

President Reaffirms ROTC Position; Punitive Clauses Studied

President Kenneth S. Pitzer has reaffirmed his personal support of changes in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Stanford as adopted by the Faculty Senate.

Prior to the Senate vote, President Pitzer called for a mitigation of the so-called punitive clauses, and last week Provost Richard W. Lyman made these suggestions:

"There are other ways in which the armed services could avoid whatever risk there may be of their being defrauded by extending a four-year scholarship to a student who has no serious intention of completing his side of the contract.

"Conversion of ROTC scholarships to loans, repayment of which would be forgiven upon completion of training and service as a commissioned officer, is one obvious possibility."

The contract provisions now in effect require enlisted service in the event a scholarship student or a student enrolled in the advanced course willfully fails to comply with the contract commitments.

The Senate approved a plan on January 23 whereby Army ROTC courses may qualify for limited academic credit on a one-year trial basis. The action was taken following a recommendation by a presidential committee which studied the issue for several months. The change provides no guarantee that any course would receive credit, eliminates departmental status for ROTC as well as Academic Council membership and faculty rank for its instructors, and places the army program in a new Center for Military Studies instead of a department. (See *Campus Report*, January 28.)

Commenting last week, President Pitzer said, "I don't think there's any perfect solution" to ROTC. However, he remarked that the position adopted by the Senate "is as good a compromise as possible under present circumstances."

The President said he feels last Spring's discussion and votes by the faculty indicated that most wanted ROTC to continue on campus. By "a rather narrow margin" (403-356), the faculty favored ending academic credit, he added, and the advisory committee "made a strong effort to work out a position with the Defense Department completely consistent with this majority view." While this did not prove possible, President Pitzer said, "the committee's recommendations came "as close as possible" to reflecting last Spring's vote.

President Pitzer pointed out that "all sorts of friends of the University feel quite strongly that ROTC should be available" as an option to students. But he emphasized that no special Department of Defense or other governmental pressure affected his decision to back the committee's proposals.

The President referred to the punitive clauses when he reported to the Senate prior to its action saying:

"It is our intention to keep pushing the services and to exert every possible influence on Congress and the Department of Defense." He further stated that the heads of Stanford military programs are under "explicit instructions . . . to mitigate the so-called punitive clauses and take every possible step to be certain that every enrolled student understands his status under the contracts."

In his comments on the scholarship contracts, Provost Lyman criticized punitive clauses, calling them "a vestige of a bygone era, serving neither the nation's nor the University's welfare."

He made these additional observations:

"There is widespread mistrust of the authority which these clauses vest in the armed services to induct an ROTC cadet immediately for from two to four years service as an enlisted man in the event of a cadet's refusal to complete the later stages of his training and accept a commission.

"As things stand now, an ROTC scholarship is the only form of financial aid in which the student recipient is penalized for changing his mind. . . .

"With considerable justice, it is argued that a young man finishing high school may sign a contract (whose) full significance . . . he is not in a good position to judge, and that he may come to regret this at a later date—only to discover that his choice is completion of the contract or immediate induction. . . .

"Protection for cadets who become outspoken critics of ROTC is at best uncertain under these present circumstances."

Provost Lyman said he personally believes that "substantial and demonstrable progress toward resolving this problem is essential to the continuation of ROTC at Stanford past next year."

'SHADOW OF HEROES' OPENS TONIGHT

"Shadow of Heroes," Robert Ardrey's dramatic account of the events that led to the Hungarian uprising in 1956, will open a three-week run tonight at 8 o'clock in Memorial Hall.

The Stanford Repertory Theater production is scheduled to play at 8 p.m. February 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21, and at 2 p.m. February 7 and 14.

Ardrey, best known as the author of "African Genesis" and "The Territorial Imperative," left his research into man's beginnings to document this true story of the Hungarian people. He interviewed hundreds of refugees who had fled the Hungarian capital, and gradually he pieced together the drama.

Stephen Jay Book, who staged "The Rour of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd" and appeared in "Androcles and the Lion," will direct.

The role of László Rajk will be played by SRT guest artist Kurtwood Smith, an instructor in drama at Canada College. Smith received the MFA degree from Stanford last year.

Mary Steton Geldard, a lecturer in Stanford's Drama Department, will portray Julia Rajk. Richard Rekow, and SRT acting fellow, will appear as János Kadar. Gene Parseghian, also an acting fellow, will play the role of the Author.