

Send #613

DATE: April 14, 1971

TO : Members of the Academic Council

FROM : Faculty Observers  
School of Medicine

SUBJECT: Observations of Demonstrator and Police Activity at the  
Stanford University Hospital Friday, April 9, 1971

Attached please find the written observations of individual Medical School faculty members who were asked to serve as observers of the police action to terminate the sit-in at the Stanford University Hospital, Friday evening April 9, 1971. We were issued green arm bands for identification purposes and allowed to witness the proceedings at close range.

*A. Keith Brodie*

H. Keith Brodie, M.D.

*Lawrence G. Crowley*

Lawrence G. Crowley, M.D.

*Duncan E. Gowan*

Duncan E. Gowan, M.D.

*Elliott C. Levinthal*

Elliott C. Levinthal, Ph.D.

*James B.D. Mark*

James B.D. Mark, M.D.

*Robert Mason*

G. Robert Mason, M.D.

*Bernard W. Nelson*

Bernard W. Nelson, M.D.

*Sidney Raffel*

Sidney Raffel, M.D.

*Robert T. Schimke*

Robert T. Schimke, M.D.

*Kenneth L. Vosti*

Kenneth L. Vosti, M.D.

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DATE: April 9, 1971

TO : Robert G. Lindee  
Assoc. Dean

FROM : H. Keith H. Brodie, M.D.  
Asst. Prof. Dept. of Psychiatry

SUBJECT: Observation of Police Action 4/9/71

During the course of the evening I observed no use of excessive force on the part of the police in clearing the administrative offices. It should be noted that I was positioned in the surgical clinic area and therefore did not witness the exit of demonstrators from the occupied offices.

I did treat one officer who had the breath knocked out of him by a scotch tape dispenser thrown at his chest, and another officer who appeared to have a fractured left index finger.

When I arrived at the clinical side of the office area, I observed at least six youths lying on the floor with blood on their faces, scalps and hands. I treated some of these people as best I could by bandaging them and cleaning them off with saline. All appeared to have lacerations of the scalp and face.

H. Keith H. Brodie, M.D.

DATE: April 10, 1971

TO : John L. Wilson, M.D.

FROM : Lawrence G. Crowley, M.D.

SUBJECT: Sit-in, April 9, 1971

I first became aware that the group petitioning Dr. Gonda to reemploy Mr. Bridges remained in the administrative offices all Thursday night on Friday morning when I was scrubbing in the O.R. About 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon I attempted to walk over to the surgery office through the administration area. The doors were closed, and a sign was posted outside saying that "doctors, nurses, and patients may proceed through this area. You will be escorted by us from one end to the other. If you would care to join us, we will be glad to have you". It was apparent that there was a large number of people sitting in the area and that they had completely taken over the entire executive suite of offices. The windows were partially screened by papers, signs and flags. I walked around the other way.

About 4:30 p.m., I received a call to come to a meeting in the Dean's Office at 5:15 p.m. At the Dean's Office Provost Miller and Dean Wilson informed the assembled group of faculty members that there was going to be a police eviction of the demonstrators starting at 6:00 p.m. if the sit-in had not ended by that time. They asked if we would be willing to be faculty observers. There were about ten of us, and we all agreed. It was clear that we were not called for any suggestions and that the decision to use police force if the sit-in did not end by 6:00 p.m. had already been made. None of us were participants in that decision. They stated the plan which was to surround the area, then to announce by a bull horn on two occasions that the demonstrators were in violation of various laws regarding disruption, etc. and give them five minutes to leave. If they failed to leave, they were then going to go in and arrest the group. The plan was to concentrate all the activity on the surgery office side of the suite so that the patient care area on the west wing corridor would not be disrupted. I specifically asked whether they had a sufficient force, and they said they thought they did. They estimated that they were going to have about 40 police.

