

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers, x2558

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Following a one-hour dialogue with 50 ROTC protesters in the lobby of the President's Office at Stanford Monday afternoon (APRIL 20), Stanford Provost Richard W. Lyman said the University has "no intention" of granting amnesty to individuals charged with disruptive acts in the past three weeks of campus demonstrations against ROTC.

The protest group has threatened a sit-in if its demands are not met by Thursday noon. Besides amnesty, these include an immediate end to ROTC on campus and a reversal of alleged University pressure in a draft resister's court case, a charge Lyman labeled "completely untrue."

In response to a question about sit-ins, Lyman emphasized that the University was "determined to keep from having coercive tactics used to change decisions." In a two-day referendum which drew a record turn-out last week, students voted to keep ROTC on campus by a narrow margin but said no academic credit should be given ROTC courses by a majority of nearly 2-to-1. A faculty vote March 30 in favor of a proposal permitting Army ROTC courses to qualify for limited academic credit on a one-year trial basis triggered the demonstrations.

About 100 persons in the protest group marched to the President's Office from a White Plaza rally, pausing en route to knock over a table set up by a lone student for Marine Corps officer recruiters. Later, a small protest group returned to the Placement Office and stole a Marine officer's hat there.

In response to sustained questions, broken by occasional laughter, Lyman made these general points:

1. Unless you favor unilateral disarmament, it doesn't make much sense to dismantle military training bit by bit. The key issue involves foreign policy, which determines how military force is used. (Lyman has expressed his personal opposition to the Vietnam War since 1965.)
2. The war is "very bad in every respect." Lyman said he personally is "concerned at the extent of the development of military influence" in American society, and noted that "if the arms race is not slowed down, it may eventually do away with us all."
3. Universities should be "wide open and free to study all aspects" of social and political problems. If a "complete breach" develops between academic people and the military, academicians will have less opportunity to influence the military. He cited the recent testimony by Prof. Wolfgang Panofsky against the ABM as a constructive example.
4. If universities were to take institutional stands on social and political issues, this could soon become their sole business. In the long run, this can threaten the future of the University, for agreement on today's issues may not extend to those which arise in the future. The University's central purpose is to educate people to question effectively: "the best evidence that universities are doing their job is that their students have developed many movements deeply questioning of society."

Lyman said he personally felt more militant action by those opposed to the war would be "counter-productive" with large segments of the electorate. While "there's no denying that millions of people in the world today don't regard the U.S. government as good," he personally feels "the degree of democracy reached here is greater than most countries," for example South Africa and the Soviet Union.

A handful of high school-age youth were among those who stood quietly during the hour-long exchange of views. The protesters have indicated the Thursday action at Stanford will be part of a coordinated effort to "Off ROTC and Free Bobby Seale" Thursday. Lyman said he did not know enough about Seale's trial in Connecticut to have any personal views about it, but felt the Chicago 7 conspiracy trial "represented a serious setback for American justice and the people's faith in it."

He said the first he knew about the sentencing of Paul Rupert, a former Stanford student, to five years alternative service (to the draft), and 10 days to depart Santa Clara County was when Rupert told him this personally Friday afternoon. Lyman said he had never heard of probationary sentences with a geographic exclusion, and noted that this approach could "invite criticism on political grounds."

He emphatically denied allegations that the University had sought to influence this decision by Federal District Court Judge Stanley Weigel. To his knowledge, Lyman said, the only information supplied Weigel was a letter from the head of the United Campus Ministry, clarifying Rupert's status with the group and its own relationship to the University.

Lyman refused to speculate on the response the University might make to a sit-in, noting that it is important to draw the line between "free expression of dissent and coercive action."

University President Kenneth S. Pitzer was out of town. He is expected to return from Washington