

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD -- John W. Gardner, one of the nation's most respected educators, today praised the selection of Kenneth S. Pitzer as Stanford's sixth president.

Recently named a Stanford trustee, Gardner said Pitzer "gave wise and vigorous leadership as president of Rice University, and should do a great job for Stanford.

"In my judgment, we're lucky to get him."

Often mentioned as a presidential possibility for Stanford, Gardner currently serves as chairman of the Urban Coalition. He formerly was president of the Carnegie Corporation and U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Wallace Sterling, who has served as Stanford's president for the past 19 years and becomes chancellor Sept. 1, said he was "greatly pleased that Dr. Pitzer has accepted the presidency of Stanford. His notable academic attainments, his successful administrative experience, and his informed interest in current programs and problems of higher education mark him as a man with distinguished qualifications for the office he will soon assume."

Dr. Pitzer has indicated he will visit Stanford several times before his appointment becomes effective, but does not yet have a definite date for his next trip here.

He said: "I am honored by the election to the presidency of Stanford, which has become one of the truly outstanding universities of the world under President Wallace Sterling. Its leadership in these times of rapid change presents an exciting challenge."

In a letter to H. Malcolm Lovett, chairman of the Rice Board of Governors, Pitzer criticized "a tendency of many in Texas to consider higher education by regional rather than national standards."

Pitzer's letter, circulated to the Rice faculty, cited three major accomplishments--the 1964 charter change to permit Negro enrollment and tuition charges, the successful \$33 million capital campaign, and the adoption of a new 10-year academic plan.

Pitzer expressed disappointment at alumni opposition to the charter changes, the state's failure to adopt a scholarship plan to help finance students at private universities, and delays in support for a Graduate School of Management at Rice.

"My decision to accept the Stanford position was based primarily on the attractiveness and challenge which it presents, and it certainly does not in any way imply any complaint about our relationship or the support you have given me," he told Lovett.

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