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POLICE UNLEASHED

Police in full riot gear were ordered to disperse a peaceful sit-in at the Stanford Hospital just as a settlement appeared likely.

At 4:30, negotiations ended with high possibility of Bridges being rehired. Black workers came in shortly after to express their sympathy and agreement with the occupiers. They met in the conference room for a short period and discussed the formation of a union or some form of organization.

Many workers decided to go home, feed their families and get babysitters, and come back later Friday evening to join the occupiers. A lot of them were still outside when the police came.

The hospital administration itself was in favor of amnesty for those involved and refused to call the police. In fact, when a report of five police cars carrying dogs was reported and negotiations suspended at one point, Gonda came out and ordered his staff to find out about the cars and send them away. But the decision went to William Miller, provost and acting president in Lyman's absence (Lyman was in Europe). Apparently influenced by John Schwartz, University Prosecutor, and Rosenzweig, assistant provost, Miller decided to call in the police.

Miller said "Dr. Gonda has conveyed to me his recommendation for his replacement in the grievance procedure. I have that under consideration. However, we agree there will be no conclusion on the composition or dates for the grievance procedure while occupation of the Hospital continues. Under existing circumstances, Dr. Gonda and I concur he should not return to the discussion."

When reports came in that police were entering the building, the doors to the offices were pushed shut and desks and other furniture were pushed against them in a barricade. Eight to ten police were at one end of the hall (where the patients were) and the rest (two to three busloads) at the other end.

The main contingent of police attempted to break through with a battering ram but gave up on that tactic after a few minutes. They then began to break out sections of the glass door and spray mace into the faces of those closest to the doors. The fire hose was turned on and sprayed the mace back into the faces of the officers. The siege continued for a half hour to an hour.



POLICE DESTROY OFFICE WALL BEFORE ATTACKING OCCUPANTS

The police finally tied ropes around the door frames and pulled them out. At this time half of the occupying force escaped through the back windows while the other half removed the barricades from the other end and rushed out, overwhelming the police.

Twenty-two persons were caught and beaten (around seventy were in at the time of the bust). Of these twenty-two, at least two were outside, Leo Bazille and Fred Johnson. They were acting as observers and had nothing to do with the occupation.

Those arrested were each charged with three felonies and four misdemeanors, including conspiracy to trespass, assault with a deadly weapon and assault on an officer. Charges against Bazille and Johnson were later lowered and bail set.

One Stanford woman worker was so severely beaten that she was immediately taken to the emergency room on a stretcher.

The protest became known to the public on Tuesday, April 6, at noon when a united front of Black and interested groups met at a rally at the Stanford Medical Center

Cont. on p. 4

The Word Was Unity

(This report is from a Black technician who works at the Hospital.)

On Good Friday between 2 and 5 p.m. the Black employees of Stanford Hospital met to get the true and final work on why Sam Bridges had been fired and what was being done about it.

Jim Chatham presided and Fast Eddie kept order. Some people knew one another but most just looked around to see who was who.

"Is Shirley Parish here?"
"I don't know which one she is."
"What's this all about?"
"Did your Supervisor tell you about the nesting?"
"Yeah, she told me but she had the funniest look on her face. I didn't say nothing. I just left."

The word was Unity. Nobody came right out and said the Black Advisory Committee should resign but it was crystal clear that they had let the circumstances lead them into some hasty false conclusions.

Cont on p. 2

Rally 9:30 a.m. Monday

on Hospital Lawn

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

1:30 BUSINESS SCHOOL



BRUTAL POLICE ATTACK WAS UNPROVOKED BUT RESISTED BY DEMONSTRATORS WHO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS.



What Did Sam Do?

On Monday, Feb. 22, Sam Bridges started his new job at the Stanford Hospital. He was hired as a maintenance helper in the Engineering Dept. at \$455 a month.

On his first day, Sam reported to Warren Thorpe, Assistant Chief Engineer. Thorpe took him to his foreman, Jess Kientz, who took him to Prince Swayzer with whom he was to work. Nobody thought to "explain" the job -- who needs to be taught to sweep, to push, to stoop, to carry? Sam learned his job by following Swayzer around.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, he came to work at 7:00 A.M., and spent the day in outside maintenance. He, and another Black worker, Prince Swayzer, started out in front by the fountain sweeping and picking up, and wound up back in the employees' parking lot. On Thursdays and Fridays, he came in at 5:00 A.M. He fed the previous day's junk into the incinerator and delivered the hard stuff to a compactor.

Talking with Swayzer, Sam found out he had once had a job working in the shop but had lost it. This despite many years of working as a plumber before he came to work at the Hospital.

