

Legislators' Shock At Jackson Scene

United Press

Jackson, Miss.

Federal lawmakers looked at the bullet-riddled dormitory at Jackson State College yesterday, interviewed survivors and one said the slaying of two black students by State patrolmen was "little short of obscene."

"What we've seen here is enough to make a grown-

man cry that something like this could happen in America," said Senator Birch Bayh (Dem-Ind.).

The violence at Jackson State last Friday, he said, was "symptomatic of a national ill... it's young versus old and North versus South. We're going to destroy ourselves within unless we

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find some way to turn this thing around."

Others on the unofficial, independent inquiry with Bayh included Senator Walter Mondale (Dem-Minn.), and Representatives Don Edwards (Dem-Calif.), and William Clay (Dem-Mo.), and Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP.

Mondale said "an assault on the dignity of this country was made here in an utterly disgraceful fashion. It's little short of obscene."

"We came here hoping to find out what happened, and I think we did," said Edwards. "As a white man, I am deeply ashamed."

SNIPER

Clay said the reports of sniper fire which allegedly prompted police to open fire was of "an established pattern in this country of genocide toward black people."

Two students told the delegation that they saw a pop bottle thrown at police from the opposite direction of the dormitory and a coed said she saw a rock thrown. All stoutly denied there was any sniper fire.

"It's unbelievable," observed Bayh. "It looks like the building had been raped by all those bullets."

BROOKE

Senator Edward Brooke (Rep-Mass.), who visited the campus Tuesday, returned to Washington and told newsmen that the killings were the result of "reckless and intolerable assault."

"It is clear that utterly excessive force was used on the campus," the Negro senator said. "It is impossible to believe that any provocation would justify this amount of force."

Brooke said he saw and heard no evidence to substantiate reports that there had been snipers on the campus.

"It is evident that at least some officers ignored every standard governing police restraint," Brooke said. "Whatever the alleged provocation, the first obligation of those responsible for public order is to safeguard the lives of innocent bystanders. Under no circumstances is a wild and indiscriminate fusillade justified."

Brooke said he urged Jackson State students to be calm and "stay within the system."

"We have had enough martyrs, we don't need any more," Brooke said. But, he added, "I'm very fearful this is growing."

EVIDENCE

Federal appeals Judge J. P. Coleman granted a request by state officials that they be allowed to remove from the dormitory sections of metal and glass hit by the patrol bullets for use in the investigation of the killings.

But Coleman declared that the material must be turned over immediately to the FBI when it is removed.

More than 200 blacks clustered on the campus Tuesday to block attempts by highway patrol investigators to remove the material. They claimed the patrol would damage the evidence and said it should remain on the campus as a memorial to the two dead.

REACTION

A group of blacks, including Fayette mayor Charles Evers, took Coleman's order on the campus and burned it. One of them, the Rev. W. L. Jenkins, declared: "We will bring the white people of Mississippi to their senses, or to their damn knees."

A spokesman for Governor John Bell Williams said the state would try to remove the material from the dorm "when we get ready."

"There is no point in subjecting men to possible acts of violence in order to remove something that has little if any evidentiary value," the spokesman said.