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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE
ON INVESTIGATIONS
(PURSUANT TO S. RES. 25, 91ST CONGRESS)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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20
June 7, 1969

INDISCRIMINATE
USE OF THE
INJUNCTION

Dr. K. S. Pitzer
President
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Pitzer:

Your letter of June 3, 1969, is not fully responsive to a subpoena issued by this Subcommittee on May 23, 1969.

The Subcommittee has been directed by the United States Senate to inquire into the riots and disorders which have afflicted the nation during recent years. Enclosed is a copy of the Rules of Procedure of the Subcommittee and Senate Resolution 26, 91st Congress, 1st Session, considered and agreed to by the United States Senate on February 17, 1969. On May 1, 1969, the Subcommittee, by unanimous recorded vote, agreed that part of its responsibility required an inquiry into the series of campus disruptions which have become a disturbing and serious national problem. Enclosed is a copy of the motion authorizing that inquiry. It is recognized that these matters generally have not been handled adequately by college administrations. Among the disorders which have attracted national attention and concern are those which occurred at Stanford University.

The subpoena served upon you by the Subcommittee requires you to produce certain records and to identify the officers of 12 organizations listed in the subpoena's attachment. Your letter to me states that some of the listed names do not correspond with organizations at the University, and that ". . . the University possesses no official records disclosing the identity of the officers of any such organization, if they do in fact exist." The list of 12 groups was taken from Complaint No. P 16492, filed May 18, 1969, in the Superior Court of the State of California,

in and for the County of Santa Clara, by Stanford Research Institute, naming as defendants certain individuals and the 12 organizations. Many of the individuals named in the Stanford Research Institute complaint are included among persons named as defendants in Complaint No. P 16419, filed May 16, 1969, by The Leland Stanford Junior University, in the same court.

It therefore seems incompatible that, during a period when both the University and the Institute were targets of disruption by almost identical groups, the University should now state it has no knowledge of the existence of certain of these organizations and the identities of their officers.

Obviously they do exist and were active at the time the above complaints were filed. The University's administration, I should think, would be interested and sufficiently concerned that it would make diligent efforts to establish the identities, backgrounds and leaderships of militant organizations which were causing disorder on the campus and presumably using University meeting rooms and facilities to carry on their activities.

The Subcommittee has an obligation and a duty, imposed upon us by the Senate, to check upon expenditures of public funds, to make inquiries into riots and civil disorders, and to identify those responsible for acts of lawlessness whenever they may occur in the United States, including those committed at Stanford University and other college campuses. The Subcommittee is endeavoring to carry out these responsibilities as thoroughly and expeditiously as possible. It needs your assistance and is seeking your cooperation. I hope you will not withhold it. Please advise.

Sincerely yours,


John L. McClellan
Chairman