

We are releasing at this time Bruce Franklin's speech at the noontime rally, February 10 (during the invasion of Laos) which the Administration's lawyers have entered into evidence in a sad attempt to prove that he "intentionally urged and incited" people at the rally to occupy the Computation Center. They assert that Bruce was directly responsible for everything that went on subsequently.

We think that this is a right on revolutionary talk which should be made available to the people and which further exposes the Administration's case as shabby and hollow.

Ministry of Information
Venceremos

Verbatim Transcript of Bruce Franklin's Speech, February 10, 1971

People are complaining about the meeting going on a long time. (laughter from audience) But, you know, you see I think that we could inconvenience ourselves for a few minutes considering what we're trying to do here. Now, there were some, there were some hot emotions at the beginning of the meeting when Bob Grant and Larry Diamond tried to subvert what we were doing. And I think a lot of people misunderstood where things were and what was coming down. Because they believed that they're really very sincere people and so forth. And not, that we're some kind of lunatic who just has some private axe to grind; we being the radicals, the revolutionaries.

The fact of the matter is that a lot of us were doing precinct work out in the community in 1964, and at that time we were opposed by the Bob Grants and Larry Diamonds of the world. We were called Traitors and Saboteurs of the war effort at that time. In 1965 the most radical act here was when 24 people stayed overnight in an all night vigil at the fountain and people came down and beat us up and threw us into the fountain. In '60, in late '65 or early '66, when we had here the first act in the United States of open identification with the Vietnamese people, and blood drive for people in North Vietnam, people threw garbage at us. Called us "dirty jew bastards" and "traitors" and so forth. And at every point, you see, when the movement was being built, there have been people who have come out to talk about the tactics alienating the vast mass of people and we understand where that's coming from. Now they come out here and tell us that we shouldn't be doing anything on the University. We should be going into the community. We're the last ones in the world to oppose doing anything in the community. The fact of the matter is that most of our comrades are working full-time in the community 'cause they come from the community, and they're brown and black and white working-class and poor people.

And, see, there's a very extreme form of false consciousness that's created on the university campus. Because we get the illusion because there are a lot of people gathered here that this is a, this is the, most advanced opposition to the war. But that poll that was cited, it wasn't a poll of people who were in favor of the McGovern-Hatfield

Amendment. They don't know what the fuck that is. It was a poll of people who want to get out of Southeast Asia right now and that poll, which is, and remember it was a poll of people over 21, and mostly white, but that poll showed something. And that is that 60% of those people with a college education wanted to get out of that Southeast Asia now. 70% of people who only had a high school education want to get out of Southeast Asia now, and 80% of people with only a grade school education want to get out of Southeast Asia now. (applause)...
so want to talk about, about high consciousness, high consciousness is the consciousness of the people most oppressed by U.S. imperialism, which includes as a main institution of that-Stanford University.

And that's why whenever people from that community, whenever poor and working class youth from that community, get a chance to come on the campus at Stanford and do a little material damage, they are very eager to do so. Because they recognize what Stanford University really is, even if people here don't. Now, see, what the question is, the question of what do we do. Now people get up here and talk about workers striking and the important thing is for us to go out into the community, and tell the workers strike. Well, that, I mean, it's true that, that the workers have the ability in the long run to bring the war to an end. The war that started with the extermination of the Indian people and black people, and Mexican people, and went on to the point where extermination of people in Southeast Asia. Yes, its working people who can do that if they strike. But to ask us, for us to ask workers to risk their chances to survive, to physically survive, by really striking, when we can't do a kind of fake strike, is to stand the world on it's head. (applause). Well, when we talk about, see we're just ripping off that term strike when we're talking about striking at Stanford. This isn't a strike. We're not risking anything. It's a voluntary boycott. A shutdown of some of the activities of the University as a demonstration of something. Now, now what we called a strike last year, and it lasted really about three days and then it kind of dragged on, and, you know, in and odds and ends way and some people did it. But just the fact that we were able to move out little finger that much, that electrified the working people of this area. That's a fact and the people who were down there on that picket line, down at shipping and receiving, know that practically every single truck driver who come there when he saw us on strike said "OK". He was prepared to risk his job and turn that truck around. And in four states, four states, teamsters linked up concretely with student strikers and said that they would be willing to strike if the students were willing to strike. And factory workers were walking out. And the day after we called that strike there was a record absenteeism of all factories in the Bay Area. ~~Se~~, now what we're asking is for people to make that little tiny gesture to show that we're willing to inconvenience ourselves a little bit and to begin to shut down the most obvious machinery of war, such as I think it is a good target, that Computation Center. (applause)