

## TO THE STANFORD COMMUNITY:

Because of the rumor and misunderstanding of certain aspects of the Old Union sit-in which exist on the campus, the following chronology of procedures has been prepared by my office. I appeal to all members of the Stanford community to maintain calm in the difficult situation which we face and to assess the facts carefully and rationally.

K. S. Pitzer, President

April 24, 1970

### Chronology of Procedures Followed April 23 - 24, 1970

1. The sit-in began at approximately 12:45 P.M. after a short rally in White Memorial Plaza. Throughout the afternoon, earnest attempts were made, both on the part of the university and certain leaders of the sit-in, to keep it as much as possible non-disruptive and non-violent. Alternatives were discussed carefully with members of the Sheriff's office, the faculty consultative group, and administrators involved. As a part of this effort, the limits of non-disruptive activities were defined in writing. This document was distributed to employees of the Old Union and to persons involved in the sit-in at about 2 o'clock.

2. Despite these attempts, the situation during the afternoon teetered on the edge of what could reasonably be called disruptive action. It was impossible, for example, for the Office of Student Accounts to be open and to function normally. Because of this, because of the presence in the crowd of a large number of non-students, including many juveniles, and because of a sizeable number of persons wearing masks to hide their identity, it was decided late in the afternoon that the building would have to be closed at five o'clock to protect valuable student and financial records and other property. (Photographers by formal vote of the demonstrators were barred from the building, although it was never clear why such a restriction was needed for a truly non-violent event.) This was done under the new interim policy adopted by the SCLC, April 19.

3. Accordingly, an order was prepared and distributed closing the building until 8 A.M. the next morning. It should be noted that the closing was for the night only, in contrast to the closing of the ROTC building for 30 days. The possibility of non-violent, non-disruptive activity the next day was therefore left open.

4. Despite this warning, most of the demonstrators, including a sizeable number of non-students, remained in the building. As a consequence, the matter was turned over to the Santa Clara County Sheriff's office and a second warning was issued at about 6 P.M. by officers of that agency. This time it was accompanied by a clear statement that those who did not leave the building were violating the law and would be arrested. The four officers -- three uniformed and one in plainclothes -- identified themselves and spoke over the public address system to all of those in the lobby, then warned students on the second and third floors.

5. At this point, the decision on how to deal with these unlawful activities became one for the responsible police authorities who acted in close consultation with officers and faculty members of the University. In part to provide an opportunity for those who wished to leave to do so, including many of the juveniles in the group, and in part because of requirements of mobilizing the necessary manpower, the Sheriff's office decided to begin clearing the building at one o'clock. Arrangements were made accordingly for faculty and staff observers and for security once the building was cleared.

6. During this period, there was a steady deterioration in the climate of non-violence. Unknown persons interrupted power service to the building for approximately 90 minutes, firebombs were hurled at a building housing several students, high schoolers scrawled obscenities on numerous walls and doors with fistcuffs ensuing, and locks were removed from several doors in the Old Union.

7. Many of those who received the previous warnings were among those who attended a midnight session at the Old Union at which the protestors made explicit their plans to leave the building promptly whenever their scouts informed them that police were coming, hoping thus to avoid possible arrest. They also discussed plans to return and occupy the Old Union early Friday morning.

8. During this time, and in view of various kinds of unlawful activity over three previous weeks, the Sheriff's office decided not to give any further notice because of a strong likelihood of more fruitless games of pursuing fleeing vandals throughout the campus. The University was informed of this decision, but once the police are summoned decisions on how their forces are deployed and on what time schedule as well as the issuance of any further warning are entirely in the hands of Officers of the Sheriff's Department.

9. At approximately one A.M. Friday, the Sheriff's detail moved onto the campus for the purpose of enforcing the law, in their judgment bringing in the minimum force necessary to make arrests. No injuries were reported and no one was known to have been treated at the Stanford Hospital or at Cowell Student Health Center. Members of the faculty present inquired of every person arrested as to personal injury and also accompanied those arrested to the places where they were officially booked.