

MITCHELL MEETS MISSISSIPPI AIDES

Confers With President of
Jackson State College

~~MAY 19 1970~~

Special to The New York Times

JACKSON, Miss., May 18—Attorney General John N. Mitchell conferred here today with the president of Jackson State College, where two Negroes were killed and seven wounded last week in a clash with the Mississippi police.

The Attorney General, who said he came to Jackson at the behest of President Nixon, said later that the meeting had been useful.

"I'm sure [the discussion] will be very helpful, not only in connection with the circumstances here in Jackson but in connection with similar potential such problems in the country—[and] also their elimination," Mr. Mitchell said.

The college head, Dr. John A. Peoples, met with Mr. Mitchell for more than two hours as agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation continued an inquiry into the slayings.

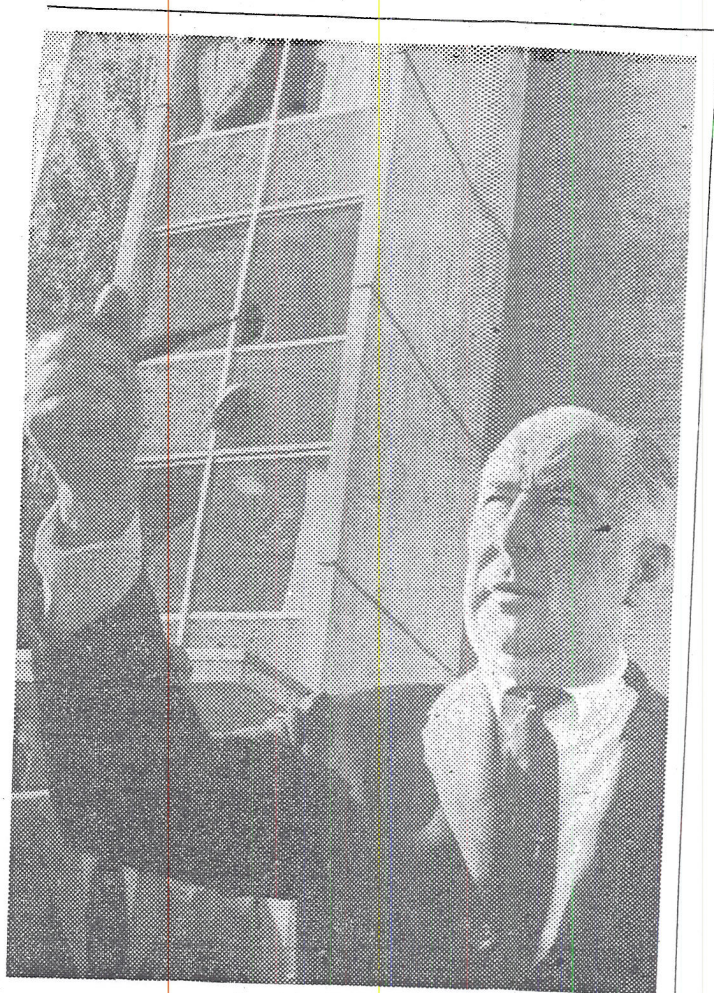
Also present at the closed conference was Russell C. Davis, Mayor of Jackson, and Leonard Garment, special assistant to President Nixon.

Mr. Mitchell refused to answer any questions following his statement. Justice Department aides also would not clarify why state officials had not attended the conference.

Separate investigations into the shootings early last Friday morning are being conducted

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United Press International
VISITS JACKSON STATE COLLEGE: Attorney General John N. Mitchell in front of a bullet-scarred building. He conferred with Dr. John A. Peoples, the college president

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by the Mississippi Highway Patrol and the Jackson police department.

Both agencies had officers on the campus when a 30-second shotgun barrage cut down students and a few bystanders outside a women's dormitory of the predominantly black state college.

Police officials said sniper fire had preceded the volley at close range, an allegation hotly disputed by blacks who were at the scene.

The Highway Patrol, which has been blamed for doing all the shooting, has declined to comment on the incident. The patrol is an all-white law enforcement agency.

Outraged black leaders here and in other parts of the nation have demanded a thorough Federal investigation of what they contended was an "unprovoked massacre."

"I came here because of the concern of the President and myself," Mr. Mitchell said after meeting in a hotel room with the Mayor and Dr. Peoples.

Mr. Mitchell was scheduled to go to Cleveland, Miss., tomorrow to speak before the Delta Council, a conference of Mississippi business leaders. His office said the speaking date had been scheduled before last week's violence broke out, and that the Attorney General had added Jackson to his visit to Mississippi.

Dr. Peoples said the Attorney General had assured him that the Justice Department was "deeply concerned about this tragedy."

Protest at the Capitol

Earlier in the day about 500 black public school students walked out of classes around the city to form a peaceful procession to the domed state Capitol and silently demonstrated against the killings for about one hour. State and city policemen were on hand, but there were no incidents.

The extent of the economic boycott called by black leaders for this week in Jackson was not yet determined, but one element of the white business community appeared to be doing a brisk business with local blacks—the gun shops.

Over the weekend Negro leaders had called for the creation of a defense league to protect blacks in future confrontations with the police.

It was expected there would be a surge of gun and ammunition buying this week by blacks, more for the psychological impact on the white community than for the hoarding of weapons, although the latter was expected to be a natural result of last week's police action.

The tone of sermons in white churches around the city yesterday appeared to be mixed.

Several ministers called the student demonstrations "Communist-inspired" and a departure from Christian teachings.

Shootings Renounced

Once church, however, a Roman Catholic congregation made up of both blacks and whites, one of the few heavily mixed parishes in the state, called the shootings "a brutal and ruthless use of force... uncalled for and indefensible."

A proclamation approved by all communicants at masses at Christ the King Church read:

"We demand that more restraint be exercised by law enforcement authorities. The use of fear tactics to keep people in line is a thing of the past. People will be guided by the respect they have for the law and such actions as were displayed on May 15 only serve to destroy any trust in authority."

The Catholic Bishop of Mississippi, the Very Rev. Joseph B. Brunini, deplored the bloodshed and called the shootings an "appalling event [that] must arouse the moral consciousness

of every citizen of Jackson and of Mississippi. We are moving entirely too slowly in removing the practices of segregation within our state. We have not done enough to dispel the hatred which exists in our city."

One of the shooting victims, Phillip L. Gibbs, a 21-year-old Jackson State student, was buried yesterday at family services in the small northeast Mississippi community of Ripley.

Burial arrangements for the other dead young man, James Earl Green, 17, of Jackson, were still being made.

Mr. Mitchell was accompanied on the trip by his wife and daughter, and Leonard Garment, a special assistant to the President, and Fred LaRue, a White House staff member from Mississippi.

Mr. Garment, Mr. LaRue and Mrs. Marge Curet, associate director of the Atlanta office of the Justice Department's Community Relations Service, joined the discussion with the Mayor and Dr. Peoples.

Congressional Inquiry

WASHINGTON, May 18 (UPI)—A panel of Congressmen, calling themselves an "ad hoc committee," will travel to Jackson, Miss., Wednesday to make their own investigation of the shootings.

Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Democrat of Manhattan, said that he and at least three others would go to Jackson to conduct a hearing and interview witnesses.

Mr. Powell said that Aaron Henry, head of the Mississippi chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was making arrangements for the hearing, which will be held in the Jackson Masonic Temple. Mr. Powell said the other Congressmen who will make the trip were Representatives Charles C. Diggs Jr., Democrat of Michigan; William Clay, Democrat of Missouri, and Allard K. Lowenstein, Democrat of Nassau County, L.I.