

SRI, ROUND 2

A street demonstration does more than make big headlines.

Even before the Trustees' meeting on SRI, it was clear that SRI was in danger of losing its usefulness to the Defense Department. On May 11, for instance, this report appeared in the San Francisco Examiner:

"Stanford Research Institute is beginning to feel the effects of attacks from segments of the Stanford University academic community.

"Morale is low at the sprawling Menlo Park facility.

"Research volume is down slightly.

"Some industries and government agencies are withholding contracts to SRI until the smoke clears in the current controversy."

Two days later, the Trustees tried to clear the smoke. Ignoring the pleas of faculty and administration for further study, they issued a flat pronouncement that SRI would be cut loose from the University, without restrictions on military research. It was a gamble. The Trustees were betting that the Stanford community would abandon the struggle, so that SRI would retain all its profitable war research.

The demonstration Friday proved that the Trustees were wrong. As reported in the Palo Alto Times Saturday, "Damage to the SRI building was estimated at \$10,000 by Gordon Sears of the SRI public relations department, but he said that amount was insignificant in comparison with the amount of work time lost."

Every one of the lost man-hours helped nullify the Trustees' decision and further devalue SRI. As soon as the tear gas fumes left the building, moving vans pulled up to remove sensitive files used by researchers at Hanover working on counterinsurgency projects. Work on those projects will not now resume for many days. Sponsoring agencies will delay still longer in approving new contracts for SRI.

As long as this kind of pressure is kept up, sale of SRI to an industrial firm is impossible. The Trustees themselves feel this pressure because disruption of SRI/Hanover causes lost time at Hewlett-Packard, Watkins-Johnson, and other firms which they own or direct. Demonstrations raise the fear that the focus of protest may soon turn to the activities of these firms, which lease Stanford land to do business with the military.

THEIR VIOLENCE, NOT OURS

Friday's demonstration achieved this political impact through tactics which remained consistent with the April 3rd Movement's emphasis on restraint and political education. In the early morning, we stopped traffic to close down access to SRI and the nearby defense plants. We handed out leaflets to motorists and explained our protest. When SRI researchers started arriving at about 9 a.m., we locked arms in front of the door to prevent them from entering, and again explained why we felt we had to take direct action.

When the police started moving down Hanover Street, their gas masks in place and clubs ready, we started to protect ourselves. A barricade was set on fire as the police hurled
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APRIL 3RD MOVEMENT

(Continued from reverse side)

tear gas cannisters from a distance. Some of these smoking cannisters were picked up by demonstrators and thrown through the windows of the SRI building--until that time no windows had been broken. (We had previously decided that no property damage should occur until the police initiated violence.) Seeing that we would not panic or flee, the police resorted to sudden rushes to push our people away from the building.

WE MUST CONTINUE

We left the Industrial Park that afternoon knowing that many more demonstrations would be needed to achieve the goal of blocking the sale of SRI, or, failing that, to end its military usefulness. SRI's Charles Anderson promptly announced his intention to "take every lawful step necessary for as long as necessary" to "carry on normal activities" in counterinsurgency. Anderson and the police are preparing for a prolonged fight. We must do the same.

We must also remember the critical importance of this effort. All the sweat and tears expended since April 3rd were aimed at retaining SRI. The realization of that goal hinges on our action Monday and beyond. Many other vital political issues are intertwined. The Trustees' authority is one such issue. Faculty and students have roundly condemned the Trustees as illegitimate since their May 13 pronouncement. Only the April 3rd Movement, however, has thus far committed itself to action that will weaken and overcome that illegitimate power. More important still, the fate of SRI will send shock waves throughout the military-industrial research complexes of the nation, and the lesson will not be lost on Dick Nixon's policy makers. Without war research, Nixon cannot make war. Last week Nixon said he might consider ending the Vietnam war in 12 months. If we are resolute, and our brothers throughout the nation share our commitment, Nixon might decide it would be wise to end that war tomorrow.

JOIN US MONDAY

On Monday morning, we will continue the struggle. The tactics we will use are intended to avoid harming persons while disrupting and devaluating SRI to the greatest possible extent. The street action can be exhilarating, and it can be quite scary. Our success depends on the participation of a large number of men and women, willing to move in small, mobile groups.

None of us wanted to use direct confrontation to win the demands of April 3rd. We had no other recourse. If you have endorsed the April 3rd demands, we hope you will join us in the street. For those who chose not to come too close to the police, there are many less militant jobs of great importance, such as leafleting motorists and employees, picketing, and supporting our legal defense fund.

If you can help, come to our organizational meeting at 4 p.m. Sunday in White Plaza (or Cubberly Auditorium). Vital briefings and affinity group organization will take place. We will gather again at 6:30 a.m. on Monday morning to move on SRI.

Join us.
THE APRIL 3rd MOVEMENT

Monday is Malcom X's birthday. Think about it.