

Dear Sirs:

As you probably know, Stanford University, along with a great many other universities across the country, has gone "on strike". The purpose of this letter is to briefly explain the reasons for what we are doing and what we hope to accomplish.

The strike began May 1 in response to President Nixon's move into Cambodia. The vast majority of the Stanford community were outraged and felt that the President's action constituted a national crisis of such magnitude that business as usual should be curtailed. Campus support for the strike is widespread. Virtually all academic departments voted to suspend all classes. The Business School voted by a 2-1 margin to support the strike, and the Medical School has suspended all activities except caring for patients.

Following cessation of normal campus activity, the energies of the University were redirected toward positive activities opposing the Cambodian move. These activities were of three types: First, the University faculty has adopted a resolution which (1) condemns President Nixon's action as unwise, immoral and harmful and (2) urges members of Congress to use every legal means to resist implementation of this decision. Second, a delegation of 20 faculty and 21 students has gone to Washington to discuss the issues with Congressmen. Finally, members of the Stanford community have organized a large number of groups to engage in specific political actions. These actions include such things as (1) canvassing the community and urging citizens to write to the President and to their congressmen; (2) Researching the background for the crisis--for example, determining the nature of the Constitutional issues involved; (3) Attempting to assess public opinion on a number of important issues; (4) arranging public discussions of the issues via a panel discussion on the San Francisco educational television station; (5) meeting with public officials and supporting political candidates who oppose Nixon's actions.

In short, the intention of the strike is to redirect the University's energy and resources in response to the national emergency, rather than have a simple cessation of activities. In addition, Stanford is serving as a center for coordinating such constructive actions on campuses throughout California, Washington, and Oregon.

Sincerely,