

Stanford Daily

Jan 28 '70

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 156, NUMBER 67

Pitzer Acknowledges Pressure On Universities From Outside

By BILL FREIVOGEL

President Kenneth Pitzer acknowledged yesterday that his support of academic credit for ROTC represented a compromise with disgruntled alumni, trustees, and other outside friends.

"This is one area in which all sorts of friends of the University are concerned," the President told a group of area reporters. "So, I thought that if it was possible to compromise with these groups it was best to do so."

Answering questions in the plush Board of Trustees conference room adjacent to his office, Pitzer reviewed some of the major problems that face him as he proceeds into his second year here.

In his brief opening remarks he said: "One of the major problems, clearly, that the University faces is a sort of lack of confidence of the outside community."

Restore Confidence

"I think we need to restore this confidence so that the University can have the financial and general support to carry on the duties it should in the coming years."

Reporters focused on the aftermath of Pitzer's Brigham Young University athletics ban, prospects for low cost housing, handling of the Overseas Campus office, and the choice of student representatives for Trustee committees.

Most attention, however, centered around the ROTC decision. The president was intent on emphasizing the importance of the university maintaining close ties with the outside community. Pitzer noted that negotiations with the Defense department over new ROTC status based on last year's Academic Senate guidelines proved fruitless because the government thought officer's training would fail under the new rules.

No Special Pressure

"Considering this," the President added, "I decided that we should not break off these relations." Pitzer was emphatic in saying that no special Defense Department or governmental pressure affected his decision.

Reflecting on the propriety of compromising with forces outside

the community, he said, "A university is not a self-supporting institution."

"It can thrive only through support of the outside community's gifts and tuition. It serves a public function. But this does not mean there should be compromise when clear academic principles are involved."

In another line of questioning, Pitzer agreed that University administrators tend to become entrenched in their positions after a number of years on the job. Administrators sometimes "become less open to changing their programs after they've been in the same position for some time," Pitzer commented.

Review of Overseas Program

In particular, Pitzer said he recognized student discontent about the operation of the Overseas Campus program, and added that the administration of the program will be closely reviewed by himself, Provost

Richard Lyman, and the soon-to-be appointed Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Pitzer praised Director of Overseas Campuses Robert Walker, saying he has done "a magnificent job." Dr. Walker has a tremendous amount of background knowledge on the operation of the campuses.

Pitzer emphasized that Walker's "knowledge and expertise are needed, no matter how the program might be reorganized."

On three other controversial issues, athletic contests with BYU, low-cost housing, and student nominations to the Trustee committees, Pitzer reaffirmed previous positions.

"I didn't expect it (the BYU decision) to receive as much attention as it did," he said.

Advance Notification

"In the future I think it would be good to notify some of our friends in the University about these types of things and not

make them read it in the newspapers. We should talk to trustees, alumni, and others."

Turning to student nominations for Trustee committees he explained that the present nomination procedure was partly based on a need to maintain good relations with the Trustees.

"I am more concerned about getting a reasonable number of the Board to agree to certain measures than I am about passing things on slim majorities. We need the Board with us in spirit as well as name."

On the subject of low-cost housing Pitzer said, "I think the University should make a real effort to meet this need with housing either on or just off campus."

But he emphasized that plans for construction should await decisions by the Wright Committee and the Trustee Committee on Land Development."

President Meets The Press

By LANG ATWOOD

I almost tripped over the deep piled rugs as I walked into Building 10. I stood in the reception area with my motorcycle helmet in hand waiting for someone to notice me. Finally I stopped a secretary shuffling by with a handful of papers.

"Excuse me," I began, "I'm from the Daily, could you tell me where President Pitzer's press conference is going to be held?"

She looked at my blue jeans and helmet, then asked, "What press conference?"

"The one at 3, in fifteen minutes. I'm sure it's today," I said, beginning to wonder if I'd blown it.

The secretary asked around the office. No one knew anything about it—press conference? here? in fifteen minutes?

