

dispatches

Cold Shoulder for Research Park

Bob Johnson

UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer's scheme to build an industrial/research park on campus was given a cool reception at a forum attended by more than 250 community people at the Louden Nelson Community Center Tuesday night.

The plan calls for the creation of a 50,000 square foot industrial park to be leased out to private computer industry firms as a way to solve the campus' financial woes.

Because the project will be reviewed by the University Regents, not local planning groups, disputes over environmental affects of the development could lead to a conflict between the people of Santa Cruz and the State of California.

Financial support for the University system has steadily eroded over the last decade. That problem has become even more severe in the years since the Jarvis-Gann amendment reduced the monies available to all public programs in California.

Sinsheimer said Tuesday that both the Regents and the University administration have asked campuses to look for alternative sources of funding. The Chancellor believes the Santa Cruz campus is at a disadvantage in this effort. Both Berkeley and UCLA, for example, have established research programs and large alumni to count on for

financial support. And "Davis is tied in historically with agriculture," the Chancellor pointed out. "The one major resource UCSC has is its land," Sinsheimer added, explaining the decision to look at computer industry development as a way out of the campus' fiscal woes.

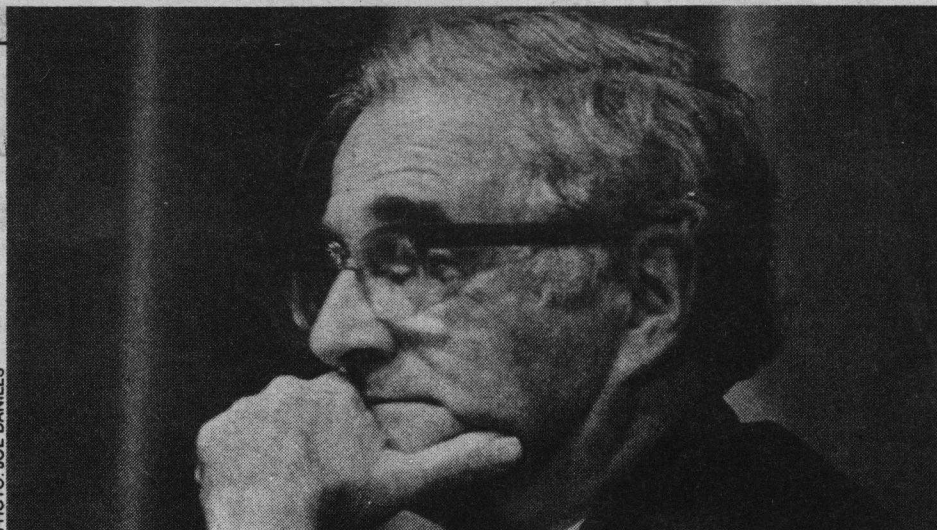
And the move toward linkage with the private computer industry would also solve what the Chancellor, among others in the University hierarchy, perceives as a major academic problem at the Santa Cruz campus. UCSC has always been oriented in the direction of a liberal arts course of study. The Chancellor suggested this emphasis has left the campus out of touch with many of the more current trends in education. As well, the youth of the campus faculty means only a sixth of them can be replaced by the end of this century. The industrial/research park would give the campus an opportunity for an infusion of new blood.

But Sinsheimer got his first close look Tuesday at the sophistication many Santa Cruzans have on the effects of major developments.

The plan originally called for a research and development park employing 1200 people. A consultant's study — completed two weeks ago but still not yet public — indicates that 60% of the project will be devoted to manufacture and that the employment number will jump to 2000.

Supervisor Gary Patton pointed out that past major industrial developments — including the University itself — have not employed enough local people to make a dent on unemployment. Patton mentioned that he had recently been to the opening of the Raytek plant and heard management

PHOTO: JOE DANIELS



UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer at Tuesday's forum on his proposed research park on campus.

boast that 85% of its employees came with the company from Mountain View.

Jonathon Wittwer, from the Western Limits Neighborhood Association, pointed out that the project will make a major difference in traffic levels on Bay, High, Escalona, King and other streets.

Sinsheimer was also faced with questions on the effect the industrial park could have on housing, water and the Zayante Dam and guarantees that the project will not follow the Regent's tradition of serving the defense establishment. Although study of the issues raised Tuesday is still in a preliminary stage, the process for deciding if the project should go ahead is already a major item of contention.

The Chancellor said he is interested in a dialog with the community on the development scheme. But state law exempts the university from local land use laws and makes the Regents the judge on whether their project will hurt the community.

Santa Cruz City Councilmember Mardi Wormhoudt asked Tuesday, "How do we know when community concerns are met? When the Chamber of Commerce supports it? When the *Sentinel* endorses it?"

Sinsheimer answered that he is caught between two masters: his desire to have cooperative relations with the community and the advice of the Regents' lawyer that local planning agencies are not to be adhered to. □