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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Dr. John L. Wilson, dean of the Stanford Medical School and ranking administrative officer at the Medical Center, Sunday night called the destruction and personal injuries which followed police clearance of a hospital sit-in Friday "extremely unfortunate."

But he defended the decision to summon outside help, noting that the demonstration had forced the hospital to temporarily close its blood bank and constituted a growing hazard to patient care there.

The Black Advisory Committee, a hospital employee group which has sought to resolve issues which led to the demonstration, has called a meeting for 9:30 a.m. Monday on the lawn outside the Medical School, near Campus Drive.

According to KZSU reporter Owen Blank, the BAC has issued a statement saying they were "appalled" at violence "perpetrated by the police on a non-violent assembly," and that the University's Acting President (William F. Miller) found it necessary "to order police into a patient area, especially after the Hospital Director (Dr. Thomas Gonda) said there would be no police action upon the occupants of the administrative suite."

Appearing on KZSU with Dr. Wilson in a special one hour program, University President Richard W. Lyman said he had visited the hospital late Friday, after returning as scheduled from Washington, D.C. The President conferred most of the weekend with students, faculty, and staff, including the Medical School Executive Committee, the Hospital Board, and leaders of the Black Students Union, who condemned the police action in a statement issued Saturday (See separate story.)

President Lyman said he met with the BSU Sunday at his own suggestion. "I felt it was desirable that I get directly from them their view of what happened, how they evaluated its significance." The President was accompanied by his assistant, James Simmons, and Harold Boyd, assistant dean of students, to meet at the home of Leo Bazile, former BSU chairman and one of those arrested Friday.

"The purpose was an exchange of information and views, not to try to secure pledges from anybody. And that's exactly what happened," he said.

Dr. Wilson met with the Black Advisory Committee at the hospital Saturday. When asked to comment on rumors of a possible strike by black workers at the hospital, he told KZSU listeners Sunday that the hospital director, staff, and employees were "working together very closely at this time...trying to settle issues as rapidly as possible," trying to anticipate problems and avoid any disruption in services.

President Lyman reported that 15 whites, five blacks, and two chicanos were among the 23 persons who were arrested. A majority came from outside the University. Those arrested included five students, one faculty member, and five staff members, only one of whom was employed by the hospital.

People who come in from the outside, and do not have to remain when the drama is over "inevitably are less responsible" than people who are part of the campus community, President Lyman commented. This does not mean that "people who are part of the University are any better" than others, just that they are more familiar with its ways and its environment, he added.

Noting that "rumors and accusations" have been "plentiful," including allegations against police for excessive use of force or selective use of force against racial minorities, he said: "What we need are not more generalized allegations, but specific eyewitness reports in writing."

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University administrator, and a staff member---concerning the arrest of Bazile be forwarded to the former BSU leader with the authors' consent. "I believe they will be helpful to him," the President said. Similar requests for signed statements to serve as the basis for further investigation have been made by the President's Office in the past.

He also noted that reports from several witnesses "go out of their way" to say that police exercised "great care" with arrestees and doctors offering treatment on the scene. (Some demonstrators, mainly whites, clubbed police blocking their escape.)

When Dr. Wilson was asked if he would still call the police, if he had it all to do over again, he said he was "unable to arrive at any other conclusion" in view of the "impending hazard to the patients."

"I repeatedly emphasized to those occupying...that their continued presence was a hazard to patient care, and constituted a disruption of the normal operations of the hospital," Dr. Wilson said. "They asked if I could bring evidence that any patient suffered (as a consequence of the demonstration)...Had I been willing, as one of those responsible, to allow the occupation to continue until I could bring convincing evidence of injury to patients in the hospital to occupiers of the (administration) suite, I would have been derelict in my responsibility to patients."

He noted that the corridor which the demonstrators controlled was between a surgical clinic and ambulatory treatment area, on the one side, and a blood bank, laboratory facilities, and patient care areas on the other. Constant traffic through the area is necessary for hospital personnel.

The locale of the sit-in made it "impossible under the circumstances to get at vital records for blood banking, and the blood bank was closed down as a result," he said. "Laboratory facilities for the use of patients had to be moved to different locations with unknown results in efficiency of function."

"Large numbers of individuals moved in and out of the occupied area, passing directly through the area in which patients' relatives were awaiting news from surgery. They are always there, night and day. They are very concerned about the integrity of the institution, when they find an episode or occasion such as this in their midst."