Drs. R. Mason and B. Nelson and I were assigned to the north end or the west wing side of the administration suite. The remainder of the group were assigned to the surgery office side. On the west wing side there were 8 Palo Alto police in full riot gear; however, no firearms to my knowledge. The doors to the suite were completely barricaded and locked on the inside. There were quite a few people standing around watching, including some hospital personnel and residents and a considerable number of press and other people who I did not recognize as being hospital personnel. There were people with walkie-talkies who I do not think were either press or security people, and they appeared to be part of the communication network of the demonstrators. About 6:00 p.m. the announcement was made that the area must be cleared. There was little or no action on the west end during the first half hour or so.

I did go around once to the surgery clinic side and it was obvious that the glass in the door to the suite had been broken. The whole area was completely drenched with water where the demonstrators had used the fire hose against the police and on-lookers. There were several objects around that had been thrown

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out from inside, such as pieces of glass, ash trays, et cetera. There was a rather hostile crowd of on-lookers, some of whom were harassing the police. They seemed to be made up of sympathizers, most of whom I did not recognize. Some appeared to be hospital and medical school personnel however. The sheriff deputies arrived about that time, and they started pushing back this hostile crowd out of the area into the open area between the Edward's Building and the main hospital. This seemed to be an effective move.

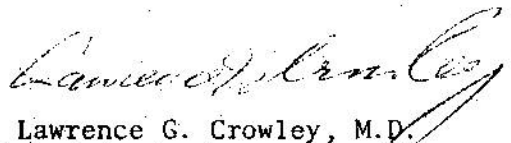
I then went back to the west wing side and remained there during the remainder of the major portion of the altercation. I heard that the water had been turned off, and I went into the ward west 2A and looked out towards the front of the hospital. A small, angry crowd was present below who were shouting encouragements to the sit-in people and epithets to the police. Several bed-ridden patients were very frightened and nursing personnel were also very tense. I attempted to calm them, assuring them that the situation would shortly be under control.

At about 6:30 p.m., it became obvious that the police were breaking through the other end. A large crowd of demonstrators huddled in front of the doors at the west wing area. There was much shouting and it was obvious they were trying to take down the barricades and to open the doors going into the west wing area. Most of the onlookers in the west wing area then evaporated very rapidly. Dr. Mason and I and a couple of inhalation therapists and one or two other people remained in the area. The demonstrators opened the door and met the police. They charged at the police with the first line of demonstrators carrying clubs of various sorts. The clubs were the legs of tables and chairs and each one I saw bore either a large screw or a sharp metal flange. They flailed away at the police with these clubs. I looked at one of the weapons later and it was clearly a device capable of producing serious injury. The police very promptly responded by using their billy clubs. At least four of them were knocked down by the first rush. Many of the demonstrators, especially those who wore helmets, broke through the police and got away. The police then recovered somewhat and managed to capture approximately a dozen of the approximately 30 who charged through the area. Perhaps it was closer to 15 that they were able to capture. Many of those who were captured sustained blows to the head or face, primarily. Several of them even, after first being grabbed by the police, fought back, and they sustained further blows from the police. Scalp lacerations were the most common injury. Dr. Mason and I and some of the inhalation therapists went through the group, and we checked all the wounds. Several were bleeding moderately severely. We obtained supplies from the west wing, and we tamponaded all the ~~rather~~ bleeding lacerations with bulky bandages. One girl in particular seemed to have a rather weak pulse and was quite pale, although she only had a small scalp laceration. At our request, the police allowed her to be taken directly to the emergency room. I do not know what happened to her thereafter. I went down to the emergency room later. The scene was chaotic with two inches of water on the floor. There were several very sick people, including the victims of an automobile accident, and I was unable to discover the disposition of this girl.

The police were very cooperative in allowing us to take care of the wounded, and when they were bandaged, they went ahead and handcuffed all of them and then took them away individually or in small groups. They were mostly white. There were a few blacks; I would say of those captured, the ratio was 4 to 1. Many wore Venceremos buttons. There were at least two children, one boy and one girl, in the twelve to fifteen age group. At no time did I notice any excessive use of force by the police. Several policemen were injured. After the people were taken away, I then examined the administration area. It was total shambles with destruction of office furniture, files, etc. I then went down to the first floor and there were quite a few broken windows in and around the admitting office area. There was a sizeable crowd of primarily black but some white sympathizers who were conferring and speaking in somewhat hostile manner.

