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Counter-Chronology

Although the following chronology may well stand alone as an account of the Old Union sit-in of Thursday, April 23, it is best regarded as a mirror reflection in the world of fact of the fictional chronology submitted to the Stanford community Friday, April 24, by "K.S. Pitzer, President."

At a 12:30 p.m. rally in White Plaza, the students voted to occupy the Old Union, and went there at approximately 12:45. The building was open, but entrance was barred by members of the Free Campus Movement and their supporters, who supported their linked-arm barricade by initiating physical attacks on the demonstrators. Thus, the first violation of university policy and the first act of violence of the day were perpetrated against the demonstrators by those associated with the FCM. It should be noted, however, that several scuffles occurred in the first few minutes of the occupation, and that the demonstrators may have started some of them.

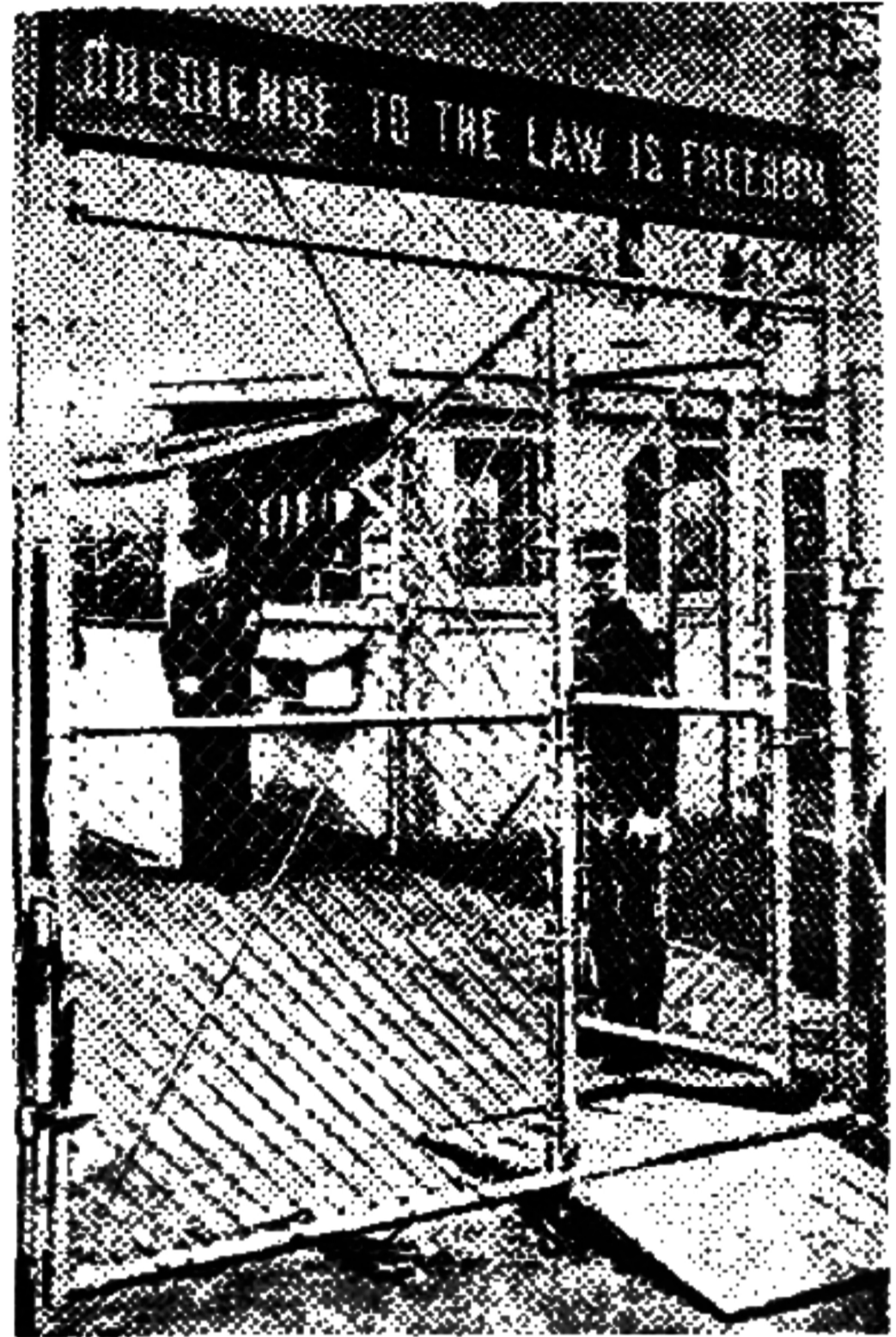
At no time before 5 p.m., the regular closing time of the building, did the administration label the sit-in a disruption. President Pitzer does claim that "it was impossible for the Office of Student Accounts to be open and to function normally," but no attempt was made to open those offices, despite the demonstrators' vote not to harass workers. President Pitzer declared the building closed at 5 o'clock and the demonstrators in violation of university disruption policy, even though the demonstration was non-violent, and that after five there was nothing and no one in the Old Union for demonstrators to disrupt.

