

20

c

GLENN DEPRESSED BY STUDENT RIOTS

Sees Events at Kent State
as a Loss of Confidence

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

Special to The New York Times

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio, May 4 — The little plane bounced and wobbled in the turbulent air. John H. Glenn Jr., a passenger, sat next to his daughter, Mrs. Michael Power, looking grim and distracted.

At Toledo, the last previous stop, Mr. Glenn was told about the riot today at Kent State University in northeastern Ohio, in which four students were killed.

"I was there 10 days ago," he said. "When I finished the question-and-answer period, a nice kid with bushy hair and a little beard followed me out to the car. He kept saying, 'People have got to listen to us; hear our point of view, or everything will blow up. Can't anyone help us?'"

Mr. Glenn, astronaut turned politician, had expected this last day of his campaign for the Democratic senatorial nomination to be relatively carefree, with stops in a dozen Ohio cities and towns, a final television appearance and a chat with key supporters.

But it did not work out that way. The trouble at Kent probably did not gain or lose him any votes. His opponent in tomorrow's primary election, Howard M. Metzenbaum, holds views similar to his on the Vietnam war, dissent and campus violence.

Rhodes May Gain

If anyone stands to gain, it

may well be Gov. James A. Rhodes, who has been taking a firm stand against the demonstrators at Kent State. Mr. Rhodes, running for the Republican senatorial nomination, is believed to be only slightly behind his opponent, Representative Robert Taft Jr.

But Mr. Glenn—whose political opponents privately deride his clean-cut appearance by calling him "Ivory soap"—is a product of Middle America and The System, and he believes they can be made more responsive. So the events at Kent depressed him.

"Everyone is losing confidence in everything," he said, "our foreign policy, our universities, our electoral system — all because we haven't changed the things that needed changing, and we haven't told the people the truth."

At the beginning of the campaign, a Glenn victory seemed assured. He is famous and affable. His name, a survey showed, is known to 97 per cent of all Ohioans. Mr. Metzenbaum, a Cleveland labor lawyer and millionaire developer of airport parking lots, was scarcely known outside of Cleveland three months ago.

Mr. Metzenbaum put together a costly and competent television advertising campaign, however, while Mr. Glenn stumbled along with an inept and inexperienced organization. He was outspent almost 5 to 1. He was unable to raise much money — apparently because many people thought him an easy winner, and many others thought he had plenty of rich friends.

Mr. Glenn, who is 48 years old, has differed with Mr. Metzenbaum on only one major question, that of further reductions in appropriations for the space program, which he opposes and Mr. Metzenbaum favors.

On radio station WABQ in Cleveland this morning, he advocated wage and price controls and busing of schoolchildren and opposed American intervention in Cambodia.

"I was a good friend of Bob Kennedy's," he said. "I was in California with him when he was shot. I want to work on some of the ideas that he proposed."