

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

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Associate Professor H. Bruce Franklin of the Stanford English Department, who was suspended with pay Friday, Feb. 12, by University President Richard W. Lyman, said Monday, Feb. 15, he will teach his course on "American Literature of the 1930's" at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

In a tape-recorded interview with campus radio station KZSU, he said he had both a political and a moral responsibility "to go ahead and teach that class." He said the assigned reading was "Red Star Over China" by Edgar Snow, published in 1937.

English Department spokesmen said interim arrangements for the class still were being worked out late Monday night.

Professor Franklin said he felt the 150 students enrolled in the course were there because they recognized it was "the only class in any college or university in the country where it's possible to get a Marxist Leninist perspective on literature or anything else."

He added that it was "obvious for years the Administration was going to try to kick me out of my job, and prevent me from teaching." To "knuckle under simply because the President says I'm suspended" would be "an act of betrayal to those students and a lot of other people," he added.

Under a temporary restraining order, issued Friday, Feb. 12, by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Homer B. Thompson, Professor Franklin, 16 other named individuals, and up to 1,000 "John Does" are enjoined from committing destructive or disruptive acts at the University.

In his KZSU interview, Professor Franklin said he knew of no examples where any of his classes led directly to disruption or destruction. The real reason for the actions now being taken against him stem from "the sizeable number of people who are accepting the ideas I'm presenting."

This shows that free speech is a "phoney" argument, he added. While Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge can come to Stanford, advocate napalming, and have other people go out and implement that without controversy, if his opponents "say we should resist by doing anything about it, that's criminal behavior" (Ambassador Lodge was unable to deliver the opening speech at a conference on the UN Jan. 11 at Stanford).

He said it was "true" that he may have said things "which lead to activities which interfere with the normal activities of the University." But to bar such speech is "saying people don't have the right to advocate a strike," he added. "That's no different from last spring, when department after department voted to close down. They were engaged in criminal activity."

On the other hand, he said it was "patently untrue" that he had advocated particular acts of violence which subsequently happened Wednesday, Feb. 10. He charged that violence was initiated by the police, when they "beat and arrested people at the Computation Center." (Stanford Hospital and Cowell Health Center later reported treating one patient from club wounds, nine from other causes.)

In a speech that evening, Professor Franklin told his KZSU interviewer, he advocated not allowing police to carry on their activities unmolested, noting this could be done by playing football in their presence, for example.

Since 1965, he continued, "I've been attacked on this campus periodically" and his house has been "attacked a number of times." He said it was "not true" that Venceremos, a radical group on whose central committee he serves, had anything to do with the shooting late Wednesday in the vicinity of the conservative libertarian Free Campus Movement's headquarters.

"The reason a large group of people who now are opposed to the war are not willing to do anything," he said, is that "people have realized that no action can be taken against the war short of revolutionary action. And there are not that many people in the University prepared to be revolutionaries."

The concept of "a people's war" is based on the recognition that people are oppressed and "it's up to them to do things to resist that oppression, and that means everyone who's involved in it," he added. "At Stanford now, it doesn't mean running around shooting against the pigs."

The shootings outside the FCM were a "very bad thing," he continued—essentially, an innocent bystander got hit, although his injury was not serious. (One person was hospitalized with a bullet wound in the thigh, and described in good condition the following morning; another was treated and released after apparently being grazed in the leg by a shot.)

"People at Stanford who are more concerned about a flesh wound in the leg than genocide in Indochina have to examine their motives more," Professor Franklin suggested, just as do those who were upset about the Kent State killings but unconcerned about the earlier deaths of blacks at Jackson State and Orangeburg, S.C.