

FROM: STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE (DA 1-2300, ext. 2558)

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS MAY 16, 1969 (Transmitted on Business Wire)

- 6 a.m. First 10-man unit of Palo Alto Police TAC Squad joins about 15 SRI security guards in building at Hanover St. in the Stanford Industrial Park. Equipment at the Palo Alto Fire Station across the street removed earlier to another location. SRI Hanover St. facility less than half occupied as employees (150 of SRI's total 3,000) were concentrated earlier in the week at the Menlo Park headquarters. The Stanford Daily reported about 200 students had gathered at Tresidder Memorial Union with more coming to join the protest.
- 6:20 Initial observers from the protest group arrive at Hanover St. building, together with an additional busload of about 30 Palo Alto police. Students report dormitories have been leafleted urging a stop to SRI research and repeating April 3rd Movement's vote not to initiate violence and saying action would be taken by small so-called affinity groups.
- 6:55 First group of about 40 demonstrators arrived at Hanover St. and set up picket lines with placards reading "SRI Kills" and "Pax not Pox."
- 7:10 About 150 demonstrators had arrived. A total of approximately 40 police and 15 security officers in the building. By 7:20 there were picket lines on both sides of Page Mill Rd-Hanover St. intersection, but traffic continued to flow. A3M leaflets indicated this might not continue, as one read: "Most of you are probably quite angry about being late to work and unable to go about your business. We are here to stop the war-research work of SRI... we'll be glad to talk about SRI with you. Turn off your motor and take it easy." Some observers believed many non-Stanford people were on the scene, but former student body president Denis Hayes indicated most of those present were Stanford students. Cars were being leafleted.
- 7:25 Students began blocking traffic at the Page Mill-Hanover intersection, a major traffic interchange for Industrial Park employees. By 7:25 the intersection was totally blocked with traffic backed up to El Camino Real. Demonstrators had their own medical aid teams with improvised arm bands, and about one in 10 wore a hard hat.
- 7:45 Demonstrators blocked Page Mill Rd. with their own barricades and with a medium-sized school bus by letting air out of its tires and placing it across two traffic lanes. Frustrated drivers trying to get through the intersection had several close calls with demonstrators trying to block them, but apparently there were no injuries. Several cars and trucks drove across open fields to leave the area. More than 300 demonstrators were now present, and they had also barricaded Hanover St. with sawhorses and ping-pong tables.
- 8:15 The intersection remained blocked but there were no reports of injuries or arrests. A few minor scuffles broke out between demonstrators and conservative students, and some of the latter tried to remove the street barricades. By 8:15 up to a dozen employees were reported to have entered the SRI building. Motorists stalled by the demonstration varied in their reactions. A dental hygienist said: "I'm so damned mad at those stupid radicals... can't they think of some other way to protest things than making people late to work?" A distraught mother said: "My children are home by themselves, and one is sick. She had taken her husband to the train. A Veterans Administration hospital employe said she didn't care too much about being stopped. A junior college teacher said: "It's certainly better than violence, but it's sure inconvenient," as she arranged for another teacher to meet her 8 a.m. class.
- 8:40 More than 100 demonstrators linked arms across the front of the SRI building to prevent employees from entering. Another contingent of 30 to 40 police arrived.
- 9:05 The number of cars stalled in the traffic declined markedly as drivers crossed open fields to proceed to their destinations. Some demonstrators talked with drivers and made calls to tell their offices they would be late to work. The total number of persons on the scene was estimated at 450 by the Stanford News Service, including demonstrators, observers and reporters.
- 9:25 Demonstrators staged a brief guerilla theater skit in front of the SRI building. By 9:45 nearly all cars which had been bumper-to-bumper on Page Mill Rd. were cleared. At 10 a.m. an SRI employee said about 50 persons were working in the building, with the rest at SRI's Menlo Park headquarters. Approximately 40 Palo Alto police were in front of or inside the building, together with 15 to 20 SRI security officers. A few SRI employees were seen outside the building, apparently unable to get in. Hewlett-Packard Co. nearby reported worker attendance about normal, though some were delayed. Itek Corp., closer to the SRI building, reported only 20 of 100 employees present and these were sent home.
- (to be continued)

chronology (cont.)

- 11 a.m. About 150 police using tear gas swept down Hanover St., clearing the area of demonstrators and forcing them into nearby open fields. There were at least two arrests. Numerous windows in the SRI building were broken by the protest group, which also set fire earlier to a street barricade on Hanover after being warned that failure to disperse could lead to their arrest.
- 12 noon Palo Alto Assistant Police Chief Clarence Anderson said 130 officers were involved in clearing the area. All street barricades were removed before noon, but through traffic was not restored. Police scuffled with demonstrators in scattered incidents. There were apparently no major injuries, though one demonstrator was observed wearing a small gauze patch where he was hit on the head and one was treated at the Student Health Center on campus. A total of 15 demonstrators were arrested, six women and nine men. SRI employees reported a tear gas cannister and two smoke bombs were thrown into the building by demonstrators, who apparently picked them up after police had launched them.
- 12:30 Most demonstrators had left the area and headed downtown. There still were no reports of any serious injuries. About 20 conservative students, who had argued with the demonstrators and sought to block their harassing tactics, applauded the police as they regrouped at the SRI Hanover facility. There was light through traffic on Page Mill Rd.
- 1:45 The Stanford Daily reported at least two demonstrators were struck during the police clearing of the SRI Hanover area, but not seriously hurt. One incident occurred during the Page Mill-Hanover intersection, while the other was on Page Mill west of Page Mill-Hanover.
- Two windows in the President's office on campus were broken by thrown rocks.