

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STANFORD —

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An overflow crowd, including many nonstudents, pushed their way past campus police at Stanford Thursday night, Jan. 28, forcing adjournment of a campus judicial hearing for eight students charged with disrupting Henry Cabot Lodge's Jan. 11 talk.

There were no apparent injuries and no immediate arrests.

Four campus officers tried unsuccessfully to prevent a crowd of nearly 100 headed by Aaron Manganiello, a nonstudent leader of Venceremos, from pushing its way into a witness room adjoining the Moot Court room, where the hearing had been scheduled.

The crowd quickly moved into the court itself.

Manganiello claimed a campus plainclothes officer had grabbed him below the belt in the brief scuffle.

Moments earlier Stanford Judicial Council Chairman Howard Williams had warned defendants remaining in the packed hallway outside the courtroom that they could be held in default for failure to appear at the hearing.

The scuffle broke out when the door was opened so several defendants could be indentified and admitted to the courtroom.

Janet Weiss, a graduate student in English and a defendant, bitterly protested that the courtroom was too small for the crowd. When she asked Professor Williams why he had not moved the trial to a larger room, he replied "I do not propose to have a circus."

The hearing room, which had a capacity of 109, was filled a half-hour before the scheduled start of the hearing. After it was adjourned, the demonstrators showed a movie there and left.

Later, the Judicial Council issued a statement saying it had "accepted the request of the defense and will attempt to accommodate a larger number of people consonant with orderly procedure."

A second hearing has been scheduled for 12:30 p.m. today, Jan. 29, probably in Room 161-J of the Law School.

The defendants, who have publicly identified themselves, include Brad Dewden, graduate student in philosophy; Gerry Foote, sophomore in general studies; Mike Holman, sophomore in general studies; Merkle Rabine, graduate student in English; Teresa Ramirez, sophomore in general studies; Skip Slade, graduate student in English; Jeff Youdelman, graduate student in English; and Janet Weiss.

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Stanford Daily reporter Jonathan Dedmon wrote this account of what happened in the Moot Court room:

The hearing began when defense counsel Owen Blank put forward a motion to move the location of the hearing to a spot that would be able to accommodate the people out in the hall who wished to be present at the hearing.

Williams would not hear the motion and asked that the defendants be brought in.

Williams then left the room with counsel informing the people present that "this is not a circus. It is a hearing. Decorum will be maintained."

After several minutes, Williams, Blank, and eight students, only four of them defendants, entered the room to sparse applause from the gallery.

Williams asked Blank if these were his defendants.

Blank did not answer.

"Mr. Blank," said Williams.

"Yes," replied Blank.

"Then these are your defendants?" questioned Williams.

"I was only replying yes to my name, and that is the only question I will answer," responded Blank.

Williams then began asking out loud if each defendant were present and received responses such as "I'm Alice in Wonderland."

Meanwhile, students had begun coming through the door to the witness room in large numbers and filling up the area around the defense table and the gallery. . . .

Williams then informed the defendants that they would be allowed to designate four people apiece who would have passes to the next hearing. The defendants responded by rising to their feet and shouting, "Hold it in Mem Aud!" [Memorial Auditorium, which seats 1700.]

Williams then stated that the meeting was recessed until 12:30 the following day and left the room with the other SJC members. Members of the gallery and defense rose to their feet shouting "Fascist!" —30— 1/29/71