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U.S. Rejects Jury Probe in 4 Kent Deaths

Associated Press

The White House yesterday rejected a plea for a federal grand jury investigation into the deaths of four Kent State University students during May 1970 antiwar confrontations with Ohio National Guardsmen.

In a letter to the parents of the four victims, an aide to President Nixon rejected the request contained on petitions signed by more than 10,000 persons. The parents' requests to meet with Mr. Nixon and Attorney General Richard Kleindienst also were rejected.

Presidential aide Leonard Garment wrote that the government had no evidence that the shootings were the product of "specific criminal intent or planned or purposeful conspiracy," and thus had no evidence to prompt the attorney general to convene the grand jury.

"There is not an official in this entire administration . . . who is indifferent to your personal grief," Garment wrote to the parents of Allison Krause, William Schroeder, Jeffrey Miller and Sandra Scheuer.

"But a meeting with the President or the attorney general . . . would not change those basic facts," he added.

Copies of the letter also went to Paul Keene and Greg Rambo, who spearheaded the petition drive.

The petitions were sent to Mr. Nixon last October. The parents of the dead students wrote President Nixon April 19 for an answer.