

President Bitzer:

We are concerned that you may be considering major concessions to those sitting in at the Applied Electronics Laboratory.

It is unfortunate that some members of the University Community feel that the only viable process of change at Stanford is coercion by a minority of students. Nevertheless, it does appear to many that the University acts decisively only when threatened by student pressure tactics. A concession to the demonstrators at AEL now would seriously encourage this belief. It would be a grave setback to those conscientious students who seek constructive but peaceful change at this university. It would play into the hands of those who see confrontation as a means of radicalizing students at Stanford.

The forthcoming student referendum on SRI has been described by leaders of the sit-in as something "rammed down our throats" by the trustees. We urge you to delay any action on SRI or related issues until the views of the majority of the Stanford Community become known. When you do make decisions and recommendations to the trustees we urge you to consider not the many students who have broken the law, but the many more students who have taken the time to vote according to their best judgement and conscience.

In the meantime we remind you that Stanford students have at the polls twice rejected the sit-in tactic as a legitimate vehicle for change. We therefore urge you not to deal with any leaders of the sit-in until it has been disbanded and all threat of coercion against the University has been ended.

We urge you, President Bitzer, to preserve the dignity, academic quality and spirit of rational thought and action at Stanford University. We urge you not to give in to the demonstrators at AEL.

Sincerely,

Students for Peaceful Change on Campus



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