

STANFORD TRUSTEES AN AFFINITY GROUP?

This view of Stanford University's Trustees emerged as Professor Bruce Franklin cross-examined an important Administration witness at Tuesday's hearing. The witness, Bob Beyers, Director of Stanford University's News Service, had described an affinity group as a small group that gets together to decide things. Professor Franklin asked if the Trustees were an affinity group. He asked whether acts of violence on campus had followed from meetings of the Board of Trustees. "From your perspective you might say that they had," replied Beyers, "From the perspective of other people, no." Beyers testified that the rules did not provide for him to attend Trustees' meetings, but that he was given their decisions.

The rest of Beyers's testimony concerned meetings he stated it was his duty to attend. These were the student rallies held February 8th, 9th, and 10th in response to the invasion of Laos. The University is seeking to establish links between Franklin's remarks at these meetings and later events on campus -- in particular, the alleged beatings and shooting on the night of February 10th.

Mr. Beyers quoted Franklin as calling for "people's war against the occupation army of police" at the Old Union meeting on the evening of the 10th. He stated that Franklin suggested going back to the dorms to get people into affinity groups, also that people should play football to harrass the police. He testified that the crowd seemed tired, but said that he detected a change of mood after Franklin spoke.

Cross-examining, Professor Franklin ^{showed} ~~showed~~ bias in Beyers's ~~testimony~~

testimony. Under cross-examination, Beyers was not able to recall previous suggestions about forming affinity groups made by a woman speaker. He had difficulty recalling the speech made by a middle-aged woman at the noon rally on the 9th in which she called for self-defense if the police were called on campus. He could not remember a speech by a black student protesting police harrassment en route to the meeting on the night of the 9th. Franklin asked whether he remembered the discussion which then followed, when a speaker suggested playing football as a means of harrassing the police. Beyers replied that he remembered only the football game suggestion made by Franklin the following night, adding "football games were not what you meant." Franklin asked whether, if witnesses were produced and it was proved that football was actually played, the witness would change his mind. Beyers said no. When asked why, he replied: "That's not how I see the events." Beyers admitted that Franklin had defined people's war as "merging with the masses of the people," and that people at the meeting had actually been on their way to the dorms after the speech. He also admitted that he could not be certain those who allegedly attacked FCM members had been present during Franklin's remarks. In recessing the hearing, Advisory Board Chairman Donald Kennedy mentioned that Beyers had been testifying for two and a half hours. "He has been testifying against me for three years," said Franklin, "My belief is that the opinions you all have of me are affected by what you all read every day."