

STANFORD REJECTS A REAGAN CENTER

March 14, 1984

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10,000	7,000	8,000
11,000	7,700	8,800
12,000	8,400	9,600
13,000	9,100	10,400
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Stanford University's Board of Trustees, by a vote of 22 to 4, today rejected a proposal to put a \$40 million Ronald Reagan Center for Public Affairs on the grounds of the university.

The board expressed its appreciation for the offer of such a center but said it could not accept the proposal put forward by Edwin Meese 3d, the Presidential counselor, "because it is not consistent with the need for the university's normal academic governance of such activities on its lands."

The public affairs center, which would have been privately financed, was originally proposed as part of a complex that would have included a Presidential library and museum. The library and museum were eventually accepted by the university. But opposition to the public affairs center quickly arose among both faculty and students because it would have been operated by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

The semi-independent Hoover institution is generally regarded as a conservative research body for domestic social and economic topics. Its director, W. Glenn Campbell, today expressed regret at the board's decision. *Meese Criticized University*

In November, Mr. Meese criticized the university for ruling out the Hoover unit as administrator of the center and said the action was "tantamount to making the President an offer he cannot accept," implying that the university had to accept the entire complex.

In December, both the board of trustees and the Stanford Faculty Senate expressed their willingness to lose the library rather than compromise on the issue of the public affairs center. They voted unanimously that the center should be part of the university's normal academic governing structure.

Donald Kennedy, the university's president, said Mr. Meese had made it clear that President Reagan rejected the idea of faculty governance of the center.

Then, in January, Mr. Meese offered a compromise proposal calling for the university to lease a site adjoining the proposed library for an independent Center for Public Affairs that would not be connected with either the Hoover institution or the university administration. This was what the trustees rejected today.