

WHY STANFORD IS TRYING TO FIRE BRUCE FRANKLIN

The Stanford Trustees are trying to get rid of Bruce Franklin--no matter what it costs. Why? Bruce is a tenured professor of English, one of the leading critics of science fiction and utopian literature, perhaps the most important Marxist scholar in the country, and a member of the Central Committee of the revolutionary organization, Venceremos.

According to the Wall Street Journal (April 16, 1971), Bruce's case has achieved national importance because Stanford is trying to establish a precedent for firing a tenured professor for political reasons. Bruce has for years been the most outspoken critic on campus of American Imperialism and its world-wide genocidal policies. The four charges Lyman is bringing against Bruce do not hide what is really happening.

The first charge stems from the "Lodge incident." On January 11, 1971, Henry Cabot Lodge was brought onto campus so that the public could see a prestigious American university offer him a hospitable reception, making it look like the government's Vietnam policies were finally being accepted by the American people. Many of us were enraged at the sight of the man who, as ambassador to Saigon, personally directed the killing of our brothers and sisters in Southeast Asia. About 150 workers, students, and faculty--among them Bruce Franklin--began heckling him. Lodge insisted that he was used to this sort of thing (no wonder!) and could continue, but Glenn Campbell, head of the Hoover Institute, cancelled the speech. Bruce is falsely charged with having led this "disruption."

The other three charges involve no acts, only things Bruce is alleged to have said on February 10, 1971. Despite the news censorship, it had been learned the day before that U.S. troops had definitely invaded Laos. Many students were angry and ready for action. On that day also, the Stanford Daily had run an article exposing how the Stanford Research Institute



(SRI) was using the Stanford Computer Center to draw up plans for an amphibious assault, perhaps for use on North Vietnam. On the evening of February 9, students had voted to have a strike which would begin at various campus facilities key to the war effort. At a noon rally on the 10th, Bruce, along with many others, spoke in favor of a strike and supported the suggestion that it begin at the Computer Center.

People went from the rally to the Computer Center. Finding it closed, they entered anyway and held a peaceful mill-in. Except for the door forced in entering there was no damage. Bruce did not enter the building. Giving the speech in White Plaza is charge number 2.

Charge number 3 arose when Bruce argued with a police officer about whether or not the demonstrators had a right to stand on the lawn in front of the Computer Center. In the midst of this discussion riot police charged, beating a number of students, workers, and professors. The charge is that Bruce interfered with an "orderly dispersal."

Later in the evening, Bruce spoke at a rally and called on the students to "use the methods of people's war" by going back to the dorms and making the masses of Stanford students aware of the University's role in the war and of the "occupation army" of police on campus. Police later rushed through the dorms, beating a number of people, including some who had

been innocently studying. Fist fights between right-wing students (of the Free Campus Movement) carrying mace and activists developed, and one student was shot in the thigh by an unknown assailant. It was just what Lyman and the Trustees had been waiting for. Bruce was summarily suspended for his "important role" in the day's "tragic events," and Lyman asked for his permanent dismissal. At the same time, the University News Service sent a flood of inflammatory articles to the nation's media suggesting ties between Bruce, Venceremos, and the shooting. Central to their propaganda was charge number 4, that Bruce had called for "people's war at Stanford."

Heckling a white aristocrat who firmly supported General Ky (who says his hero is Hitler) cannot be a crime. Academic freedom and tenure at Stanford give faculty members the right to plan amphibious invasions, design missiles and bombs, and allow Professor Shockley of Engineering to call for the sterilization of all who don't pay their income taxes and who are below a certain "intelligence" level. They certainly should protect Bruce's right to say the things he said on February 10.

Why is the University so determined to press these shabby charges against Bruce? The answer lies in Stanford's political role in the world and the ever more determined resistance being mobilized against that role on campus.

THE U.S. EMPIRE AND STANFORD

We live in a world-wide empire dominated by American corporations. These giants are attempting to gain control of more and more of the world's resources. Since 1945, U.S. direct foreign investment has jumped from \$7.2 billion to \$65 billion by the end of 1968. U.S. businesses which can no longer wring superprofits at home believe that cheap labor and new markets abroad will guarantee further expansion. The conditions under which many of the world's people live, especially in Third World countries, where 40% of U.S. investment is located, are very poor. These people do not wish to become the instruments of further U.S. corporate growth. They are fighting U.S. imperialism because they experience its oppression directly. In order to maintain this empire, the U.S. must support governments that allow freedom to U.S. investors and repress any real nationalist movement. These governments are often overt fascist regimes: Taiwan, Greece, South Korea, Thailand, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Jordan, and South Vietnam. Yet these are our allies.

But what role does Stanford play in this system?

