

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Fire believed set by arson early Friday (APRIL 24) destroyed the private offices of 10 nationally prominent scholars at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences here. Damage was estimated at \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The Center is an independent, privately financed organization located on Stanford land. It attracts leading scholars in its field from throughout the nation and the world.

Scholars whose works were destroyed included: Howard S. Becker, sociologist, Northwestern University; Richard B. Brandt, philosophy, University of Michigan; Steven Dedijer, docent in sociology, University of London; John Bunzel, political scientist, San Francisco State College; Prof. and Mrs. Howard S. Kendler, psychologists at the University of California, Santa Barbara;

Also: Edmund S. Phelps, economist, University of Pennsylvania; John Rawls, philosopher, Harvard University; M.N. Srinivas, sociologist, University of Delhi; and Sol Tax, anthropologist, University of Chicago.

"It's a disaster for the people involved," commented O. Meredith Wilson, head of the Center.

The first report of the fire came from Palo Alto and Atherton police, who reported it to the Stanford Fire Department shortly after 5 a.m.

Stanford Fire Chief said two separate office wings of the Center were started simultaneously by what appeared to be a flammable substance thrown through windows there. Two attempts to set the main administration building of the Center ablaze failed.

Police are looking for four young suspects who drove through the Center at 9:30 a.m. Thursday on two motorcycles. Two of the suspects were white, while one was brown and one black. When questioned by student caretakers, they flashed what they called firemen's badges and said they were inspecting the premises.

Established with a Ford Foundation grant in 1956, the Center now receives a wide variety of private support. It is located in the Stanford foothills, with a scenic view of Lake Lagunita and the campus. Situated near the Stanford golf course, it has an all-wood, ranch style construction which has won wide architectural acclaim.

Research by "bourgeois" social scientists has been a focal point for radical criticism of the American establishment, including the Ford Foundation, in recent months. ### 4/24/70