A short time later I was asked to be interviewed by the campus radio station. I made the following statement and answered a few questions.

"I am a surgeon, member of the Stanford faculty who was an observer of the breakout of the sit-in demonstrators from the administration area into the west wing patient area of the hospital. They attempted to break through the small (8 man) police cordon, swinging makeshift weapons. The police attempted to arrest the group. Several demonstrators and at least two police were injured but none appear to be serious. Their injuries were primarily head cuts. Doctors and hospital workers nearby examined the injured, stopped the bleeding and requested the police to release one woman for care in the emergency room. After first aid treatment the arrested demonstrators were escorted away by the police. At the present time there is no knowledge of any serious injury." I then rechecked the admitting desk area of the hospital and only a few regular workers were on duty. There was no sign of further disruptive activity.

  
Lawrence G. Crowley, M.D.  
Professor of Surgery

Elliott C. Levinthal, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist, Department of Genetics  
and Associate Dean for Research

I went to the second floor on the east side of the administrative offices at about 5:45 p.m. From where I was standing I could view the efforts of the police to control the crowd behind me and their efforts to enter the blockaded administrative area.

Mr. Vitale announced to the demonstrators that they should leave and were interfering with the operation of the hospital. A representative of the police then announced that they were trespassing and would be given five minutes to leave.

After five minutes elapsed the police attempted to break open the door with a battering ram. The glass panels were then broken. I could not observe whether this was done from the inside or outside. A stream of water was played on the police and about the same time tear gas was used. Missiles were thrown at the police (as a matter of fact one hit me in the foot). Other police moved all people except observers out of the area outside of the barricaded door. There was considerable verbal harassment of the police during this process but no physical violence on either the part of the police or the demonstrators. The doors were finally pulled down and the county police entered. It was not possible for me to observe what was happening on the inside. As soon as possible I went to the other side of the administrative area and observed those who were then under arrest. Most of these were injured. They were being cared for by medical personnel. One girl was removed to emergency on a gurney. Not being a medical man I cannot judge the seriousness of the injuries. I followed the police many times as they escorted arrested demonstrators to the vans outside of the emergency area. The police told those arrested to relax and no one would get hurt. Rocks were being thrown at the police vans by bystanders standing above the emergency area. One of the arrested demonstrators asked them to stop while he got into the van. I observed no use of force in dealing with those who had been arrested. The police cooperated with those who were treating the injured.



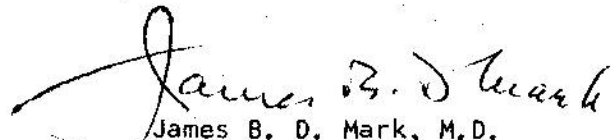
April 9, 1971



STATEMENT OF JAMES B.D. MARK, SURGEON ON THE FACULTY OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

I was an observer at the disturbance at Stanford Medical Center on the evening of April 9, 1971. I arrived at the south end of the administrative area about 5:45 p.m. - at about the same time the police arrived. The police asked the demonstrators to leave, which they did not do. After about ten minutes the police began to break in the south doors and were met by water from a hose, a substance irritating to the eyes, and many hurled missiles. About the time the police succeeded in breaking in the south doors, the demonstrators broke out the north doors. I then went up the stairs to the third floor, over to the north end, and then down to the second floor. By this time the fighting was over. Perhaps ten to twelve demonstrators were on the floor being tended to by doctors and also being handcuffed by police. I observed police firmness, but no unnecessarily rough tactics. Care of the injured was not interfered with by the police. Injuries I observed included cut lips and cut heads in the demonstrators, a sliver of glass in the hand of a policeman and a policeman hit in the chest. I left the scene about 7:45 p.m.

April 9, 1971

  
James B. D. Mark, M.D.  
Professor of Surgery and  
Associate Dean, School of  
Medicine



### OBSERVER REPORT OUTLINE

Name and title: Sidney Raffel, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Medical Microbiology, Stanford University School of Medicine

Where were you? In the corridor off the south barricaded doors.

