

# President to Name A Panel to Study Kent State Deaths

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WASHINGTON, May 24—A White House aide disclosed today that President Nixon would appoint this week a high-level commission "to get to the bottom of the Kent State tragedy" in which four students were killed during an antiwar demonstration May 4.

Herbert G. Klein, the President's director of communications, said the President was selecting commission members with "the ability to look with a thorough and unquestioned investigative mind at all the facts of the case."

Mr. Klein, appearing on the

Continued on Page 28, Column 1

28

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## NIXON TO APPOINT KENT STATE PANEL

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

Columbia Broadcasting System's "Face the Nation" program, also pointed out that eight White House aides had been visiting college campuses around the nation in an attempt to establish "a better two-way communication" with students.

The campus visits, coupled with the decision to name a commission to investigate the Kent State shootings, indicated a growing concern within the Administration over student protests against the war in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Klein, referring to the students, said: "We have a President who is concerned with what they are saying; a President who is willing to listen, but also one who feels that he alone must make the final decisions on the major questions of policy."

The day after the fatal shootings of the four students at Kent State University in Ohio by National Guardsmen, the college president, Robert I. White, urged the President to appoint a commission to investigate the matter as thoroughly, he said, as the Warren Commission had investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

### Muskie Wires Nixon

A day later, Mr. Nixon ordered the Justice Department and White House aides to make a complete report on the shootings.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said today that the decision to name a commission was based on findings in the report. He declined to discuss the findings of the prospective membership of the commission.

Meanwhile, Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, sent a telegram to the President today, asking that he direct the Justice Department to empanel a special Federal grand jury to investigate the fatal shootings of two Negroes at Jackson State College in Mississippi on May 15.

Senator Muskie, the Democratic candidate for Vice President in 1968, flew to Jackson last Friday to attend the funeral for one of the slain youths.

In his telegram to the President, Senator Muskie noted that Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi had ordered the removal of evidence from the scene of the shootings at Jackson State.

### Claim Is Forfeited

"The Williams administration has forfeited any claim that it is prepared to protect the rights or lives of black citizens in Mississippi," Senator Muskie said. The Senator added that it was not enough for Attorney General John N. Mitchell to promise "a departmental investigation."

Mr. Mitchell flew to Jackson last Monday and conferred with the college president, Dr. John A. Peoples. He was accompanied by Leonard Garment, a White House aide.

The Attorney General said he had gone to Jackson "because of the concern of the President and myself," and he pledged a full investigation into the shootings by the state police.

In addition, separate investigations are under way by the Mississippi Highway Patrol and the Jackson Police Department. The shootings on the Jackson State campus took place outside a women's dormitory.