

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers

STANFORD -- Making a strong plea for greater community control over medical care, Dr. Jose Aguilar told 250 persons at a Thursday noon rally at the Stanford Medical Center that from a personal standpoint "there isn't anything at stake" if he fails to receive a tenure appointment at the University.

"If I fail to get tenure, I'm 'doomed' to a \$40,000 or \$50,000 job by going out into private practice.... I don't have to be afraid of the Establishment. My referrals would not come from white doctors," he added. A neurosurgeon, he is the sole chicano on the Medical School faculty.

Active in recruiting chicano medical students to Stanford, Dr. Aguilar also works with the People's Medical Center in Redwood City. He said his referrals would come from the community, because when chicanos look for a physician sympathetic with their problems, "the only one around is me."

Noting the heavy federal support of medical activities at Stanford, he suggested that "we have to get our share" for the minority communities. Blacks and chicanos should set the policies for health care in their own communities, he indicated.

Because of the lengthy training required for physicians, he added, it could take 10 to 20 years before blacks and chicanos again could "take up the issue of tenure" for racial minority members seeking careers as physician-professors.

Several medical students and employees strongly endorsed Dr. Aguilar's work at the School. Paul Williams, sole minority student in the medical Class of '73, said "Academic excellence is necessary for minority students, but not sufficient," emphasizing the need for the personal example and guidance of Dr. Aguilar.

In a similar vein, Bertha Gonzalez, a first year medical student, said the School's research is "excellent" but it "tended to ignore the value of good clinical teachers."

Speaking in Spanish, a third student received wide applause when he said that the protest group was not allied with communists or other radicals, but were present "because we're chicanos."

Expressing his appreciation for the turnout and support, Dr. Aguilar said "Somehow all my life--I'm 44, now--I've been hearing someone tell me I'm half-assed good. After hearing that for so long, I'm almost inclined to believe it...."

"All of a sudden now there's good for me not to believe what other people tell me--that I'm incompetent, etc.--because I know that somebody out there loves me."

An assistant professor of neurosurgery at Stanford since 1965, Dr. Aguilar was notified in November that he would not receive a tenure appointment. In a statement Wednesday, Acting Dean John L. Wilson of the School described as "unfounded" charges that tenure was denied for racial and political reasons.

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