

# Pitzer Tells Why He Quit Stanford

By Ron Moskowitz  
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President Nixon's decision to extend the Vietnam War into Cambodia—more than any other single act—convinced Kenneth S. Pitzer he should resign as Stanford University's president, he said yesterday.

"The Cambodian decision shattered the confidence of a lot of people that a reason-

**Provost Richard W. Lyman named acting president of Stanford. Story on Page 3.**

bly firm time schedule for our withdrawal from Southeast Asia had actually been established," he told a crowded press conference in Meyer Undergraduate Li-

brary on the campus.

"Until this most seriously disturbing factor in American life today is remedied, the problems on our campuses will not be solved."

He denied emphatically rumors that his resignation was forced by trustees who were angry over the way he handled campus disturbances.

"My resignation was not

forced," he said, adding that he was "concerned," however, about the polarization on and off the campus about the disturbances — and about the lack of positive support for the university.

"I was aware that there were sufficient weaknesses that had to be taken into account," he said.

"Pressures tending to dis-

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tract or disrupt the educational process have increased significantly. The growing polarization within society has also been reflected on the campus.

"These trends have made it increasingly difficult to obtain very broad and active support from all those who together are responsible for the well-being of the university."

Pitzer said he had received hundreds of letters urging him "to impose what would be, in effect, repressive measures within the university, despite the largest number of arrests and campus judicial actions in Stanford's history."

"I can't really believe these people want us to punish a student without giving him a fair hearing. That's just what our new judicial proceedings amount to — a fair hearing."

He praised the actions and assistance of the police, noting, "We have not hesitated to call police on campus."

"Stanford will endure," he said, "but its sustained excellence depends upon our common devotion to due process and reasoned discourse in achieving the goals we share."

"I hope in the coming months, Stanford will have a new opportunity to bridge more effectively the widening gaps between the campus

community and outside society.

"I would earnestly hope that each of the many groups concerned with the university — students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, parents and friends — will try to close this broad chasm."

The gray-haired, blue-eyed president, who was popular with the majority of students once they got to know him, said that "many of the most intense pressures on the modern university presidency originate beyond the borders off the campus, or at least require remedy there."

He said he has worked as a private citizen against the

war, the draft, environmental deterioration and the direction of modern technological change. And as a university president he said he has worked to encourage educational and research programs "to provide both the human talent and the knowledge needed for their solution."

"While critics may view Stanford as a sea of troubles, many of our sister institutions have sent representatives here to study new means for trying to resolve internal differences and maintain campus order."

Pitzer, who said he plans to take a one-year sabbatical, claimed the majority of the trustees felt "I made the right decision in the beginning in working with and encouraging the new campus judicial system," which some have criticized as being too lenient.

The choice he faced, he said, was either to support the system "or override it in a fashion that would have destroyed it."

"Any disciplinary system, on or off campus, has to depend on community support to be effective," he added. "Some of us can remember the problems with prohibition."



KENNETH S. PITZER  
No end in sight