

COPS AND ROBBERS IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS--FLAREUP OVER SRI SPEAKERS

It was a real hectic day the PA High Schools Friday. A well-coordinated information offensive by the High School Committee of the SRI (that's Stanford Research Institute) Coalition brought thrilling results at all three schools. The High School Committee of the SRI Coalition is concerned with the chemical and biological warfare (i.e., nerve gases, blister gases, defoliants, crop killers, etc., developed at Stanford and used in Southeast Asia, and elsewhere) and counter-insurgency research going on at SRI, a Stanford-owned corporation. People have been exposing, petitioning, and pleading with Stanford for three years about the war research--and nothing has been done. At last, 1500 people voted to enforce the demand do end all war and classified research by taking over the Applied Electronics Laboratory last April 9th. 2 million in electronic warfare research is done at AEL. The campus speakers had one purpose: to inform the students about the work done at SRI, about the sit-in, and why they felt the sit-in was the only available tactic left.

At Paly, the rally got the go-ahead. A mike was set up in the amphitheater at noon. Fred Cohen, member of SDS and sit-iner, talked for about 15 minutes about the grotesque nature of the research, but also laid emphasis on the fact that it was being used to combat the liberation movements of the Third World throughout Southeast Asia. He also discussed past efforts by the campus community to stop the war research, and why these attempts had failed. As he spoke, the audience rose rapidly to about 400 people, many of whom interrupted with occasional applause. There were no catcalls.

At the conclusion of Fred Cohen's remarks, the floor was thrown open for questions. Mathematics teacher John Parker had some. Applauded by the crowd as he mounted the stage, he soon proceeded to make himself a buffoon, and a clumsy foil, sort of an unexpected visual aid amplifying Cohen's points. Parker began with the old witch-hunt tactic: "Who are you people financed by? You all have cars, you all seem to have plenty of money, and I just want to know where you get your funds from. Implication: We get a weekly paycheck from Mao Tse-Tung, right? Cohen called it by its name: "Thank you for redbaiting me, sir." The crowd broke into applause. Then as he was giving the logical answers to Parker's diatribe, John didn't think he was giving them fast enough, so he grabbed the mike away, mumbled some ludicrous comment, "Thank you for red-baiting my red-bait", which was met with derision from the students. He repeated his "allegations". Cohen got the mike. Parker grabbed it again. Students were shouting, "Sit down!" But the embarrassing circus continued. Eventually, he was forced to step aside by popular request.

After the rally, the consensus among many students, most noticeably among so-called "straight" students, was that the gig was the best thing done all year. Cubberley? Typical Cubberley. Manipulator of Student Activities Miles Putnam declared the rally illegal before it began. Jim Schoch, the speaker, went ahead anyway, talking to about 125 in Senior Court. Principal Dave Stanard and Putnam barge in screaming bloody murder, shouting that Schoch will be arrested if he continued. Schoch quickly finished and left. Five minutes later, a police van showed up. If they keep that up at Cubberley, the school is going to blow sky-high.

At Gunn, more fun. Larry Christiani, the Gunn speaker, had to climb the school fence and speak through it (on non-school property) to speak to the 100 students who managed to hear about the administrator-repressed event.

THIS REACTIONARY POLICY IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS HAS JUST GOT TO STOP. AT PALY, GEORGE MILLAR AND TONY TRUJILLO STAND ALMOST ALONE AGAINST POWERFUL RIGHTIST FORCES IN THE COMMUNITY AND WITHIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THEIR SUPPORT CANNOT BE COUNTED ON FOREVER. THE SITUATION IS BOTH RIDICULOUS AND TRAGIC. WE HOPE WITH THE CLASS OF '69 SHALL HAVE THE HONOR OF CORRECTING IT.

sponsored by the SRI Coalition (HS COMM) and the United Student Movement