

THOUGHTS ON A34 ACTION

A proposal is being put forward to take major action to close SRI, for as long as we can, of course.

We feel little sense of morally righteous exhilaration-- I think for very good reasons. It would have been so much less problematical, so much better for our movement, if we had been able to take effective mass action, like holding Encina for several days with thousands of people, such that the Trustees would have been forced to transform SRI and Stanford.

The main thesis of this too-quickly-written rap is: we do have to act, and we are all on different levels of both consciousness and willingness to risk uncertainty. Ideally, an action should be possible that keeps the focus on the Board of Trustees and wins at their loss: the arrogance of their power and unconcern is nothing new--it lasted for 20 years and produced a vicious machinery of destruction: SRI. If you decide that you are willing to sit-in at Hanover like we were at Oakland on Monday, you like us will be arrested, and the press will flatter you for your moral stand. But we can't afford the misunderstanding that press flattery entails: condemnation of more prolonged, less "respectable" actions (like moblike street tactics against SRI Hanover or the Industrial Park) which might put much greater pressure on the Trustees and SRI to get rid of counterinsurgency.

The Trustees and men with their class commitments need COIN; they also need law and order in the Stanford-Menlo Park-Industrial Park complex. If it becomes clear to them that as long as COIN and war research exist in that complex, there will be no peace, as long as the April 3rd Movement retains its self-confidence and "comes back" after every time it is repressed, the possibility that our demands will be met will remain.

One last bit of information: all the money that Stanford makes from sale of SRI is at luxury--they only legally own SRI. But the real resource that makes or breaks SRI is its researchers' morale. SRI's function is of value to Stanford--just read the Packard, Cutheertson, or Lyman remarks of past weeks. The researchers who want to get rid of COIN and war work can use our threat as a justification to get rid of much of that work from the inside, and our disruptions also discourage contracts away from Stanford and SRI. Faculty may have to act to end objectionable research here also if they come to understand that the Movement won't die.

Everything said here may be disproven during this afternoon's meeting--except for one thing: we absolutely will not win if we don't act, and action doesn't mean sitting in faculty homes tonight. Talk at this time should be directed toward a unified program by radical (and close to radical) students) to do the absolute most we can to stop SRI's research in violence. Maybe SRI Hanover, maybe something else, but unified action.