

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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TWO STORIES: Bob Beyers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

About 200 persons, mainly students, heard suspended Stanford English Professor H. Bruce Franklin describe the Chinese Communist revolution as "the greatest event in human history" in a lecture at Stanford Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 16.

Professor Franklin's 1:15 p.m. class in "American Literature of the 1930's," was officially cancelled. English Department circulars handed students outlined how they could complete their regular work with other faculty members.

But scores of students and nonstudents, wearing Venceremos ("we will win") buttons and "John Doe" name tags heard a relaxed, smiling, shirtsleeved teacher extol Edgar Snow's "Red Star Over China," published in 1937, as one of the greatest works of this period.

William Faulkner, Ezra Pound, and T.S. Eliot were "trapped in insane visions of social reality," Professor Franklin declared. He criticized Stanford for taking an ostrich like attitude toward "the dominant ideas of our age...pretending they'll go away" if ignored.

Agreeing with the Black Panthers that a revolutionary artist's medium may be the "walls of oppression," Professor Franklin said if slogans are painted on walls to make them more beautiful, that's illegal. "Thus a political question comes down to an aesthetic question—how you like to decorate your environment."

"What's more beautiful," he asked, "a bare stone wall or a wall with slogans like 'Off the War,' 'Off the Pigs,' and 'Serve the People.'"

When he commented that administrators at Peking University have to supply protesters with paint, brushes, and ink, he drew wide applause from his audience.

"I feel I have a political, moral and legal responsibility to go on teaching class as long as I can," he said at the outset. He indicated it would meet Wednesday and again Thursday "unless it's criminal."

A "show cause" hearing on a preliminary injunction which would bar Professor Franklin and several other named nonstudents from campus, will be heard at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in Department 2 of the North County Building, Palo Alto. If approved by the court, the ban would not apply to Professor Franklin while he was obtaining evidence or attending hearings in which he is a party on campus, when this was done by court order or agreement with the University president.

Explaining why he would not violate such an injunction, Professor Franklin said he had "too many felonies outstanding anyway."

He maintained this is "the first time an American university has tried to repress a tenured professor on political grounds." The court order and campus disciplinary proceedings which could result in his dismissal were initiated by the University after a series of incidents Feb. 10 which resulted in 11 arrests and 10 injuries.

"They're not going to stop us from talking," Professor Franklin told his audience. "We won't be in a classroom anymore. That's OK."

At the end of his lecture, which dealt principally with Snow's work and its current relevance, he said: "Class will meet here tomorrow [Wednesday], if we can. The ideas in this class are not going to be repressed by repressing those individuals who got the message [from the court]. These ideas can't be destroyed."

"Venceremos," many in his audience chorused. —30—

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Working through the American Friends Service Committee, 400 medical and anthropology students at Stanford have formed a Committee for Medical Supplies in Indochina to help the North Vietnamese, the Viet Cong, and Pathet Lao.

Over \$500 was collected in the first day, according to Paul Diener, graduate student in anthropology, who described the campaign as "a concrete way to show our disgust with Nixon's invasion of Laos."

Both inside and outside the University, the move has drawn "substantial support from those who are less than radical but more than moderate" in their opposition to the war, he added.

Funds raised by the Stanford group will be given to the AFSC, which already has delivered penicillin and immunization equipment to Hanoi and the Viet Cong.