Pitzer defends his closing of the building by reference to the interim policy adopted by SCLC April 19, yet he failed to comply with the regulations of that legislation, since he did not provide "designees...who shall be stationed at an entrance or entrances to the building, [to] authorize and regulate access to the building to categories of persons publicly designated by the president" (Daily, Wednesday, April 22).

Four policemen informed demonstrators at six p.m. that they were in violation of regulation 602(1) of the California penal code, a trespassing law which prohibits "entering and occupying real property or structures of any kind without the consent of the owner, his agent, or the person in lawful possession thereof." The administration's use of this law demonstrates that ownership of the university does not reside with the people who live and work there - works, students, and faculty - but with the Board of Trustees and their agent, President Pitzer.

President Pitzer reports "a steady deterioration in the climate of non-violence" between six p.m. and one a.m. Even if this were true, it would not explain the decision to bring police on campus, since that decision was reached before the "deterioration" took place. But the statement is false. The interruption in power service which Pitzer cites was clearly not the work of the demonstrators, who wanted the lights to stay on. Nor was it the first such interruption of the day, for, in the "non-disruptive" period before five, power service was also cut off. The attempted fire bombing of the FCM headquarters of course has no bearing on what went on inside the Old Union, and in fact the purpose of the Old Union sit-in was to provide an alternative to just that sort of political activity. Obscurities scrawled by "high schoolers" were few in number and Pitzer's assertions to the contrary, in no way constitute acts of violence.

According to Pitzer, police authorities, in consultation with university officials, planned their arrests for one a.m., partly in order "to provide an opportunity for those who wished to leave to do so." Yet everyone who wished to leave did so by six in expectation of an imminent police action. The so-called "clearing" of the building - seven hours later - occurred almost exactly an hour after students began preparing to spend the night, and was designed to catch as many demonstrators as possible in their sleeping bags. As Assistant to the President Willard Myran noted, "The police intent was



to do something meaningful" (Daily, Friday, April 24).

At one a.m., when police finally did enter the building to make arrests, no designated faculty observers were present. This enabled policemen to club demonstrators, several of whom were lying in their sleeping bags. One person may have been knocked unconscious by such a blow, though this report is unconfirmed.

As a final act of political repression, sometime between 4:30 and 8:30 a.m., the sound equipment which was left behind in the building was severely damaged. The only persons who had access to the building during this time were police and authorized university personnel. -W.C.

No More H-S

One Major Escape Hatch: ROTC

President Nixon's draft reforms spell bad news for university students here and around the country. Suddenly, college men must face the prospect of losing their student deferments, the last barrier between them and the uncertainties of the draft.

Nixon's plan includes three major provisions. By executive order, he has wiped out all new occupational and paternity deferments. He has also asked Congress to approve an order that would eliminate all new student deferments; all students not holding existing 7-S deferments will be subject to the draft according to their lottery positions. College students, though, will still have one major escape hatch: ROTC. All ROTC students will be able to postpone military service until they have graduated.

The loophole in the new draft system will undoubtedly give ROTC a big boost. Kenneth Pitzer and Howard Brooks had such a possibil-

ity in mind when they pushed the new ROTC program through the Academic Senate. On January 17, 1970, Pitzer joined other members of the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education in recommending the abolition of all new student deferments. As the Council's statement reasoned, "The available pool of draft eligible men is so large as compared with the numbers likely to be called into service that a termination of student deferments cannot seriously affect the regular flow of highly educated manpower. Thus the question of national welfare is no longer at issue. At issue is the question of equity." On campus, however, Pitzer faced another issue: how to reopen the escape hatch for any highly educated Stanford men who might want to fight the war from the officers' club instead of the front lines.

Contrary to popular belief, ROTC

is not dying a slow death. It is an integral part of the designs of manpower planners. Nixon plans to continue the draft (and incidentally the war) through 1973; he and his advisers expect that ROTC programs will continue to supply a large portion of the Army's officers. Even if the Nixon administration chooses to follow through on its promise to end the draft, ROTC will be an important program. The President's Commission report recommending an all-volunteer military assumed that ROTC would be a major source of officers for the Army and Air Force. The Gates Commission also urged that more money be allocated for ROTC scholarships and that the program establish regional training centers to serve smaller colleges where individual ROTC detachments might be uneconomical. (Stanford already has moved along these lines -- only 50% of its ROTC contingent are Stanford students.) If the planners get their way, ROTC will be with us forever.