

Franklin Fired

See memo
1/7/72

In a six to two decision the Advisory Board which heard the dismissal case of Professor H. Bruce Franklin recommended dismissal to President Lyman. The Board unanimously acquitted Bruce on charges of disrupting a speech made by Henry Cabot Lodge last January, while unanimously convicting him of the White Plaza speech ("inciting" people to occupy the University Computation Center) during the invasion of Laos last year. On the remaining two charges of interfering with the orderly dispersal of the crowd outside the Computation Center; and "inciting" on the night of Feb. 10 last year, he was convicted with Board Chairman Donald Kennedy and Robert McAfee Brown dissenting. On the question of dismissal as a penalty Kennedy and Brown again dissented, as the other board members knuckled under in the face of developing fascism at Stanford.

The decision merely proves what the anti-war movement has been saying about the nature of the university. The main business of the University is backing up U.S. Imperialism with its ideology, brains, and research. The contradiction has developed between those opposing the war and imperialism, and those forces in power which back it. The only recourse for those in power is to get rid of the opposition--if the institution is to continue its all out support for U.S. Imperialism. In this war between opposing forces in the university, academic freedom becomes merely rhetoric on the part of so-called liberals in the faculty and administration.

The contradiction has been even further heightened by the recent bombings of North Vietnam. The basic research for the highly sophisticated weaponry has been done at Stanford and developed to its present applications in Indochina at the Stanford Industrial Park and SRI. The firing of Professor Franklin

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will open the door to further repression at Stanford, as well as setting a precedent nationwide for the firing of tenured professors whose politics lead them to move in opposition to imperialism within their own universities. Those who went to the recent Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago found that the repression is much greater on a national scene than many of them had thought. Hundreds of non-tenured faculty have been fired on the excuse of "subversion of the grading system"--giving too many A's. The real reasons are political.

The Advisory Board in their written decision, considered the possibility of rehabilitation. "We are highly dubious whether rehabilitation is a useful concept in this case. Professor Franklin's announced convictions about the guilt of the university appear deeply held, and his opposition to the institution in its present form seems implacable. Barring a dramatic change in perception he is unlikely to change his conduct, thus 'rehabilitation is likely to fail...' Right on! Bruce responded to this by saying, 'They are absolutely correct. I will not become a 'liberal' fascist like them.'