

LET US CHANGE THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE

In the pre-dawn hours of Friday, April 24, 1970, a fire set by as yet unknown arsonists destroyed or damaged ten offices of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. The life work of Prof. M.N. Srinivas, a distinguished Indian anthropologist who is spending a year at the Center on leave from the University of Delhi, was destroyed: research notes embodying the work of over twenty years were ravaged. Professor Srinivas' magnum opus was to have been a study of the Indian caste system.

Manuscripts and research notes of several other scholars were lost or damaged, including some materials belonging to Professor Sol Tax of the University of Chicago, a noted champion of the rights of American Indians in contemporary U.S. society. The lives of two student caretakers sleeping in a building which narrowly escaped being engulfed in the flames were jeopardized. Physical damage to the Center is estimated at close to \$100,000.

We are deeply concerned that this fire may have been related to the escalating climate of violence on campus in recent weeks. We unequivocally support peaceful protest. However, we believe that recent protest activities on campus have passed these bounds into dangerous levels of violence and threats of further violence. We are deeply worried that an occasional violence-prone person may interpret the advocacy of "mobile militant tactics" in such ways as to include cruel acts like the burning of the Center.

We hope that the Off-ROTC Movement shares the sorrow and outrage of the Stanford community at this tragic occurrence and we call upon them to express themselves at this time.

Signed by  
many faculty  
and CASBS.

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