

From: Ministry of Information, Venceremos

W. Glenn Campbell, Director of the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace has agreed to testify for the People's Offense in the "trial" of Stanford professor H. Bruce Franklin. Although Campbell is a hostile witness, Franklin is anxious to have the opportunity to question him about the speech by Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge which the Stanford administration has accused Franklin of disrupting, and about the crimes against humanity perpetrated by Lodge and by researchers at the Hoover Institute.

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The People's Offense opened its case against Stanford University today with a political rally and a march to the room in which the university administration's case against Marxist professor Bruce Franklin is being heard. The start of today's session was delayed for about 45 minutes as the people draped the hearing room in the flags of the People's Republic of China and the National Liberation Front, and held a mock hearing including the examining of war criminal, ex-Stanford Trustee, and local electronics industrialist David Packard on questions pertaining to his war profiteering.

When the real hearing--which Franklin has continually called an "Alice-in-Wonderland exercise--began, after the people had been required to remove their flags from the hearing room, Franklin submitted a motion about decorum in the hearing room. "Up to now we have submitted to the Advisory Board's rulings about decorum. But decorum is not neutral and we have given in to bourgeois decorum so as not to intimidate prosecution witnesses who might be upset by cheering, booing, and so forth. But our witnesses include workers and other people who have been systematically trained to be intimidated by professors and lawyers and courtrooms. Now that our witnesses are going to testify, we'd like to be allowed to display signs and flags, and we would also invite the Board members, counsel for the administration, and the audience, to heckle, interrupt, chant, applaud, and so forth." The motion was denied, and Board chairman Donald Kennedy will have to struggle to maintain bourgeois decorum in the face of the enthusiastic pro-Franklin audience.

The people's offense today moved for dismissal of all charges against Franklin. "The prosecution has failed to make any kind of prima facie case on any one of the four charges," Franklin argued, explaining that even giving all the benefit of the doubt to the administration's facts, testimony, and witnesses, there is no strongly persuasive evidence that the charges have any merit.

"Everything that the administration says I have done is protected by the First Amendment," Franklin asserted. But he quoted a prosecution brief presented earlier this year in which the administration's counsel argued that because Stanford is a private institution it is not compelled to abide by Constitutional standards in an administrative matter. "We won't argue here about whether Stanford, which exists on land ripped off from people of color and subsists on grants from public funds is private or public," Franklin said. But he pointed out that First Amendment guarantees would protect an employee of a public university like San Francisco State or the University of California.

Much more important, Franklin said, the statement that the university need not abide by First Amendment guarantees in its charges demonstrates how threatened the ruling class--and Stanford--feels. When a ruling class is under attack, Franklin said, it is willing to give up its most precious freedoms and rights--like the bourgeois freedom which Franklin called "extremely important," freedom of speech.

Franklin also said that he sympathized with the problems the advisory Board would have in making decisions in his case without clear guidelines from the university administration as to what is or is not acceptable behavior for a faculty member. "One of the great historical accomplishments of the bourgeois revolution was to take away the arbitrary authority of ruling men and to codify laws," Franklin said. "The question we are asking the board today in asking for dismissal is will it find for a society ruled by law, and not by men."

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