

MITCHELL SPURS JACKSON INQUIRY

**Calls a Special Grand Jury
After Mississippi Ignores
Ultimatum in Shootings**

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WASHINGTON, June 19—A special Federal grand jury will be convened in Jackson, Miss., on June 29 to investigate the fatal shooting of two students last month at Jackson State College, Attorney General John N. Mitchell announced today.

Mr. Mitchell warned, during a visit to the campus of the predominantly Negro college last month, that he would take "appropriate action" to get the facts if state officials failed to cooperate with the Justice Department's investigation of the incident.

Today's announcement suggested that Mr. Mitchell's patience had worn thin. The special grand jury will convene only a week before the formation on July 6 of a regular Federal grand jury, which had been expected to undertake the investigation of the incident.

Mr. Mitchell took note in his statement of the forthcoming meeting of the regular grand jury. But he said that nonetheless he had dispatched Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard to Jackson last Tuesday to urge Chief Judge William Harold Cox to call the special grand jury.

The special jury "will make a detailed investigation of what actually happened on this occasion" to determine whether or not any Federal laws were violated, Mr. Mitchell said.

Judge Cox called state and Federal officials before him on Tuesday and ordered them "to fully cooperate and coordinate their efforts," Mr. Mitchell said.

A state grand jury is also scheduled to convene on July 6, and about 150 subpoenas

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have been issued in connection with the shooting incident. Judge Cox instructed the Federal and state officials to avoid conflicts in the two grand jury inquiries and to cooperate in handling material submitted to the two grand juries.

Federal investigators have been balked in their efforts to discover if students' civil rights were violated during the May 15 episode, in which state troopers sprayed shotgun pellets at a dormitory as about 200 students stood before it. Seven persons were wounded in addition to the two young men who were killed.

Under orders from Gov. John Bell Williams of Mississippi, the State Highway Patrol has refused to turn over its weapons to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for tests. The highway patrol also has not offered any of its officers for interviews by the F.B.I.

Governor Williams released a report earlier this month that charged that an investigation showed that state troopers had been shot at by a sniper before they opened fire. Mr. Leonard

has replied that so far the Government does not have sufficient evidence to support the report that a sniper was present.

Mr. Mitchell cautioned in his statement that "the mere convening of a grand jury is no indication of guilt or innocence but it is an important step in the process of inquiry established by our legal system."

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, who flew to Jackson for the funeral of one of the slain youths, commended Mr. Mitchell today for his decision.

Mr. Muskie had sent a series of telegrams to President Nixon and Mr. Mitchell urging that such an investigation be undertaken. He called today for an investigation that would be "dispassionate, unbiased and thorough."