

FROM: STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE Stanford, Calif. 321-2300, Ext. 2558 (Bob Beyers)  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - The Off ROTC Movement at Stanford voted late Tuesday (APRIL 28) to hold a disruptive sit-in at the President's Office on Inner Quadrangle, starting at 8 a.m. Wednesday (APRIL 29).

Between 150 and 200 supporters were present when the decision was reached at 11:45 p.m. The group said "we will try to disrupt the normal workings of (President Kenneth S.) Pitzer's Office." They will seek to bar cameras. Fred Cohen, a student protest leader, said: "I'd like to get rid of this idea of a non-disruptive sit-in. A sit-in itself is disruptive. Moreover, (when we take a building) we should not be viewed as in there for moral witness. We're in there to exercise power."

The protesters said they would move to the Old Union building if they were unable to gain entry to the President's Office. Their decision followed a two-day boycott which had little impact on normal University class attendance. Earlier in the evening, scores of students opposed to violence left a tense, overflow meeting of the Movement in Bishop Auditorium following a brief, sharp exchange between elected student leaders and Movement speakers.

Tuesday morning, the newly elected Associated Students Council of Presidents circulated leaflets urging students opposed to violence to attend the session, which drew more than 400 at its peak. Council members are Patrick C. Shea, Robert N. Grant, Hal M. Mickelson, and Adam K. Levin. In a joint statement, they later declared: "We reject all groups which foster disruptive sit-ins, smashing windows, or other forms of violence. Any person or persons resorting to these actions must be subject to arrest and prosecution if the safety and autonomy of the University are to be maintained."

At 12:50 a.m. Wednesday (APRIL 29), campus police reported seven windows had been smashed at Bowman Alumni House. By 1:45 a.m. Provost Richard W. Lyman, acting in Pitzer's absence, ordered the President's Office closed for 30 days to all persons not authorized to be there. Violation of the order will lead to charges before the Stanford Judicial Council or possible arrest. (See accompanying text.) Many faculty and staff members voluntarily observed the President's Office and other buildings late at night.

In a statement distributed to those attending the Bishop Auditorium meeting, the President's Advisory Committee on ROTC Affairs invited written statements on four issues: 1) punitive clauses; 2) evaluation criteria for the new Army ROTC plan; 3) other possible ROTC arrangements for 1971-72 and thereafter; and review of Navy and Air Force ROTC proposals, if they are submitted. It also provided an opportunity for individuals to present testimony on these issues, starting with a hearing May 11.

Since March 30, the Off ROTC Movement has caused about \$60,000 damage on campus, mainly in broken windows. There have been 26 arrests, five show cause orders on contempt citations, and 32 cases referred to the Stanford Judicial Council to date.

At a Tuesday noon rally attended by about 400 in White Plaza, Nobel Laureate Linus Pauling coupled strong support for ending ROTC with a personal plea for non-violence. He said he favored sit-ins, but not the destruction of property. Fifteen professors supported this view in a statement read to the evening rally.

The protest group voted not to destroy property, but indicated they would use any material available in the office. The Graduate School of Business, Encina Hall, and the Computation Center were mentioned earlier as targets, but discarded as votes on timing and tactics proceeded. Cohen urged those "who for legal reasons can't be there" inside the President's Office to assemble outside the building. Several protesters are covered by a court injunction against disruptive activity on campus.

Prior to the final vote, one speaker said: "If we want a lot of people there, we should say we're being non-disruptive and non-violent, and let people come and judge for themselves---mostly so a lot of people are there. It's that simple. It's not going to be effective if we go in there and say we're going to be disruptive." Early in the rally, when the students opposed to violence were present, Leonard Siegel, a protest leader, said of violence: "We do more than some approve of, but not as much as others (in the movement) want to do."

Grant replied: "We came here to make clear this community can't accept violence as a means of stopping ROTC." When he added "the campus is getting paranoid about public meetings," a woman protester said: "We'll have free speech when this is a free country." As turmoil continued around the microphone, James Schnieder, former leader of the Coalition for an Academic Community, said: "It's clear this isn't a broadly based student movement. It's clear we're not going to stop violence. If we stay here any longer, it will only turn into a bigger circus." Grant added: "We don't want to cause violence. We've made our point. Let's leave." Rhythmic clapping and chants of "Off ROTC" ensued. Campus radio station KZSU estimated 30 to 40 per cent of the audience left, but protesters and others filled their seats.

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