

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

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President Richard W. Lyman of Stanford today drew a sharp distinction between police efforts to deal with outright criminal activity on campus and investigations with overtones of thought control.

In his first news conference since becoming the University's seventh president, Lyman said recent legislative proposals to expand sharply the Federal Bureau of Investigation "shows the already grave, mounting, and sharpened public concern over the state of the campuses."

The fact that police power is needed on campus to a greater extent is both "melancholy" and "ominous," he declared.

"As long as the police come to campus to deal with outright criminal activity, that's an inevitable part of life and no one can feel it's out of order. One should only feel it's tragic that such criminal activity takes place."

But he added: "If there's any overtone of police—federal or otherwise—coming on campus to check opinion, to check on what sort of teaching is going on, to try to distinguish between safe and not-so-safe teaching, that is a very ominous threat to the freedom of expression."

He said he found the investigation which followed the fatal shooting of four students at Kent State University disturbing in this respect.

Holder of what he described as a "pressure cooker job," Lyman said he hoped that "this campus is going to unite in a determination not to produce the kind of circumstance in which a reasonable man, operating with a great sense of the undesirability of having to bring in armed force at any time, would nonetheless feel he had to do so.

"I hope we can get together on that, because that is the heart of the matter," he added. "I'm not trying to keep people quiet, and I'm not trying to keep people from making us, by legitimate means, confront problems which some of us may not be terribly eager to confront."

He added: "The only way you're going to defend an institution that is threatened is not by getting down in your bunker and putting up the defenses, but by moving ahead—by being willing to change where change is needed."

Lyman has spent most of the time since his unanimous election by the Board of Trustees Thursday afternoon attending a series of informal faculty meetings previously scheduled by the Faculty Senate Steering Committee.

Questioned about the immediate future, he predicted more "probing attempts" to "see if we're willing to become a very different kind of institution from a true university." But he also foresaw more "serious, imaginative, and conscientious efforts to keep the university a great university and make it greater."

(more)

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Lyman news conference 2-2-2

*On specific issues he said:*

ROTC: "It doesn't seem for the moment that the services are enthusiastic about the plan that was put forth by Stanford in the early summer for [an] ROTC [program] off the campus. I think myself that the services themselves are going to come around to that position eventually. They're under great pressure from Congress—pressure that's understandable in view of the history—but they're not willing to do that now, and therefore I view the immediate future of ROTC on this campus very dimly indeed.

"I hope in the long run that [an] off campus ROTC [program] will maintain that option for students here and elsewhere without involving us in all the ambiguities and the academic issues and the really questionable aspects of having a single program, the only program, that is taught by faculty who are appointed from outside, etc. . . ."

Causes for student unrest: "It is part of a world-wide problem. I think it's obviously related to people's feelings of being swept along in the tide of history with less capacity to influence the speed or direction of that tide even than had been the case in the past.

"Sometimes people feel that way, paradoxically enough, at the very moment when they're getting more capacity to influence that direction of history. And they're feeling that way because the problem has suddenly occurred to them for the first time."

Politics and the University Presidency: "I've wrestled with that problem a lot. You're familiar with the argument that a university president is so little a person and so much a public institution that he can't open his mouth without being institutional. Maybe if he took the job he ought to have been institutionalized at the start.

"I don't think that leading university figures ought to pretend that they are not involved in or concerned with or have profound feelings about political questions. But I don't believe that a university president ought to get involved in campaigning for individual candidates. It seems to me that that is improper. It simply isn't possible while campaigning for an individual candidate or in giving vocal support to him or her—it isn't possible to go on speaking as an educator first and a politician not at all.

"It isn't possible to do what a university president ought to do in relation to political issues, namely whenever he speaks about one to speak as an educator. . .with a consciousness of responsibility to the community.

"To show, first, that he's speaking only for himself and not for the institution and, second, that he sees political problems through a perspective and that he understands that when the history books are written 50 years later almost no political problems are going to look like simple, yes or no, right or wrong kinds of things."