

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

John F. Keilch, technical processing assistant in the Stanford Library, has been suspended from his job, without pay, for 45 days as a result of his participation in the Henry Cabot Lodge incident Jan. 11.

His suspension, which starts Monday, March 15, was announced by Provost William F. Miller late Friday, following completion of grievance procedures and appeals within the University.

Earlier this month, acting on recommendations of the Stanford Judicial Council, President Richard W. Lyman suspended seven students for their participation in the same incident.

Friday afternoon, 50 persons presented Provost Miller with a petition supporting Keilch, signed by more than 100 individuals. The group picketed the Main Library most of the day, briefly entering the building and chanting slogans at one point in the afternoon. At the end of their meeting with the Provost, they shouted "Off Miller."

Library Director David Weber informed Keilch last month he was suspended for 90 days, but imposition of the penalty was postponed pending completion of grievance procedures. Following lengthy hearings, the majority of a three-man review committee reported the penalty might cause undue hardship but that a suspension was appropriate.

Provost Miller agreed with the majority that a one-year warning period after suspension was "superfluous," but added: "If this [45-day] sanction does not serve to deter like conduct in the future, I would think that dismissal would be appropriate."

In a letter informing Keilch of the penalty, he added: "It is not my intention, nor is it President Lyman's, that staff or any others be in any way frustrated in their efforts to be heard, to hear, or to act out their political views in peaceful and noncoercive ways.

"We cherish that right for everyone in the University, and will act to protect it. In fact, this case represents a commitment to that course, for what is involved here is the right of a group of people to assemble and hear someone regardless of his stand or past actions.

"Should we abandon those rights, we will have turned the University over to whoever can assemble the loudest claque. This we will not do."

He pointed out that nowhere had Keilch contradicted the basic charge against him. In addition, James Berk of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, who was chosen by Keilch to serve on the review committee, quoted Keilch as saying he participated in the demonstration against Lodge "heckling his speech, preventing his speech, [and] expressing our disgust for him." Berk also quoted Keilch as saying: "I'm glad that war criminal Lodge wasn't allowed to speak freely on this campus."

Provost Miller also noted that Keilch had twice waived his option of having his grievance heard by reviewing officers chosen by the President but subject to Keilch's approval.

Rejecting arguments that the campus policy on disruption should not govern employees' conduct on campus, Provost Miller said the policy "is all we have by way of our own rules to preserve an atmosphere of freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry which are cornerstones of the University. We cannot rely solely on the laws of the State of California to preserve that atmosphere."