

EDITORIAL

For many years Stanford University was virtually apolitical: no faculty member would consider political activism as compatible with his academic status; student government restricted attention to campus issues. Since 1960, however, students and faculty, both collectively and individually, have voiced opinion on many political issues. Such interaction with the community is laudable, for it has helped break down the traditional isolation of the university from society.

A new precedent is being established by the AEL sit-in, however, a precedent which should be considered a threat to academic freedom and personal rights by all branches of the academic community: the precedent of political force and coercive tactics deciding what types of investigations are appropriate to a university. Were it not for the voices of a few well-informed members of the faculty, Tuesday night would have seen capitulation by the Academic Senate to SRI COALITION demands for an end to classified research at Stanford. Such a decision should not be made in haste. Six full months of careful consideration led to the formation of the present guidelines on research at Stanford. Will six days of unlawful coercion result in the abrupt abandonment of these guidelines? We hope not. We hope that the Stanford community will inform itself on this complex issue. Listen to the demonstrators -- they raise many questions worth consideration -- but base your decision on fact, not on distortion and propoganda, and make your decision deliberately, not in haste.

AEL is the lamb on the altar, and the knife is posed to strike. But the sacrifice of military sponsored applied research will not satisfy SDS long. Other lambs will be called for, and you may be one.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS FOR A FAIR HEARING