From when to when? 5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

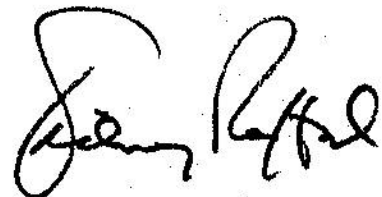
What did demonstrators do? Defied orders of owner and police to leave peacefully; established barricades at both ends of their corridor; threw telephones and other disconnected objects through the doors after the glass had been broken, and used fire hoses through the same apertures.

What did police do? Spent about a half-hour gaining access to the barricaded area and keeping onlookers clear of the area (no force used). After breaking through the barricades, they entered and arrested a number of sitters-in. I was not close enough to see this action at first hand.

How many of those injured did you either examine or get a close look at?  
Examined none. Saw one injured woman on a gurney; one policeman semiconscious after being struck in the head with a flying object.

What were the extent of the injuries you observed? As above.

Cooperation of police with attempts to treat the injured? The police went about their business in a straightforward way, helped clear passage for the injured woman on the gurney, and in other respects conducted themselves, so far as I could see, with great forbearance, particularly in view of the provocations.



### FACULTY OBSERVER STATEMENT

I was assigned to the west 2A area and was in attendance from 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. When I arrived there at 5:45 the police were already in position. There were 8 or 9 from the Palo Alto Police Department. The interior of the administration office area could not be seen ~~due~~ because of the furniture piled up against the doors at both ends plus newspapers and other items taped to the windows. I was unable to hear any of the conversations taking place at the other end of the administrative offices. I was aware of a repetitive loud noise which I assumed was an attempt to break down the door by the police. Subsequent to this the fire hose was turned on from inside and I could observe members of the group in the administration offices climbing on the furniture with clubs in hand, shaking them toward the area where the water hose was aimed. There was then a quiet period of perhaps 10 or 15 minutes subsequent to which repeated attempts were apparently made to enter by the police. There were chants of "Hold that line" by people in the administration offices. I heard some voices calling for guns and dynamite and urging bystanders in the courtyard outside to start yelling and make some noise. Approximately 10 to 15 minutes after this the police apparently were able to make entry through the far doors. There was then an immediate effort by the sit-in group to unbarricade the door next to us and shortly a group of perhaps 20 people attempted to make good their escape through the hospital. Although the majority seemed primarily interested in making tracks elsewhere as fast as possible, several were armed with clubs and used them. These appeared to have been made from the legs of furniture. The police attempted both to protect themselves and to stop the exodus and did so primarily with the night sticks. The prisoners were handcuffed and seated against the walls. There were approximately 6 or 8 people lying on the floor in the

center that I examined. Two of these seemed to have more serious injuries when first seen. One demonstrator was lying face down in a pool of blood not moving. He was wearing a crash helmet. On examination his injuries seemed limited to his upper lip. He complied readily with my request to move arms and legs, was able to roll without difficulty to his back where it appeared that indeed his injuries were confined to the area described.

A second demonstrator, a girl, refused to move or talk to the police. Upon my questioning her she said that she felt faint. She had been struck in the back of the head and had a palpable contusion in this area with a small laceration. She too was able to converse satisfactorily and seemed to have no other injuries. Her pulse was full, strong, regular and did not seem abnormally fast. I did not take her blood pressure. Because of her complaint of faintness I requested that she be taken to the emergency room for further examination. Several of us placed her on a gurney and she was taken to the emergency room. Also during this period I examined 4 policemen. One had a broken finger, one had a left forearm contusion, one had a left shoulder injury but appeared to have full neuromuscular control with limitation of range of motion. These 3 plus a 4th who had also been struck but was in apparently no distress were taken to the emergency room. I observed a 5th policeman who had had glass splinters in his hand. These were removed by one of the surgical staff. I did see some other demonstrators who were bandaged but I do not know the extent of their injuries. They did not seem in any way constricted in their ability to converse or move. I made several requests of the police for movement and transfer of the injured. They were cooperative throughout.

