

MITCHELL REGRETS CAMPUS DISORDER

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In Mississippi, He Calls This
the 'Saddest Semester'—
Negroes Protest Speech

By JON NORDHEIMER
Special to The New York Times

CLEVELAND, Miss., May 19
—Attorney General John N. Mitchell said today that American education was experiencing the "saddest semester" in its history.

"There can be no greater evidence of disorder in society than the sound of gunfire on a college campus," Mr. Mitchell told a group of Mississippi

Delta business leaders in the heartland of the state's plantation economy.

Even as he was speaking at Delta State College, a group of about 100 Negro civil rights workers demonstrated outside the campus and were confronted by shotgun-wielding city policemen.

The demonstration leaders said they were protesting the Attorney General's appearance before the business group, the Delta Council, which they contended had refused membership to Negroes until a token few were admitted this year in anticipation of Mr. Mitchell's appearance.

About 3,000 people, all white except for two or three Negroes, were in the athletic field house on the campus to hear the Attorney General. He re-

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ceived a standing ovation both at the beginning and the end of his speech.

Referring to the shootings of students on campuses at Kent State University in Ohio and last week's incident at Jackson State College in Mississippi, where two blacks were killed and seven wounded by the State Highway Patrol, Mr. Mitchell said:

"I, as Attorney General, will not offer judgments now on matters under urgent investigation, but I will say this: this is a nation determined to live within the law—neither violent demonstrations nor unrestrained reactions are part of that law."

The first duty of peace-keeping forces is to "protect the innocent," he went on.

"There are times when the shock of tragedy awakens people to the futility of violent actions and reactions, and I believe we are going through such a time. We in this Administration will do everything that responsive leadership and cool judgment can do to hasten the return of peaceful change to this country."

The demonstrators, led by Aaron Henry, president of the Mississippi chapter of the Na-

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People, marched about two miles through the shimmering heat of this small northwest Mississippi town. It is in the heart of the flat Delta country, a rich alluvial plain of the Mississippi River which flows about 40 miles west of here, past the wide fields where the new cotton crop is just pushing up through the fertile black soil.

Charges Racist Role

Mr. Henry said the protest was directed against Mr. Mitchell's alleged role in making possible a "rebirth of a horrible racist climate" in the United States.

"His sympathies are with the segregationists," he asserted.

Alex Waites, N.A.A.C.P. field secretary for Mississippi, said Mr. Mitchell's acceptance of an invitation to address a "racist outfit" was what he termed another indication that the Administration "had aligned itself with segregationist elements."

A spokesman for the Delta Council — among its members is Senator James O. Eastland, who owns many acres in nearby Doddsville — said Negroes had always belonged to the organization, but he declined to give a number.

When city policemen supported by a reserve of highway patrolmen, stopped the marchers at the entrance to the campus, civil rights lawyers appeared in Federal District Court in Clarksdale to get a restraining order to enjoin the police from blocking the march.

However, by the time the order reached Cleveland the Attorney General had finished speaking and had left town. Meanwhile, several demonstrators, young Negroes and whites, had acquired admission tickets to the field house and were admitted to the building as Mr. Mitchell spoke.

Mitchell Drives Away

When he had finished, one of the Negroes said: "let's go tell the Attorney General what we think of him."

Seven of the young men moved through the exiting crowd toward the speaker's platform, with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation trying to keep up with them. By the time they had made their way to the platform, however, other agents had escorted the Attorney General out a side door and into a car, which drove away to a waiting helicopter.

In his address Mr. Mitchell

told the business leaders that the nation's slowing economy was operating within the framework of the Nixon Administration's long-range plan to curb inflation.

"At a time last year when inflation psychology was rampant, the President made it clear that he intended to help cool the overheated economy," he said.

"Now, to put it mildly, there seems to be universal agreement that the economy is no longer racing at an unsustainable pace. We have done what we said we had to do."

Mr. Mitchell also said that the Administration would not resort to wage and price controls, "since we are determined to deal with the causes rather than the symptoms of inflation."

Muskie to Head Delegation

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 19—Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, announced today that he had chartered a plane to carry 60 to 70 persons to a funeral service in Mississippi for a Jackson State College student killed in a clash last week with the police.