

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

Three Stanford professors and an administrator were among nine Bay Area clergymen, professors and engineers who used nonviolent civil disobedience Wednesday, Feb. 24, to block entry to the San Mateo draft board.

The group locked arms and stood in front of the door. Each acted as an individual, not as a representative of his institution.

San Mateo police took no action, quoting draft board officials as asking them "not to do anything."

Several young men were turned away by the demonstrators, who planned to remain there until closing time, and employees continued working inside.

Participants from Stanford were Prof. Robert McAfee Brown, religion, and a leader in Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam since 1967; Prof. Sanford Dornbusch, sociology, chairman of the Faculty Senate; Prof. B. Davie Napier, dean of the Stanford Chapel; and Robert H. Moulton Jr., associate director for administrative services at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

(Profs. Dornbusch and Napier had no scheduled classes today; Prof. Brown made arrangements for his class to be covered; and Moulton took a day's leave without pay.)

The others were John L. Kelley, professor of mathematics and former chairman of the Department of Mathematics, UC-Berkeley; Father Kenneth Keulman, associate pastor, Most Holy Trinity Church, San Jose; the Rev. Louis H. Riley, associate minister, First Congregational Church, Palo Alto; the Rev. George M. Wilson, First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto; and Paul F. Garrett, former aerospace engineer, Palo Alto.

The group issued the following written statement as they stood in front of the draft board:

What are we to do now? The majority of Americans are convinced that we should not have entered the war in Southeast Asia; should remove our air and ground forces this year, and should stop our killing by bombs as well as bullets. Congress has repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and has passed the Cooper-Church Amendment.

Yet President Nixon continues the war on the specious argument that our purpose in fighting is to protect our fighting men. As our American casualties decline, we are bombing ever more Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians. In the face of the latest developments, the response of Congress has been muted.

Many of our young men are now facing a moral dilemma. During this evil war, the draft forces many to become conscientious objectors, exiles, convicts, or participants in the killings. As Congress considers renewal of the draft and providing funds for the war, we feel the urgent need to engage in today's symbolic act. That it is Ash Wednesday, a day which marks for Christians the beginning of a season of penitence and remorse, makes it all the more appropriate.

This morning we are engaged in a nonviolent act, blocking access to a draft board. We expect to be arrested, and we will not resist arrest. It is our intent to raise constitutional issues in our trial. If we are successful, an important redefinition of governmental powers will have been achieved. Even if we are found guilty, we will at least have provided vivid testimony to the despair so many people feel about the course of events and the distortion of our political tradition.

We must try. We have an inescapable duty to express our moral anguish.