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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - Prof. Wallace Stegner, noted author and conservationist, Wednesday (APRIL 22) said Stanford should slow down its land development activities and "become the leader in a cooperative effort for planning" in the Peninsula region.

Appearing on a Memorial Church panel attended by several hundred students and townspeople, he said that the University has "probably done better than any planner or developer in California" in setting aside large acreage in its academic reserve. But its industrial park, "a beautifully landscaped incubus," threatens to deteriorate future development of the region.

Kenneth M. Cuthbertson, vice-president for finance at Stanford, said steadily expanding academic uses should have "by far the highest priority" on future University land development.

Agreeing on the need for stronger regional planning, he said the University has been "far from perfect" in its land development but the area has suffered from "selfish planning and nonplanning" by neighboring communities. One result has been "grossly inadequate" low income housing.

Paul Rupert, a former Stanford student and leader of "Grass Roots," said the University, through the industrial park, has been a major contributor to the shortage of low income housing. By attracting more workers to the area, it has forced them to travel increasingly long commutes, adding to environmental pollution.

"The men who run Stanford are caught in the problem of good intentions in a capitalist economy," he added. "The University has looked to its land as a source of profit."

Industries considering location in the Park should be screened for social responsibility, he added, and decisions about land use "opened up" to students, black and brown people, and others not now represented in the decision-making processes of the campus and nearby cities.

Cuthbertson noted that the University so far has developed only 1,000 of its more than 8,000 acres, using a net income of \$2 million from this source in direct support of its educational programs. Had these lands not been leased, taxes on them to the University would amount to about \$1 million annually, he estimated.

Stegner, founding director of the University's Creative Writing Center, said that Stanford on a number of occasions has acted "too much like a real estate developer," with decisions "made by men of goodwill who thought like businessmen" (which most of them were).

He said the University "did not examine the consequences of growth before it undertook to promote growth." He acknowledged that curtailing the land development program would restrict educational income, possibly leading to "severe curtailment" of academic programs, including fellowships and salaries.

Steve Weissman, a former graduate student now with the Pacific Studies Center, said that for those who feel the University should take a stand against economic growth "it makes more sense to trash (break) windows at the ROTC building than sit at this sort of teach-in."

Nobel Laureate Joshua Lederberg, panel moderator, took sharp exception to this comment, noting that universities could be wrecked if they alone were held entirely responsible for solving local economic, social and political problems.