

F.B.I. Investigating Killing Of 2 Negroes in Jackson

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JACKSON, Miss., May 15—A barrage of police gunfire that lasted 30 seconds and consisted of at least 140 shots left two students dead and nine other persons wounded here last night. All the dead and wounded were Negroes.

The first youth, a student at Jackson State College, was found dying in front of a women's dormitory, and the other, from a Jackson high school, beside a college dining hall across the street.

The five-story dormitory at Jackson State College, a predominantly Negro institution of more than 3,000 students, was riddled with gunfire from top to bottom after the clash with the police.

Not a window was left unbroken on the narrow end of the building that faces Lynch Street, where an estimated total of 40 state highway patrolmen lined up and fired with shotguns from a distance of 30 to 50 feet.

The highway patrol, whose men were accused by student witnesses of all the shootings, refused to comment.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were looking into the shootings. The Justice Department said it was sending a team to investigate.

Richard G. Kleindienst, the Deputy Attorney General, told Mayor Russell C. Davis of Jackson by telephone today that the Federal investigators were trying to determine whether the civil rights of any-

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one had been violated. He said the investigators also were charged with finding out whether the Federal antiriot law had been violated and whether there had been any interference with Federal programs.

Sniping Is Charged

The city police were quoted as saying the policeman had been fired upon first by snipers from the dormitory.

How much the police had been provoked was disputed hotly here today. Angry students were calling the killings unprovoked slaughter.

"This is pure slaughter. This is twice as bad as Kent State," said Elijah McClendon, editor of The Blue and White Flash, the student newspaper at Jackson State. He was referring to the killing of four students by National Guardsmen last week at Kent, Ohio.

The dead here were James Earl Green, 17 years old, a senior and star miler on the track team at a Jackson high school, and Phillip L. Gibbs, 21, of Ripley, Miss., a junior at Jackson State who was the father of a young son.

The wounded included eight students and one other person. Two city policemen and a state highway patrolman were injured slightly by flying objects.

Drivers Called Targets

The incident was reported to have begun with stones and bottles being thrown at cars and passing white motorists on Lynch Street early in the evening. Jackson State students attributed the throwing to non-students. Similar trouble had occurred the night before but it was contained without injuries.

After the city and state police were summoned last night, someone set fire to a dump truck that had been parked near the campus.

Firemen were harassed when they answered the alarm. The Associated Press quoted an unidentified person as saying he had seen sniper fire directed against the firemen.

Witnesses said that about 75 to 100 students gathered in front of the west wing of Alexander Hall, the women's dormitory, and shouted angrily at the police milling in the street.

The witnesses said that someone tossed a wine bottle onto the concrete and that it broke with a loud crash.

What happened next is disputed.

Police Report Sniping

A succession of student witnesses said today that they heard no gunfire except that of the police. The police insist that there was sniper fire.

A Jackson television newsman caught the sounds of the action on a tape recording. The recording begins with the shouts of the students, then the crash of the bottle and then, immediately after that, a "bing-bing" sound that could have been the report of two shots from a small caliber weapon.

About two seconds later,

with no warning that could be heard on the newsman's tape the sound of the police fire begins. It is loud, fast and steady and it lasts 30 seconds without interruption. Then a ceasefire order is heard and the shooting stops.

Some students said they saw a policeman raise a bullhorn as if to give a warning, but no warning came, they said.

No tear gas was used.

The police apparently used shotguns firing 00 buckshot, which is a shot of pellets large enough to kill a deer at 100 yards.

Inch-Wide Bullet Holes

Some of the holes left in metal paneling under the dormitory windows were almost an inch in diameter. One shot left a one-inch hole in a concrete block inside the dormitory.

Charles Evers, the Negro Mayor of Fayette, Miss., whose daughter is a student at Jackson State, sent a telegram to President Nixon asking that Attorney General John N. Mitchell personally come to Jackson to head the investigation.

Mr. Evers conceded in an interview that the students or someone at the scene had been throwing stones.

"I am not saying they were right for throwing rocks," he said, "but rocks didn't warrant coming in and shooting. They [the police] came out to kill."

A contingent of the state National Guard had been called out shortly before midnight, but they were not on the scene when the shooting occurred.

About 225 students from neighboring Millsaps College, a predominantly white college, marched around the Governor's mansion this afternoon carrying signs protesting the killings.

Governor's Statement

Gov. John Bell Williams issued a statement in which he deplored "the tragic death of two young men" but avoided blaming the police.

"The origins and causes of the disturbances are still obscure," he said. "The circumstances attendant to the violent confrontation between students and law enforcement officers are under intense investigation."

Mayor Davis appointed a committee of five lawyers, three white and two Negro, to investigate the incident.

There has been some restlessness at Jackson State this year, but little violence until this week.

URDAY, MAY 16, 1970—



Associated Press

IN JACKSON, MISS.: Window of women's dormitory at state college shows effect of bullets that were shot, police say, in reply to sniper fire. Two died, nine were wounded.