

Factory Workers Differ on Protests

By JOHN DARNTON

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MAHWAH, N.J., May 7 —

"It's just too bad, but it had to happen sometime. They should have kept the protest peaceful."

So saying, James Quackenbush, 50 years old, leaned back on the bench and squinted up at the sun. He did not have much time left in the break from his job as an assemblyman at the mammoth Ford factory here.

"These guys are supposed to be going to college to learn something," interjected another worker, kneeling close by. "What are they doing? Burning down buildings. Locking up teachers. You can't turn on the television without seeing them do something else."

"Shoot," he added, throwing down a twig as he stood and walked away.

With criticism for all sides, a sense of fatality and a restraint on sympathy, a number of the 4,700 blue-collar workers here responded today to questions on their feelings about campus disorders and the killings of four students at Kent State University.

They offered a variety of opinions on where the fault lay, but seemed united in a feel-

ing that "the country is going down the drain." Many of the workmen resented that college students, younger people with more money, more education and more chance in life than they had, were protesting.

"They're supposed to be our future leaders," said one. "If I had a chance to get an education, I wouldn't be wasting my time on the streets."

From those views there stemmed a feeling that protesters had invited violence—"It's unfortunate, but if you live by the sword, you die by the sword," remarked Joe DiSanto.

There was only occasional outrage. Donald Govia, a portly maintenance electrician with a worker's cap and a beard, said, for example:

"It makes me want to vomit, to think they fired into American citizens. Bullets are no match for rocks. There's no call for it."

His remarks drew opposition from the knot of men relaxing around the workers' main entrance to the plant.

"They go to college to raise hell, especially the rich kids," one said. "They're supposed to learn something and they end up burning the school."

"You could burn down a million school and not bring back one of those four lives," replied

Mr. Govia. "I don't care about the schools"—his voice rising with emotion—"I'll pay for the schools."

"Get rid of them all, that's the answer," said another.

"You hear that," said Mr. Govia, turning to a visitor. "They hate them because they're young, and they hate them because they're educated."

The 72-acre site of the Mahwah plant, where 18,000 pieces are assembled into a car 800 times a day, is among the largest automobile plants on the East Coast. It lies within sight of the New York State Thruway, in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains, like a walled city.

Thirty-eight per cent of the workers are black or Puerto Rican, many of whom commute in car pools from Harlem, Brooklyn, Newark and Paterson, N. J.

Among the younger workers and among the Negro workers, who are said to number about 1,800, there was more criticism of the Ohio National Guard and the Government and less of the students.

William W. Burch, who fills the new autos with gasoline at the end of the assembly line, thought the students had every right to protest and found the Guard's action "horrifying."



The New York Times (by Lee Romero)

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY: Demonstrators gathered outside Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Mercer at Fourth Street. Inside, students were demanding \$100,-

000 for the safety of a \$3.5-million computer owned by the Atomic Energy Commission, money they would use to bail out a jailed Panther. Faced with court order, they left.