

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - ^{movement} Of the 294 persons arrested Monday and Tuesday, May 9-10, 270 have now been identified as students, President Richard W. Lyman reported to the Faculty Senate Thursday, May 12.

Giving his first extensive report on the largest mass arrest in Stanford history, Lyman said: "The protesters themselves clearly wanted to be arrested as the best means available to them to demonstrate the strength of their convictions.

"Their organization in anticipation of that outcome was detailed and large scale."

Lyman said the Stanford Committee for a Responsible INvestment Policy "clearly worked very hard to promote" interest in the South African investment issue "and to persuade students of the rightness of their cause.

"SCRIP's work also showed in the impressive demonstration of discipline during the lengthy process of arrests. Fortunately, their self-discipline was matched by that of the police---or vice versa."

Speakers at the rally preceeding the mass arrests indicated that 60 students had pledged to sit in and face arrest at a meeting the previous week. Lyman quoted one demonstration leader, Chris Coleman, as telling him directly by phone: "I've got 400 people here who came to be arrested."

Noting that trustees, including himself, had unanimously reaffirmed their position of abstaining on the South African stock proxy and writing corporate managers, Lyman said: "The dominant theme...was a belief that a withdrawal from South Africa removes whatever opportunity an American corporation might have to improve the conditions for people of color in that tragic land thereafter.

"To believe this, it is not necessary to argue that American corporations have achieved a great deal along these lines, nor even that they can be expected to achieve a great deal in the future. It is only necessary to believe that the limited extent to which American enterprise can make a favorable difference would be diminished, not increased, by their departure....

"If there is frustration and bitterness on the campus at the trustees' refusal to change their minds on this subject, there is a certain amount of resentment among trustees at what they consider to be blatant attempts to misrepresent their position as one that is tolerant of apartheid and of racism, and one that is motivated by corporate greed. As one of the younger members put it... 'we are being handed a bum rap.'"

Lyman defended Stanford's practice of ~~mixing~~ bringing building occupations to an end as soon as possible, pointing out that their character often has changed rapidly in the past. A graduate of a Quaker college, Swarthmore, he said that ~~next~~ no one there "ever thought about civil disobedience as being meaningful without punishment:

"What sense would it make to put your body on the line and then have no one come and take it?" While the protesters will face misdemeanor charges of trespassing and failure to disperse, in this one instance they will not be subject to campus judicial proceedings, University officials said Tuesday.

On a longer range basis, Lyman cautioned the Senate that proxy issues could prove "a back door way to involve ~~mixing~~ the University in taking political stands it would not take through the front door." While this may seem desirable on issues like apartheid, where there is extremely broad consensus, increased politicization of colleges could lead eventually to "a no holds barred contest" for their allegiance, he cautioned.