I called the Daily. The editor assured me it was today and to stick with it. "Call me back if you have any trouble," he said and hung up.

The secretary came up and said yes, I was right and showed me to the Board of Trustees meeting room. She went out and returned with a tall ceramic coffee pot.

Real Board Room

I looked around the room; pictures of presidents and board members hang on a wall, maps of Stanford land fill another. The room is dominated, however, by a large rectangular table surrounded with high-backed chairs—a real board room.

Pete Carey from the San Jose Mercury came in next with a photographer.

"What's this all about today?" he asked. "I'm subbing for someone else."

Just then James McNabb from the Palo Alto Times walked in wearing a bright purple tie and carrying a green spiral. Carey and McNabb started talking.

"Campus reporting is pretty interesting," remarked McNabb. "Always something different."

McNabb regularly covers campus events for the Times and has been ejected from several SDS meetings by radicals who object

to his stories. The Times photographer was Gene Tupper who was assailed last spring while trying to take pictures of protestors at an SRI demonstration in the Industrial Park.

Bob Beyers of the University News Service entered and told us that Pitzer didn't have any announcements but would answer questions. Someone muttered, "that's what we were afraid of."

"Maybe we can do this by topics, start off with BYU," suggested Carey. McNabb agreed.

The rest of the Daily contingent arrived: outgoing editor Mark Weinberger, editor-elect Margie Wolf and news director Bill Freivogel.

"I've got piles of questions," said Mark.

Enter Pitzer

Pitzer walked in moments later followed by Beyers and sat down at the end of the long table.

"Say that's quite a necktie, Jim (McNabb)" he said, before making a short statement on the public's lack of confidence in the university community.

The cameras began clicking at the other end of the room as he referred to a few sheets of paper in front of him.

Carey led off the questioning with the BYU decision. Weinberger followed up. "Would you have done it differently, looking back now?" he asked.

Pitzer leaned back in his chair, a slight smile crept across his face. "Well, I'd have Lyle Nelson (Director of University Relations) here instead of in India, . . ." he remarked.

Carey continued on the subject, questioning the support he received. All the reporters pens were busy except Weinbergers'. Pitzer picked up a paper clip and began toying with it. Carey continued on: "I don't want to drive the subject into the ground, but . . ." he continued.

ROTC

The Daily editor changed the subject to the ROTC decision. Pitzer leaned back in his chair again, with the paper clip. He replied in a friendly manner

characteristic of the entire conference. "It's like this Mark . . ." he began.

Weinberger probed further into ROTC. Pitzer elaborated using lots of hand gestures to emphasize his points. One of the cameras was still clicking, the other photographer was leaning back in his chair, his camera on the table.

McNabb continued with ROTC, all the pens were going. Pitzer had taken his glasses off and held them in his hand. Beyers had a little tape recorder sitting on the table aimed at the President.

Freivogel switched the subject, asking a tough question on the decision making process. Pitzer stopped for a moment, thinking. He didn't have an answer ready and replied in general terms until he formulated what he wanted to say.

Tenure Not Simple

Carey asked him about his tenure as Stanford's president. Pitzer smiled, then laughed. "It hasn't been simple," he said. Carey asked him to elaborate. "I won't speculate any further," responded the President smiling.

Weinberger began to ask about low-cost housing. Pitzer interrupted.

"There's no such thing as low-cost housing," he said. "Subsidized rental housing maybe."

"Well, OK, subsidized rental housing then," said the Daily editor beginning again with Pitzer's phrase. The President threw back his head and laughed.

The questioning continued. Beyers left to look up a figure, the photographers wanted to leave but Carey motioned his to stay. Weinberger prompted a few questions out of his news director on topics that had been left out.

The press conference ended an hour and ten minutes after it began. Weinberger left, Carey got up. McNabb had a few more questions on BYU. Freivogel tried one more on ROTC.

"I'm afraid I got lost in your question" said Pitzer.

After a few final photos Pitzer picked up his papers and glasses and left.