

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE (Bob Beyers, 321-2300, ext. 2558)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Universities probably are in for "several seasons" of Congressional investigations, Provost Richard W. Lyman of Stanford told the Student Legislature Wednesday night (MAY 28).

He said the University has "every intention" of complying with a Senate subcommittee subpoena served Tuesday (MAY 27), if legal counsel advises that the subpoena is valid.

Cornell, Harvard, and Berkeley are among the universities which have received similar notice from the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, headed by Sen. John McClellan (Dem.-Ark.)

In a statement circulated to the Stanford community Thursday (MAY 29), University President Kenneth S. Pitzer said: "For the University to disobey a lawful order of a governmental body would be to turn our backs on the very standards by which we are attempting to govern ourselves.

"Our obligation to abide by the law would be identical even if we did not receive a penny from the government.

"Equally heavy would be our obligation to challenge, within the means provided by law, any action by the government involving the University which might be invalid. That is why I have asked legal counsel to examine the subpoena....

"We cannot guide ourselves by the rule of law and deny that rule when it suits us in our relations with others. The University will not do that, and I am confident that the University community will not ask it to."

The Stanford subpoena calls for University records on 12 organizations and 90 named individuals. Under existing campus rules, all students and faculty named are being sent letters informing them that the University intends to comply with the June 3 date specified by the Subcommittee unless the individuals concerned obtain an injunction restraining the University from this action.

Late Tuesday (MAY 27), the Stanford chapter of Students for a Democratic Society demanded that Pitzer not cooperate with the Subcommittee. On Wednesday, SDS said it would "not seek...to prevent the publication by parties unknown of such information as the salaries of the Stanford faculty" unless Pitzer complied with their demand. Budgets containing individual salary information were stolen from Encina Hall May 1 during a student occupation.

The Council of Presidents, Stanford's top four elected student body officers, will hold an educational and informational program on the McClellan subcommittee's subpoena at 7:30 p.m. Thursday (MAY 29) in Cubberley Auditorium.

In his talk with the legislature, Lyman said the Subcommittee made no statement on the criteria used in selecting the 90 names, although most appear to have come from public records, such as court documents and newspaper accounts.

The University has not made the names public because the list appears to have some errors, he indicated. The University normally does not publish names in student personnel matters.

Several of the organizations named have no formal relationship with the University and information on others is "very sparse," he added.

Since 1967, the only information requested by the University from recognized voluntary organization has been a brief statement of purposes and one listed representative, who may or may not be an officer of group. One possible purpose for the Senate probe is to see if universities have complied with various "riders" on appropriations bills barring federal aid to those found guilty in court or in campus proceedings of disruptive activities, he noted. The precise language varies for different bills, and Constitutional issues which may be involved in these riders probably will not be resolved until individual cases reach the U.S. Supreme Court, he said. Responding to questions, Lyman said he felt it would be a "dubious" tactic to file the subcommittee with extraneous information beyond that covered by the subpoena. The investigating group probably will sift the information it receives to determine what is relevant to its objectives.

At the same time, he pointed out, the University does not have "vast dossiers" on individuals. So as Lyman knows, no person from Stanford has yet been subpoenaed to testify before the subcommittee. He not rule this out as a future possibility, however. Urging a level-headed approach to the future, he noted that the House Internal Security Committee--formerly the House Committee on Un-American Activities--has announced plans for a study of student unrest and added: "A good many committees can do this within the terms of their enabling legislation."

Lyman concluded by observing that "It is in the interest of both political extremes--Right and Left--to polarize each other as much as possible, to make everyone as suspicious as possible of others."