

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 29, 1970

Dear Stanford Alumni:

On May 16 I was pleased to meet with the alumni who returned for the annual campus conference, at which time I reviewed with them the many events that have occurred at Stanford since April 1, and reported the University's responses to those activities. At the same time, I spoke to them about the expressed intention of a small group of students and non-students on the campuses of most major universities to alienate those institutions from their sources of public and private support, thereby weakening or destroying one of society's greatest resources. I am sending the essential text of my remarks to you in the hope that you will find it of value.

With best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,



K. S. PITZER

THANK YOU, Mr. Jackson, and good afternoon to you all. We deeply appreciate your joining us today following such difficult weeks on the campus. These are moments when Stanford—and all institutions of higher education—are being tested as never before. This indication of your continued interest in, and concern for, the University in these troubled times is most welcome. . . .

Normally this occasion calls for a rather formal state-of-the-University address, during which events of the past year are reviewed and discussed. But, as a glance at the campus about you indicates, these are not normal times. Furthermore, the quarter is not yet over, and there is still no way of predicting for certain what the coming weeks will hold. So I will set aside the usual report of the full year in favor of some brief comments on the major events since April 1, and our response to them.

There have been three major forms of student and non-student activity since the opening of the spring quarter. The first has had to do with the nighttime rampages of a group shouting opposition to ROTC on this campus; the second has had to do with daytime activities of that group; and the third has had to do with the far more widespread and far more broadly based reaction on the part of many students and faculty to the events in Cambodia.

I mentioned the nocturnal activities of the anti-ROTC group first because they occurred first. Following a meeting the night of March 31, a group of about 150 persons marched to the building housing the ROTC offices and began breaking windows there. Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies were brought to the scene and the demonstrators retreated, breaking windows at several other buildings in the process. This activity and several other acts of vandalism were repeated on several nights during early April. Substantial forces of police were summoned, but the campus is large, and the demonstrators were fast, familiar with the terrain, and acting under the cover of darkness.

I would like to emphasize as strongly as I can that the number of Stanford students engaged in such activities has been very, very small and that their activities have outraged the rest of the University. Estimates generally agree that among the small group of rock-throwers, probably less than

half were students. The remainder were young people who came to the campus apparently to protest war through their own form of warfare.

To deal with these activities, off-campus police were called in force thirteen times during April and May. At the same time, we tried to identify as best we could those *actually engaged* in law-breaking, for charges cannot be lodged against individuals who simply walk around the campus or who look suspicious. We also carefully considered—but did not believe practical at the particular time—several other steps such as a campus curfew, a ban on evening meetings, and the barring of unauthorized non-Stanford people from the campus.

Most effective in the long run, however, has been the reaction against violence that the radicals themselves have created. Most students have clearly indicated their opposition to the use of force. The revulsion of most moderates to the extremes of the militants therefore is the best insurance that we have against group violence. Faculty and staff members also volunteered to stand guard over their buildings many nights during April and May, for there has been the continual threat of arson and vandalism hanging over the campus.

By day, the anti-ROTC forces engaged in so-called "mill-ins" at ROTC classes, delayed a meeting of the Academic Council, and staged two sit-ins at the Old Union. Each of these disruptions was terminated by appropriate action using police if necessary. It is a tribute to the training and the leadership of those police that we escaped without serious injury to students, even though the police were severely provoked and suffered many injuries from the rocks that were thrown at them from the cover of darkness. We are deeply grateful for the help that they gave us.

The third form of activity has been the broad campus reaction to American operations in Cambodia. This response came from large numbers of students and faculty members, the overwhelming majority of whom are also opposed to the use of violence on the campus. A spontaneous urge arose on their part to set aside classwork for a time to discuss the event and to find ways to take constructive action against a decision that they regarded as unwise and injurious to the country. Individual

schools and departments met to decide how to deal with the situation, and many—but by no means all—decided to suspend formal activities last week. At the end of the week, I made clear that the University's academic obligations must be met during the remainder of the quarter. Classes have met this week. At the same time provisions were made to give students broad options to continue their academic work and to take part in other constructive activities.

An unfortunate by-product of the "strike"—and I don't think that word really describes what happened on this campus—was the belief on the part of a few students that other students and employees should physically be prevented from going to classes or to work, and that the University as a whole should be "shut down." We dealt with this development patiently at first when emotions ran high—then this week began charging those who persisted in blocking doorways with violations of the University policy against disruptions. For this and other reasons these actions have now largely ceased.

In summary, the three forms of illegal activity during the past two months have resulted to date in more than 100 cases being placed before the Stanford Judicial Council, 45 arrests by civil authorities, and contempt of court charges against five individuals named in a court injunction last spring. As must be evident to you from these statistics, we are anxious to maintain order on this campus, but we prefer to do so if at all possible through our own mechanisms rather than through the use of massive external force among groups of emotionally-charged young people. Also we must follow the law of the land and the law of the campus.

I wish now to mention some more affirmative items—also from the last few weeks. On May 5 a group of Stanford faculty, staff, and students travelled to Washington as individuals to discuss with government leaders in both Congress and the Executive Branch the intense reaction of the campus community to our military movement into Cambodia. The group included individuals of diverse viewpoints, including a leader of the Stanford Young Republicans. They were the first of many such delegations to arrive, and they found in Washington a sudden eagerness to listen to campus views. One Senator from a distant state recently told me that the Stanford group was the best informed and generally most impressive of all of the college groups that visited him. Stanford made a major contribution to communication with our government on May 6 and 7.

Next is the marked increase of student interest in the regular political process. James Reston of the New York Times recently wrote: "It has been a long time coming, but the university students are

finally beginning to understand the difference between political demonstrations and political organization. Demonstrating without organizing is like kissing the girl and running for home—a pleasant experience with no lasting consequences."

I hope that this interest is maintained and that candidates welcome the active support of college students. Our young people must be convinced that they can have influence on national policies and the effective mechanism for that influence is the electoral process for Congressmen and Senators as well as for the Presidency.

In faculty honors April was also notable. One of the highest honors for excellence of achievement in science is election to the National Academy of Sciences. This year out of a national total of 50 new members, five are from Stanford, which is the largest number of any university campus. This is just one measure among many of the excellence and distinction of the Stanford faculty.

In view of the special role of Fred Terman in the selection of faculty during his service as Provost, he merits special recognition in relation to this achievement. It was a fitting accompaniment to the award of the Herbert Hoover medal to Dr. Terman by the Stanford Alumni Association late last month.

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I would like to close with a sincere plea. There are among the most violent demonstrators a small group that would like to destroy, neutralize, or politicize this University and all the great universities of the nation. They seek to destroy through the use of fire and disruption, or through the erosion of public and private support. They would like to neutralize by severing all the ties with the rest of society that they find objectionable. They would like to politicize by forcing the institution to follow their bidding in opposing all national policies.

Here on the campus, we are well aware of those dangers and are determined to guard against them. For your part, and the part of all alumni of all institutions of higher education, I urge you not to play into the hands of the radicals by withholding your help.

There is a very great deal that must be done on this campus and in this country to restore respect for the rules that protect all men; for the democratic processes that do work, however slowly; and for the many good and noble things that this country represents. It is a job that is going to demand far more of our time and our resources, and we must get on with it, each and every one of us.

I urge you all to view this as one of the most serious challenges ever to face this University and its friends, and to join in every way you can to help us keep Stanford free . . . and open . . . and effective.