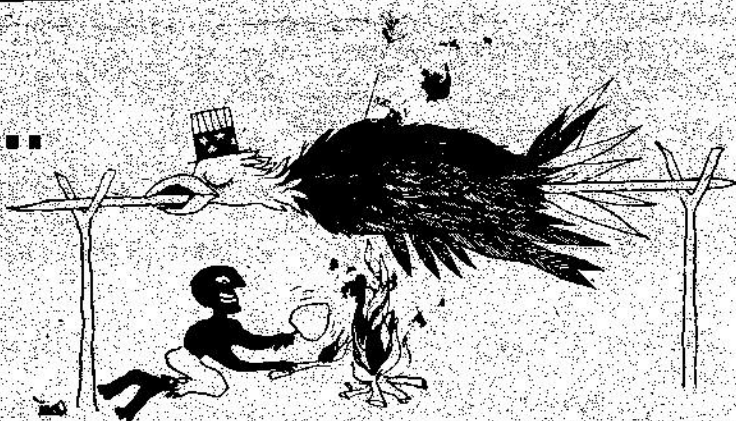
Floor: So, the policy that you would take for the university, if it's an institution of the United States, is the policy which is chosen by the United States government? Am I correct?

Hewlett: As far as I'm concerned, it is.

REQUEST FOR AN OPEN MEETING

(Questions were asked about how the trustees felt about chemical and biological warfare, and if they thought that SRI should be brought under the closer control of the university so that moral standards could be applied in choosing research projects. The trustees declined to make any comment until they read the report of the university study committee.)

Rupert: We're very concerned about chemical and biological warfare, some of us to the point that we can see no conceivable reason why that research and development should proceed anywhere in the world by anyone. And we'll start here, and we want to end it. And we're very interested in your helping us end it. Therefore, we are very interested in that



meeting, that next trustee meeting where you're going to consider that recommendation.

And I think you've all professed a willingness to open yourselves up to the community and some willingness to involve minority groups--other sorts of people--with the trustees in the future. I would make a very concrete, not demand, but simply a request: would you--and I know you're not the Board of Trustees and cannot speak for all of them--would you five people, between now and then, lobby for an open meeting for the consideration of the student-faculty study committee on the SRI proposal, so we can watch you deliberate and understand that debate and then decide afterwards what course of action we'll have to take, because otherwise we're going to take some very uninformed actions. (Applause.)

Fuller: If I understood you correctly, you said would we mind having people lobby. Well, if we minded having people lobby, we'd be minding all the time. (Shouting.)

Rupert: What I asked was, "Would you five people--four men and one woman--take upon yourselves the task of lobbying for an open meeting for the discussion of the student-faculty recommendation on SRI?" I'm saying very simply that I see some very bad consequences if there isn't that meeting. That is not a threat. I'm very non-violent, so you can trust me. (Laughter.) But, I have friends. (Loud laughter.) And they're not all as reasonable as I am.

Fuller: I'll say in reply that I will not promise that we will have an open meeting in April (jeers)--or June, rather.

You asked me as an individual and I cannot promise you that we will have an open meeting. I think there are arguments for and against, and I don't think now is a particularly good time to discuss them.

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Rupert: No, I'm being very serious, and I would really like a personal response from each of the five people here on the very specific request that you will or will not commit yourself to working toward an open meeting on that discussion.

Fuller: Well, speaking personally, I will not commit myself to work toward an open meeting. I'm not saying we won't have one (applause), but I will not commit myself.

(Judge Duniway would not commit himself either way. Hewlett said that he would not promote an open meeting. Mrs. Charles agreed with Hewlett.)

Ducorman: I won't commit myself at this time either. I think we have a structure that has been set up by the university--we have five students, five faculty, and five trustees in that group who'll first discuss this and then perhaps we'll make a decision as to how it will be handled from then on.

THE PEOPLE ARE COUNTED

Rupert: Let me just ask a question. Projecting into the future, do you think you are going to be able to understand, after you make a closed decision, a closed-door decision, about this very sensitive issue, why if things become very murky down here, things are becoming very murky?

Ducorman: It will not be a closed decision of the Board.

Rupert: The decision will be made in a closed meeting of the Board, and we'll be issued the report.

Ducorman: The faculty will be involved, the students will be involved, as well as the trustees. The five members of the student body who have been selected by your own elected representatives--not one small group on the campus, but by the elected representatives of the student body--represent the student body on that committee.

Rupert: All I'd like to say is that our request was in fact an open meeting and that the fact that there are . . .

Ducorman: But whose request?
Loud yell from the audience, almost as a man, "OURS!"

Rupert: Shall I answer: theirs (pointing to audience). (More shouting and applause.)

I would like to point out as well, that it is dead week--these people have come, they have spent two hours listening to the meeting. I think they're very concerned, and I think if you underestimate the seriousness with which we make the very simple demand, that you are making a very serious underestimation. (Laughter.)
(Here the meeting ended, as scheduled.)

