



A Firm Hand For Troubled Stanford

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Stanford is in considerable trouble, perhaps the most serious in its relatively placid history.

Its people are still shaken by the indelible act of arson which destroyed a lifetime of scholarship last spring, and by the accompanying riots and reactions, ending in presidential resignation.

The institution is in financial trouble. Money from the living, a good measure of where a campus stands with the public, is down \$2.5 million this year.

Some faculty and some students have been conferring and planning for the fall, in efforts to keep the peace and preserve the institution. The acting president, Richard W. Lyman, 46, asys the word "apprehensive" is the mildest one he can use.

Up to Trustees

Lyman has been in the midst of the Stanford troubles as vice president and provost. He has a reputation for firmness, and is considered the favorite for the presidency, when the Stanford trustees meet to make their decision, probably Sept. 15.

In the meanwhile, Lyman does not avoid questions. Asked about this fall, he says:

"If universities allow themselves to become instruments of general political movements, they will be up for grabs, so to speak.

"They may start out on what the majority considers the side of the angels. But the day will come when they are captured by what may be the non-angels."

Tax Exemption

Earlier in the week he had told some alumni that "before long, the university will be buffeted back and forth by competing political camps, and freedom for all points of view to find expression on the campus can then hardly be expected to survive."

There are some practical considerations, too, he says. The campuses could lose their tax exempt statuses, and a political backlash could end federal support.

But he believes that last spring was not all gloom and doom. The teach-ins he calls superb, because they acquainted people with problems they hadn't been aware of.

Students learned that faculty, not the government, originate research ideas, he notes. On the other hand, there were angry students demanding no business as usual.

Worldwide Problem

"I react very negatively to that. It gives a bad message about what the university is up to. Not every matter of education is within the purview of the university."

It might be useful to go to the jungles of Vietnam to learn about the war, but that wouldn't necessarily be part of a university education, he says. He also insists the problem is worldwide.

He cites Japan, where prolonged campus disturbances have been so serious they threaten that nation's economic future. And the troubles aren't confined to one



RICHARD W. LYMAN

'Minds can differ'

kind of university, although almost all the best ones have been hit with them, he says.

He won't go much farther than that except to comment that "the penalties often have been almost ludicrously lenient." Then he adds that "I don't believe expulsion will take us back to the 1950s, as some believe."

The ultimate sin, he says, is despair.

A Historian

Lyman points out that a "generation gap" has been with us for a long time. It represents, he says, the continuing effort by young people to identify themselves, to keep apart from the older people.

"Young people always more or less feel alienated, and breathe sighs about the horrible world crumbling around their shoulders."

The Harvard scholar, a Stanford faculty member and administrator since 1958, is a historian by profession.

He has tried to outline his own view of the role of a campus president. He says it would be a handicap to the defense of the university if its leaders had to pose as men of no views on the vital issues of the day. It would leave them open to charges of "false neutrality," he says.

Campus leaders, he believes, should be sparing in their pronouncements and never forget they are educators and not politicians.