

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