

SRI

We have heard pious statements that the SRI question is very complex. We have all seen a complicated, 52-page report that emphasizes how difficult it will be to decide what to do with SRI.

Actually, our choices on SRI are very simple. SRI's financial problems and net worth are interesting, but they are not relevant to the decision we must make. What we do need to understand is ourselves. We must know whether we are responsible for our own actions, the actions of Stanford University, and the actions of our nation.

SRI does research which we have all agreed is intolerable—CBW, counterinsurgency, and secret research. The student body condemned such research yesterday by an overwhelming vote. The faculty has shown substantial agreement. Dr. Pitzer has added his voice, eloquently.

If we as a community believe that such research is evil, we must do everything in our power to end it—at Stanford, at SRI, and throughout the world. It is in our power to stop such research at SRI as long as our University owns SRI. We must inform our Trustees that it is our wish that they retain and control SRI.

Just as we are united against research to make war, so are we united in favor of humane research—to counter the ecological

poison and social turmoil which threaten the survival of mankind. If we believe such research should be encouraged, then we must act on our conviction. We can redirect SRI from death research to life research. But only if we retain control.

We have heard arguments that we should sell SRI to make a lot of money for the University—\$35 million, in fact. We have even been told that we can have our cake and eat it too—by imposing a covenant on the sale. Such a covenant would supposedly prohibit CBW and counterinsurgency at SRI.

The covenant idea is full of holes. Once signed, the covenant can never be improved or enlarged. And it is doubtful that a court would enforce it. Sale with covenant eliminates the hope of redirecting SRI to socially desirable research.

SRI must be retained. In the next week, we will have many opportunities to express our wish. Unless we speak forcefully, the trustees may agree with those who are urging them to sell SRI. If SRI is sold, the consequences will be tragic for this campus—and the world.

(This editorial, printed in Saturday's special edition, is reprinted today to make the Daily position on SRI available to all readers—Ed.)