On his first Friday, Sam and Swayzer got a special job. A leadman, Carl, sent them out to pick up rocks at a nearby heliport site. Sam reports that Carl complained that the watch engineers had gotten a \$90 a month raise, but that he and other utility engineers only got \$80 a month. Sam responded, "Well, how do you guys that work in the shop think we Black people feel, doing all this shit work all our lives, we never even get a job in that shop."

On the following Tuesday, Sam was called to a meeting. Present were foreman Kientz, Thorpe, and Shirley Parish, minority representative from the Hospital Personnel Dept.

Sam was told he had been reported as complaining and influencing others with incorrect information. He was warned that, indeed, picking up rocks was part of his job. He was also told to ask Thorpe or Parish if he had a question and warned that discussions based on a person's race, religion or political beliefs would not be allowed, under any circumstances.

Three days later, Thorpe wrote a memo reviewing the meeting. Sam says there was no job description -- that was added to the memo. Also he got the straight message -- keep your mouth shut.

Well, Sam didn't keep his mouth shut. He related to the other Black people on the job, pointing out how they were being screwed. He collected complaints. Several Black people warned him that anybody would be fired who tried to organize a union -- they cited cases

in the past where this had happened.

On March 5, there was another meeting. This time Sam was called in to see Thorpe and Kientz. They reported complaints about his performance which Sam denied. Sam was warned "he might not make it through his probation period."

Sam was told "... we could not accept his wish to isolate himself from his peers for whatever reasons he felt."

Several days later Sam traded words with a hospital guard who demanded he put money in a meter he was leaving. The guard didn't dig Sam's response and reported him.

On March 16 Sam was called in to the front office and fired. First told he was not doing his share, Thorpe added, "Your foreman and I have told you that you must communicate with all of us that work here."

POLICE ... Cont from p.1

protesting the dismissal of a Black worker, Sam Bridges. Bridges had been working at the Medical Center for a month, during which time he apparently questioned some of the administrative practices of the Center and made criticisms of what he thought were instances of prejudicial treatment of workers of color.

The united organizations, calling themselves the Black United Front, presented six demands to Dr. Thomas Gonda, director of the hospital. These demands were:

1. Workers must have the right to criticize administration policies from the date of hiring without intimidation.
2. Workers must have the right to organize a union which represents the workers' interests.
3. Workers must have grievance rights from date of hiring.
4. Workers must have the right to have peers present on all grievance procedures.
5. The rehiring of Sam Bridges with pay for time loss.
6. Stanford Hospital must adopt an Affirmative Action Program.

BUP also set up an appointment with Dr. Gonda for a reply to the demands 48 hours after the presentation of them. (1:00 P.M.).

On Thursday, BUP and MECHA held a joint rally outside the medical center at which both Bridges' case and that of Dr. Jose Aguilar, the only Chicano doctor in the Stanford Med Center, were described.

After the rally, members of BUP moved up to the Medical Administration office to keep their 1:00 appointment with

Dr. Gonda. When Gonda didn't show, the 80 or so visitors sat down and began to wait for his appearance. An administrative assistant tried to pass out a prepared statement from Gonda, but the appointees declared that the statement was unacceptable and waited to see Dr. Gonda.

Food was brought in by the people when dinnertime had come, and Gonda had not appeared yet. John I. Wilson, executive director of the medical care program, consented to call Gonda and arrange an appointment Thursday night between the director and BUP.

He appeared around 10:00 and entered the conference room to discuss the demands put forth by the group. He stated that some of the demands were already in reality, but agreed to specify that grievance rights and the right to criticize were from date of hiring and to affirm the first four demands and put into operation to AAF. But he stalled on rehiring Bridges.

The conference broke up shortly after midnight, with some 50 people electing to remain inside the office until the meeting set up for 9:00 A.M. Friday morning.

During the occupation period, a set of informal rules had been established. Due to the proximity of patients, noise was kept to a minimum. There was an aisle kept clear through the room for traverse. People took turns as door monitors, allowing patients, doctors and nurses through corridor, while refusing entrance to spectators, PCNers, and police.

The occupiers kept the offices clean as possible, out of respect for the workers who would have had to clean up the offices otherwise. In fact, people awoke at five-thirty to engage in an overall cleaning of the place.

Gonda didn't show up for his 9:00 appointment until around noon. The Black Advisory Committee of the hospital employees also came to this meeting. The Committee had previously put out a statement that the firing of Bridges was with cause, but upon further examination Thursday noted that not all the evidence had been presented.

The Committee later recommended that Bridges be rehired. Gonda was in favor of this step also, but decided that, due to his connections with the grievance, he should not be the one to do it. He deferred to Henry Organ, presently proposed as minority employment director. Organ has not as yet been appointed.

