

A Post-Mortem on Stanford's Peace Mission

By Jerry Carroll

It was time for the post-mortem at Stanford University yesterday and the talk was about whether you can lobby for peace.

Whether, in fact, you can lobby for peace in Washington in the same way that the highway interests, say, can go there and talk the lawmakers into more roads.

The initial conclusions, it seemed were intimately tied to whatever assumptions were held beforehand as to whether the administration and Congress are susceptible to pressures from their various constituencies.

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EXAMPLE

Dave Edwards of the Black Student Union, to give one sour example, was saying: "I think this trip accomplished absolutely nothing.

It's fundamentally a white boy's trip."

Otherwise, the reactions ranged up through the gradations of pessimism to within range of a cautious optimism.

"Our delegation helped coalesce the idea that Congress must again assert itself," remarked sociology professor Sanford Dornbusch.

However, with the on-the-other-hand impulse associated with the scholarly mind, Dornbusch added:

"But one of the disturbing things we found was that many Congressmen feel the same sense of alienation from the executive branch that we do."

TRIP

The trip, which cost \$9000 for air fare, hotel rooms and food, was financed by donations dropped into the hat during a hasty fund-raising campaign.

For that, the Stanford community got some highly energetic couriers who carried their heavy communique of gloom about the future of the republic to the seat of government.

The delegation met with more than a score of lawmakers, including such luminaries as Muskie of Maine, McGovern of South Dakota, Kennedy of Massachusetts,

Percy of Illinois Cranston of California and Church of Idaho, not counting a scattering of liberal Representatives of both parties.

AMAZEMENT

Veteran capital hands expressed open amazement that the Stanford group got through so many doors in so short a time.

"Of course, Stanford's institutional prestige helped," one faculty member allowed. One of the problems — an unfortunate outgrowth of the speed with which the whole lobbying visit was planned and executed — was that the Stanford people for the most part called on legislators who had already made public their opposition to the war.

"We asked for a pinpointments from the people we thought would give us appointments," remarked one of the faculty members. Senator George Murphy, for example, wasn't asked.

The visitors got nowhere when they ran up against such hawks as Representative Charles Gubser (Rep-Calif.) and Chet Hollifield (Dem-Calif.).

Hollifield, for example, pulled down a map of the oiled red and ominously warned that communism is on the march as never before and that only America can stand up against it.

The second night the Stanford group was in Washington the House voted against imposing any fiscal restrictions or other controls on the waging of the war in Indochina.

On the other hand, Senator Alan Cranston (Dem.-Calif.) said a visit by a delegation of students did wonders in stiffening the "backbone" of a Republican senator who has been wavering up till now.

DEPRESSION

There was a pretty general depression about the various meetings held with opposing White House, Defense Department and Pentagon officials.

Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard, a former Stanford trustee, for example was non-committal about the Cambodian invasion, other than to say it didn't represent escalation. Packard did allow, however,

er, that the administration "underestimated the extent of the ruckus." He was quoted by sociology professor Sanford Dornbusch.

Said Dornbusch: "Ruckus" was the exact word he used."

Patrick A. Shay, a senior studying "social thought," was at the meeting with Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's adviser on national security.

TELEVISION

Shay spoke of the astonishing difficulty he felt in talking to a man he had seen on television so often and marveled over the one-dimensional quality of the encounter.

It was as if the people at the meeting were issuing statements and giving responses over a Meluhian chasm that their common humanity could not bridge, he said.

Shay told Kissinger during the meeting that his draft board told him he can't accept a scholarship in England next and will try to make him fight in a war he feels in the core of his being to be immoral.

"What am I supposed to do?" Shay asked Kissinger, who said he had no answer. But he did approach Shay following the meeting to say, "If there's anything I can do, let me know."