*Robert Mason*

G. Robert Mason, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Surgery

April 10, 1971

I am Bernard Nelson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Stanford Medical School and Assistant Professor of Medical Microbiology. On April 9, 1971, I served as an observer of the efforts of the Palo Alto Police to disperse a crowd that had barricaded themselves in the Administrative Offices of the Hospital. At 5:45 p.m. I went to the reception area outside of the west wing of the Hospital with Drs. Larry Crowley and Robert Mason. Approximately 8 to 10 police were stationed at the double doors facing the reception area. A number of people, some of whom I recognized as having been present inside the corridor area the previous night were located about the reception area. Several inquired as to the meaning of the green armband I was wearing. I told them I was a faculty observer and that I was there to observe the behavior of the demonstrators and the police.

At about 6:15 I left the west side area and moved to observe the east side area. I arrived to see the door pulled down. Mr. Vitale reported that he had received reports that windows were being broken in the area of the Dean's Office. I left with Dr. Wilson and moved to the Dean's Office. On the way I observed several individuals I had seen in the corridor earlier run by the walkway near the computer. On the way one of them dropped a club which I now have in my possession.

No damage was detected in the Dean's Office and I returned with Dr. Wilson to the west side reception area. At this time I observed about five individuals receiving treatment from faculty and students of the Medical School. None appeared to be seriously injured.

*Bernard Nelson*  
4-9-71

An account of the events that occurred between 5:45 p.m. and approximately 7:00 p.m. on April 9th at Stanford Hospital.

I was called by Dr. Bernard Nelson at approximately 4:30 p.m., and asked to come to the Sterling Room for a briefing concerning possible police action to end the sit-in in the administrative suite of the hospital. At that meeting we were asked if we could act as observers for the purpose of determining if any unusual or wrongful acts were performed by any police officers, demonstrators, et cetera. We were told that the plan was to ask the demonstrators to leave the premises, first by a representative of the "owner" of the premises, and then to be repeated by a police officer. If the occupants did not leave the premises in five minutes, then it was the plan to forcibly remove them one by one. The observers were to go with each team of four policemen and observe the activity whereby each occupant was removed from the premise. "Official" observers were identified by their green armbands.

At the time that I arrived at the west end of the second floor corridor there was already present a contingent of perhaps 30 Palo Alto police (approximately 5:45 p.m.). There was a line of metal chairs strung across the corridor from the outside wall to the stairwell, which I was informed was to delineate the passageway whereby the occupants to the administrative suite were to leave the area. There was at that time no attempt to restrict the free movement of a number of persons in this corridor. The group included various onlookers such that by 10 minutes after I arrived, there were about 50 individuals.

At approximately 6:00 p.m. Mr. Vitale read his statement, followed by (I am told) the chief of the Palo Alto police. The response from the other side of the doors was to the effect that the police should leave because otherwise there was going to be a mess inside, and a lot of people out there were going to be hurt. The person who made this statement (inside) could readily see the large milling crowd in this area, and presumably was referring to this group. There was no mention of patients specifically. I am not sure when the barricades within the administrative area were put up, but the majority of it was present when I arrived. After 5 minutes four Palo Alto policemen appeared with a large 8X8 beam and attempted to break down the door.

After <sup>by the police</sup> several futile attempts to gain entrance, one of the glass partitions was broken, immediately following which one of the police shot a mist into the administrative suite. This was followed immediately by the turning on of a water hose from within, with the spread of the eye irritant throughout the corridor. At the same time a number of objects were thrown through the broken partition (glass portion) one of which struck a policeman. One of the objects thrown about 30 feet was a large, jagged chunk of broken glass.

At this point the crowd pressed forward. At approximately the same time a group of about 30 Santa Clara sheriff men arrived, a portion of whom were immediately ordered to push back the onlookers. This appears to be done for two reasons. One was that there simply was not space for the police to maneuver. The second was the concern for the safety of onlookers since various flying

objects were well within the range of where they were standing. They would not move back when asked, and so they were officially declared to be an unlawful congregation and pushed back to the next series of doors, approximately 50 feet back. There they were kept for the remainder of the series of events. About 6 of the Santa Clara police were involved at this point. There were various attempts to open and close the doors, but both the demonstrators and sheriff's men were relatively calm.