Stanford is the center of the Pacific Rim Strategy, which has as its goal an integrated structure of politico-economic dependency designed to concentrate economic power and wealth in the hands of U.S. corporations through the exploitation of the labor and resources of Third World countries along the Pacific Basin. The Stanford Board of Trustees includes many men with corporate interests in this plan and with definite ideas about how Stanford fits into it. The Graduate School of Business, for example, sponsors programs like ESAN in Peru, which trains local businessmen not how to eliminate unemployment in their country but how to increase profits for U.S. firms in South America. At home, the same policies have led the Trustees to support construction of financial centers and high-income housing in this area at the expense of poor people's homes. A relatively small initial investment in developing the Stanford Research Institute and the Stanford Industrial Park has grown to a complex that has handled billions of dollars of defense contracts in the last few years. Overlapping boards of directors and numerous consulting re-

relationships enable the Trustees to both control and benefit from the close ties between Stanford research and the demands of the American defense industry.

Other Stanford contributions to the U.S. military machine include ROTC, the mercenary

training program, and counterinsurgency research such as the Staley Plan, formulated by SRI economist Eugene Staley, which outlined the "strategic hamlet" program for the forced urbanization of Vietnamese peasants.

THE MOVEMENT AND STANFORD

There's no doubt that the men who run Stanford are some of the most powerful men in the world, but not everyone who comes to their University wants to be taught how to work in their interest. Protest against the genocidal policies of these men and Stanford's complicity in those policies began in the mid-1960's. As the movement developed, it became more militant and more anti-imperialist, while repression against it developed. Bruce was active at each stage.

In October, 1965, a peaceful anti-war vigil in White Plaza, at which Bruce was present, was attacked by right-wing students. While Stanford police turned their backs, people were beaten up and thrown into the fountain. In November, a group of students and faculty launched a blood drive for the Vietnamese victims of U.S. bombing. While Bruce was speaking in White Plaza in support of this, he was pelted with garbage and called a "dirty Jew bastard" by ROTC students who received "leadership credit" to improve their grades for their participation. In 1966 Bruce was thrown out of a public hearing of the Redwood City Port Authority Commission for attempting to speak against the construction of a napalm factory in Redwood City. Also in that year, a small number of Stanford students and faculty held the first U.S. college strike against the war. That Spring, a sit-in in the president's office first focused attention on war research and CIA contracts at Stanford.

Throughout these early years of the movement, Bruce Franklin was more vocal and outspoken than anyone else in directing attention to the imperialist nature of American business as the root cause of the war. As the movement became more consciously anti-imperialist, it naturally began focusing in on Stanford itself. When this happened, the University suddenly became far less tolerant of student protest. It became clear that when the University's role itself was under attack, it would not hesitate to have police swarm onto campus with guns, clubs and gas to protect the Trustees' property.

Under the leadership of the Stanford chapter of SDS there was a disruption of a Board of Trustees meeting on January 14, 1969. When five Trustees appeared before a campus forum to

defend the University's activities, hundreds of students learned for the first time that these wealthy men are on the boards of directors of large defense-oriented corporations as well. Their evasiveness and lies created the first mass support for an anti-imperialist movement among Stanford students.

The April Third Movement followed, aimed at banning classified war research, chemical and biological warfare studies, and counterinsurgency research from the University and from SRI. The Trustees rejected the demands and called the police to stop the demonstrations that ensued. This created more support for the movement and helped raise consciousness as to where Stanford's real interests lie. During this movement, when Bruce, as a duly recognized speaker, began to explain what was happening to the Academic Council, he was shouted down by his "colleagues."

The largest mass movement in Stanford's history began with the Off-ROTC struggle in 1969. After pressure from the Pentagon (and ex-chairman of the Board of Trustees, Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard), the Academic Senate buckled and reversed a previous vote to ban ROTC from campus. Then began several months of struggle in which the "do-it-to-it" strategy was developed. This strategy involved political work at all levels, from discussions to militant actions intended to make ROTC too expensive to be worth maintaining. After numerous incidents of trashing and fighting with the police, students sat in at the Old Union on April 29, 1971. On that day, it was announced that the U.S. had invaded Cambodia, and 1500 angry students gathered around the building. That night, 1000 students battled police occupation troops for several hours. A campus-wide strike followed on a scale never imagined before. The University was forced to a complete halt, as thousands became involved in teach-ins and other activities exposing the genocidal methods being used to defend American business around the world.

Last April the movement focused on Stanford's treatment of its own workers. Venceremos and the Black United Front (the BLF, the BSU, and the Black Workers Caucus) joined with other progressive workers and students in a peaceful sit-

in protesting the racism of the Stanford Hospital. 175 riot police used a battering ram to break into the occupied administrative offices of the hospital

and began brutally attacking the sit-inners. But they fought back so successfully that most of them escaped.

THE TRUSTEES CAN'T WIN

The Trustees have singled Bruce out as their most eloquent, outspoken opponent. Obviously, it is not Bruce Franklin who has created the resistance which is undermining the University: it is the conditions of oppression and exploitation in the world that have produced the upsurge of anti-imperialist activity on this campus and throughout

the world. The persecution of Bruce will surely create a lot more. The hearing begins Tuesday the 28'th of September and runs from 1-6PM every weekday thereafter until its over. Come and help the people find out what the University really is! Read the Daily or call 328-4941 to find out where its being held.

COME TO THE HEARING

VENCEREMOS

