

THE NEW YORK TIMES, W

F.B.I. Checking Political Beliefs of Kent Professor

By JOHN KIFNER

Special to The New York Times

KENT, Ohio, June 9 — Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, sent here after the slaying of four Kent State University students in a volley of National Guard gunfire, have been questioning students and faculty about the political beliefs and teaching of some professors.

A small group of liberal professors who appear to have been singled out for investigation say the inquiry has created a climate of fear among them and has brought protests from the American Civil Liberties Union.

A number of students have been asked such questions as whether a teacher has ever "made any inflammatory statements."

Justice Department officials say that their investigation into four days and nights of campus disorders here that ended in the deaths of the four students and the wounding of nine others on May 4 has been directed toward three areas:

Whether the civil rights of the students who were shot had been violated.

Whether there had been violations of the Federal anti-riot act by students and others participating in the demonstrations.

Whether statues prohibiting the destruction of Federal property had been violated in the burning of the Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps building.

A Justice Department spokesman said that all three areas were being given equal weight, adding that Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard was

receiving daily and weekly reports on the investigation.

Some students and faculty members who have been questioned, however, said that the agents seemed more interested in the R.O.T.C. burning and the possibility of the students' being "incited" than in the slayings.

F.B.I. agents here have obtained the class rosters of nine teachers from the Registrar's office, according to the university provost, Louis K. Harris. The agents have also been given access to the campus police department's extensive files of "potential trouble-makers."

After protests from the teachers, Dr. Harris announced that the university would not release class rosters without a subpoena. No further requests for class lists had been made, he said.

"It's a hell of a feeling to know that you and your students are being investigated," said Dr. Jerry Lewis, a sociology professor.

"I'm concerned for the future of the social sciences," Dr. Lewis said. "We don't deal in black and white. But if you know you're under investigation there's a sense of psychological consciousness imparted to your teaching. You're going to be more careful."

"This kind of thing has implications for every state university," said the professor, who served as a faculty peace marshal during the demonstrations.

Like several of the other professors, Dr. Lewis had been told by his students that the F.B.I. was investigating him. He

said they had told of being asked such questions as:

"Did he advocate any radical views?"

Did he advocate the overthrow of the mass communications system of the United States?"

"Did he advocate violence of any kind?"

The answer to all, he said, was no.

Another student, Susan Kew, the president of the Residence Hall honorary society, reported she had been asked if a teacher had ever taught her to make Molotov cocktails.

"I thought they were out of their minds," Miss Kew said, "and then after we got talking, they asked me six times if I was a member of the Students for a Democratic Society and I told them six times that I was not."

A graduate assistant who had witnessed the shooting said that she had been asked by the agents whether she knew "of any faculty who might be egging on students."

Dr. Lewis Fried, an assistant professor of English, said that his students had been told by agents that he was a "very

controversial character" and that they had been asked if he "ever spoke against the Government."

Benson Wholman, the Ohio director of the A.C.L.U., charged:

"Such kinds of inquiry have a chilling effect on academic freedom. If a teacher has to interpret every word as it might be interpreted by a (Attorney General) John Mitchell-oriented agent then he will be unable to speak freely and to discuss important issues."

The organization's Portage County branch, which had been among the first groups to request an F.B.I. inquiry into the shooting, sent telegrams to both of the state's senators and to the area's Congressman, J. William Stanton, protesting the direction of the inquiry.

Sniper Theories Discounted

WASHINGTON, June 9 (AP) —The man heading the Government's investigations of student deaths on the Kent State and Jackson State campuses says there is "insufficient evidence" to support officials' allegations of sniper fire.

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See also this file 2 Jun, /14 Jul 70.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1970

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Sniper Theories Discounted

WASHINGTON, June 9 (AP) —The man heading the Government's investigations of student deaths on the Kent State and Ohio National Guardsmen said there is "insufficient evidence to support officials' allegations of sniper fire."

"We have at this time insufficient evidence to establish the presence of a sniper," Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard said of the May 15 deaths of two black youths in a fusillade of police bullets at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

His statement contradicts the report released last Thursday by Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi that said an investigation showed state troopers were shot at by a sniper before they opened fire on a group of students outside a women's dormitory on the predominantly black campus.

Mr. Leonard is head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and leader of a Federal investigation into the fatal shootings by law enforcement authorities of the two youths at Jackson State, four students at Kent State University in Ohio and six men in Augusta, Ga.

Kent State

In an interview, Mr. Leonard was asked whether his statement could also be applied to the deaths at Kent State, where Ohio National Guardsmen said they had been fired upon by a sniper before they shot into a crowd of students demonstrating against United States military involvement in Cambodia.

"Yes, there is insufficient evidence at Kent," he replied. He refused to comment on whether the investigations, in the case of Kent State more than a month long, had identified the officers or guardsmen who fired the fatal shots.

Mississippi Weapons Held

JACKSON, Miss., June 9—Gov. John Bell Williams said today that the state highway patrol would not give the F. B. I. the weapons used at Jackson State College campus where two youths were slain because Mr. Leonard had proposed to use them for a "fish expedition."

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