"We were repeatedly asked whether or not the hospital was capable of managing its affairs. Patients who were about to undergo surgery were apprehensive about the readiness of the hospital...patients who were very ill were concerned about the hospital's responsiveness under these circumstances. These patients are in the hospital 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

"I would like to make it absolutely clear it is not possible for the hospital to maintain proper efficiency and responsiveness under the circumstances which existed during the sit-in."

Asked if the occupation affected the hospital staff, Dr. Wilson replied: "Judge for yourself. A corridor of 75 to 100 feet in length was effectively blocked. At the doors, those wishing to enter and pass through were requested and required to state their identification and give their purpose."

"There are some people who object to that kind of challenge. There was inconvenience and, to a certain extent, some annoyance. In addition, when passing through this corridor, where 80 to 100 people might be present from time to time, it was necessary to wend one's way (through)...."

To patients being transported through, it would seem "an anomaly to say the least, frightening at worst."

Asked about the Medical School faculty's attitude toward the demonstration, the decision to call police, and its aftermath, Dr. Wilson said: "It is not possible to involve the entire faculty in decision making, so I can't say whether the medical faculty approves. In meeting with executive groups of the faculty, we have discussed the matter and the consensus is that it was a necessary

of the protest, when police were not summoned, and the 29th hour, when the protesters felt discussions might produce agreement, Dr. Wilson replied: "There were very great differences...X

"We were under the impression on a number of occasions during the early hours of the sit-in that it was not a sit-in...We received information that the arrival of Dr. Gonda would result in some progress and possibly a resolution. After Dr. Gonda spent several hours discussing this matter (with demonstrators) it became perfectly clear it was not Dr. Gonda's presence that was the crux of the matter but the rehiring on the spot of Sam Bridges."

After more than a day, "we learned a great deal about their responsiveness to various types of negotiation. We reached the point of being unable to foresee any end to the occupation unless their demands were met entirely and without exception."

In a special Sunday issue, The Stanford Daily reported that the Black United Front, which led the demonstration, had met with the Black Advisory Committee and agreed to leave if Bridges grievance procedures were started immediately, compromising their demand for his immediate reinstatement.

Moments later, a statment from Acting President Miller was read, saying there would be "no conclusion on the composition or dates for the grievance procedure while occupation of the hospital continues." Concurrently, surveillance teams for the demonstrators reported that police were preparing to come to the hospital.

"Once the demonstrators had ascertained this, there was no backing down," related Daily Editor Felicity Barringer and reporter Dan Bernstein. "Between the confusion of demands, negotiations, pressures and counter-pressures, at least one crucial element of compromise was lost in the shuffle. The BUF was willing to compromise, but the Administration did not know it when it called police."

In the KZSU newscast, Dr. Wilson said that police had given those inside "ample time" to leave. In response to a direct question from Blank, he said he did not question the "good faith" of the BAC, even after its statment about the police.

Reviewing earlier negotiations, he said "Doctor Gonda stated during his discussion with the group (of demonstrators) that he himself would not call police. He did not. He was aware of the fact that the police were being called; he made no objection to that. He carried out in godd faith his commitments to the group (of demonstrators). He did not participate in the final hours of decision-making (about calling the police) although he was fully informed regarding it."

He described the role of Associate Provost Robert Rosenzweig and Presidential Assistant John Schwartz during this time as "entirely advisory" to Acting President Miller, but declined to report the nature of their advice in detail.

President Lyman criticized efforts to seek change under conditions of "stress, duress and threat. In the last few years, there has been a steady and rapid deterioration in the process that leads to a sit-in," he commented. "Instead of demands being made with time to think about them, the whole thing is (telescoped) into a very short period. There is no way a university can live from day to day, lurching forward and backward under this kind of duress."

Even though decisions made that way may be seen in the long run to be advantageous, he said, "at what cost have they been purchased?

"And I don't necessarily mean money, although money has loomed large in news stories which followed the hospital incident. At what cost in rationality, in mutual distrust or hatred, in other kinds of decision making that doesn't get done?

"The attempt to resolve one grievance by drastic surgery leaves the patient less able to cope with day-to-day living and less able to protect himself against legitimate complaints later.

"The hours that one spends trying to untangle one of these things while it's going on and afterwards are all of them hours than cannot be spent making this the kind of institution it ought to be with respect to racial justice, as well as with respect to higher education."