After various attempts to break down the door, amidst throwing out from within of various objects, as well as water from (apparently) the fire hose in that area, first one door, and the second was removed. At this immediate time, just as the police were assembling in front of the now opened doors into the administrative area, there was a commotion at the other end of the administrative area. The police then proceeded to climb over the barricade. From my vantage point about 20 yards from the entrance to the previously barricaded area, I could not see any specific actions, since it was obvious that all persons were congregating at the other end of the area. I did see the large riot sticks raised in silhouette, but this was at the time that the police were actually in the act of climbing over the barricade.

Because of the fact that the action was at the other end of the hall, I went down the stairway to the first floor, and proceeded through the lobby, up the escalator to the second floor, and into the area on the other side of the administrative area. A number of onlookers were restrained by the Santa Clara Police in the hallway, but because of my green armband, I was allowed to proceed around the corner to the now opened doors to the administrative area. Here were approximately 15-20 young people, predominantly Caucasian, approximately two-thirds of whom had obvious wounds on the face, hands, or back of the head. Those that were not injured had had their arms tied behind their backs. Others were lying or sitting on the floor, and being attended to by various medical personnel, including medical students, nurses, and many of the physicians that were among the so-called "official" observers. The police did not interfere with attendance of the injured or restrained people in this area. One by one each person who was capable of being moved was removed from the area by a team of two policemen. One girl was particularly pale and upset and had a scalp wound at the base of the skull. She was taken on a gurney to the emergency ward.



Robert T. Schimke, M.D.  
Professor of Pharmacology and Biology

April 11, 1971

Statement on sit-in on April 9, 1971

Observation areas:

1. Hallway outside Surgical Library and Surgical Clinic and Nursing Station from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 6:45 p.m., April 9.
2. Moved through administration office area to doorway nearest to patient area from approximately 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Observations:

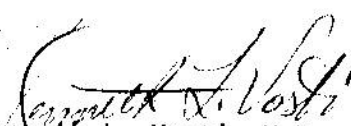
I arrived at the hallway outside the Surgical Library and near the Surgical Clinic's Nursing Station at approximately 5:30 p.m. At the time I arrived the police had already assembled outside the barricaded doors leading into the hallway in front of the administration area. A few demonstrators were also apparent in an area that was near the elevator doors. An announcement of violation of the law was read to those behind the barricaded doorway - three persons were clearly visible on the other side of the doors which were partially covered with bulletins. They were given five minutes to vacate the area voluntarily. After two minutes they were advised that they had three minutes, and after five minutes the officers moved forward with a battering ram to break the glass from the doors. By now demonstrators in the area of the elevator doors had increased in numbers to approximately 20 - 25. They became verbally abusive and threatening to the officers and particularly to Mr. Vitale. The glass was broken on the door and a heavy stream of water came from the inside driving the officers back. There was a long wait, apparently to try and get maintenance to turn off the water. During this period additional law enforcement men arrived. The demonstrators were particularly abusive to the officers and they were finally asked to move outside the doors leading to the Lane Building. They refused until an



announcement was made that they were in violation of the law. They then moved slowly to a position outside the door and continued their verbal abuse of the officers. The officers moved closely behind and I observed no verbal or physical abuse of the crowd by the officers. The officers had some difficulty in closing the door because the demonstrators attempted to prevent this.

In the meantime objects such as telephones were hurled by the inside demonstrators through the broken glass doors. Finally the water was turned off, and the officers moved in and successfully removed the doors and broke into the hallway leading to the administrative office area. I remained near the Nurses' Station of the Surgical Clinic and observed three demonstrators being lead past me by the officers. These three did not appear to be bleeding or injured. About 6:45 p.m. I moved through the administrative offices which were a shambles and out to the patient waiting area. One of the demonstrators was being wheeled away in a gurney, another was having his head bandaged in the corner, and approximately four to six were sitting on the floor against the wall with their hands bound behind their backs. I did not personally examine any of the demonstrators as other physicians were busy doing this. I did not see police interfere with faculty observers or others providing medical care.

April 10, 1971

  
Kenneth L. Vosti, M.D.  
Associate Professor of  
Medicine