

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA
Zip 94305.
(A/C 415) 321-2300, Ext. 2558

*Southern California editors may
contact Stanford Regional Office,
621 S. Hope Street, Los Angeles
Zip 90017. (213) 627-0653*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Attacks from the New Left, Old Right, and all those who believe politics is "dirty" may be "very seriously affecting" America's potential for constructive and lasting political change, President Richard W. Lyman of Stanford warned Sunday (Oct. 4)

New Left rhetoric attacking the system is "startingly reminiscent" of that used by "fascist revolutionaries" of the 1920's in Europe, he observed. The main difference is that the Nazis coupled their assault on "das system" with anti-semitic and extreme nationalist invectives.

The Old Right today is "really arguing for quiescence," Lyman added. "There is a deplorable tendency among some people to feel that encouraging students to get involved in politics is tantamount to getting students into some anti-social kind of politics."

The traditional American view that "politics is a dirty business" is "all the more effective for being rather subtle," Lyman said. "To the extent that politics is a dirty business--and, like any business, it can be so, of course--it is not likely to get less so because people are apathetic about it."

Noting that there were only about 50 students in a room set up for about 200, Lyman said "to the extent that the system is failing, it may be failing because....(so) many people (remain) unconcerned, despite the emphasis on work and constructive change."

Former State Democratic Party chairman Roger Kent produced broad agreement within a bi-partisan panel of seven political campaign veterans when he told the students that "so many people get into politics and don't produce that you'll stand out" with even a moderate amount of work.

"Even if you can't produce at all, you'll just keep going," suggested Mark Bloomfield, a Swarthmore student managing Republican Congressman Charles Gubser's campaign for re-election.

The program was organized by the Student Committee for Involvement in Politics (SCIP), a voluntary organization headed by Robert Grant of the Associated Students Council of Presidents.

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