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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
STANFORD —

STANFORD protest

More than 50 protesters against J.P. Stevens employment policies ended a brief sit-in peacefully at Stanford Monday night, Feb. 28.

They were greeted by more than 100 supporters as they left Encina Hall, the University's largest administrative building.

The singing, chanting group branded the textile manufacturer "America's number one corporate outlaw," saying it has been found guilty of 15 unfair labor practices by the National Labor Relations Board.

The protesters moved from a noon rally in White Plaza to the Encina lobby, where Vice-President Robert R. Augsburger spoke with them for more than an hour.

In a letter to the company last week, Augsburger wrote that "the available evidence does suggest... that the company's policies and practices relative to employee safety and health, rights to organize, collectively bargain, and similar matters are questionable and might be considerably improved."

The protesters said it was "illegitimate and immoral" for the University to abstain, instead of voting against management on disclosure of detailed information on wages and other matters. They noted that a stockholder resolution backed by several church groups gave the company the option of withholding this information if it put the firm at a competitive disadvantage.

Augsburger said "you... have raised the level of consciousness... higher than expected" in the University's vote on 3,000 Stevens shares. But he maintained it was more effective to question the firm's management on the NLRB violations. Disclosure of detailed wage data could be detrimental to stockholder interests, he added.

The protesters moved into the reception area of his office at 5 p.m., but voted to leave about 90 minutes later, after being warned they were violating campus rules and could be subject to arrest.

The vote was 16-12 among those who had agreed to abide by a collective decision. Those who preferred not to be bound this way greeted the vote with applause.

Protest leaders Steve Vettel and Peter Necarsulmer said a meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2 at Roble to discuss further plans. These include local support for a national boycott of Stevens products, backed by the AFL-CIO.

Demonstration speakers said Stevens stock has fallen to 17 from 37 since protests against its policies began.

Several said University policy on companies doing business in South Africa should be reviewed.