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Nixon Says Violence Invites Tragedy

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 4 — President Nixon today deplored the deaths of four students at Kent State University and said they "should remind us all once again that when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy."

"It is my hope," he said, "that this tragic and unfortunate incident will strengthen the determination of all the nation's campuses, administrators, faculty and students alike to stand firmly for the right which exists in this country of peaceful dissent and just as strongly against the resort to violence as a means of such expression."

The President's remarks came in a statement issued by his press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler.

A Justice Department spokesman, meanwhile, said the Department had received a request from Governor James A. Rhodes of Ohio for a Federal investigation of the incident. The spokesman said no decision had been made.

When one newsman suggested that some of the demonstrations might have been inspired by the President's decision to send troops into Cambodia, Mr. Ziegler replied:

"The president made clear in his speech Thursday that the objective of the action along the Cambodia-South Vietnamese border is to bring a peaceful conclusion to the conflict in South Vietnam."

Mr. Ziegler said, "I think I've expressed the President's point of view." He would say no more when another questioner suggested that the violence might have arisen from the conviction among some students that the Administration had turned a deaf ear to their grievances and had branded them as "bums." Mr. Nixon used that word to describe student demonstrators in off-the-cuff remarks at the Pentagon last Friday.

Vice President Agnew took a similarly tough line toward campus demonstrators and those who encourage them in a speech prepared for delivery here tonight to a meeting of the American Retail Federation.

The Vice President departed from his prepared speech, which was written before today's incident at Kent State,

he said, he referred to well-educated teachers, editors, Government leaders and professional people who "scorn" the "traditions of civility" and "pander to the ignorance" and the fears of those who are all too willing to believe that the criminal who throws a bomb at a bank is a hero and the policeman who gets killed trying to stop him is a pig."

Mr. Agnew singled out New York's Mayor Lindsay for particular scorn. He quoted Mr. Lindsay as having criticized those in Government who cannot "respect dissent," or "cope with turmoil," and "who believe that the people of America are ready to support repression as long as it is done with a quiet voice and a business suit."

"We have seen all too clearly," the Vice President said, "that there are men — now in power in this country — who do not represent authority, who cannot cope with tradition, and who believe that the people of America are ready to support revolution as long as it is done with a cultured voice and a handsome profile."

Investigation Request

Special to The New York Times

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 4— Gov. James A. Rhodes tonight sent a telegram to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that said:

"At Kent State University today four persons were killed and others injured in a confrontation between Ohio National Guard troops and a mob of unidentified persons. I shall appreciate the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in making a complete investigation of all the facts."

In a later statement, Gov. Rhodes said:

"Today is the saddest day I have known as Governor.

"Let us hope that today's events will lead all Americans to soberly consider the direction in which our society is headed.

"It is my prayer tonight that those who have counselled our young people into the violent action that sparked today's incident will give second thought to what they are doing—to the youth of America and to the nation."

and declared that the ordeal there was "predictable and avoidable."

"In several recent speeches," Mr. Agnew said, "I have called attention to the grave dangers which accompany the new politics of violence and confrontation and which have found so much favor on our college campuses."

The events at Kent State, he said, "make the truth of these remarks self-evident and underscore the need that they be said."

The main part of the speech dealt with those who, in the Vice President's words, have engaged in a "calculated, consistent and well publicized barrage of cynicism against the principles of this nation."

He said he was not referring to "those tomentose exhibitionists who provoke more derision than fear." The word tomentose means "covered with thickly matted hair." Instead,