

Two on Nixon Panel Term College Deaths Unjustified

By JACK ROSENTHAL SEP 28 1970
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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27—The killing of six students in Ohio and Mississippi by the law enforcement authorities last May was "completely unjustified," two members of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest said today.

James Ahern, 38 years old, the Chief of Police of New Haven, and Joseph Rhodes Jr., 22 a junior fellow at Harvard University, gave this conclusion today in a television interview following the release yesterday of the commission's general report.

The commission conducted extensive investigations both of the death of four students at Kent State University in Ohio and of two students at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

'Lack of Concern'

The commission found "a remarkable, incredible lack of concern for the human life of 'black people' among the police in Jackson, Mr. Rhodes said.

He said that testimony concerning the firing by National Guard troops at Kent State was contradictory. But, he added, "we found that in both cases,

the use of the deadly force that was used was completely unjustified."

Mr. Ahern said he agreed with that judgment.

The two men made their remarks on the National Broadcasting Company's "Meet the Press."

The commission will publish extensive reports on its Kent and Jackson investigations later this week.

In its general report, the commission declared that government, students and universities shared the responsibility for preventing campus disorders. The report pleaded with all sides "to draw back from the brink" of hostile, dangerous division.

However, the White House, college administrators and students were already pointing new fingers of blame at one another.

President Nixon sent a letter

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yesterday to 900 university presidents to warn them of ways "extremists attempt to trick college students into support of lawlessness, disruption and violence."

Some university officials contested today the commission's assignment of partial responsibility to universities.

Students insisted that the policies of the Nixon Administration were the cause of campus upheavals.

The President's views came in a covering letter for an open letter to college students, dated Sept. 21, from J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The White House mailing came as officials contended that the commission report clearly did not put the blame on the Administration. These officials also disputed the report's urgent tone.

Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the California state college system, defended the universities' role.

"Many universities have indeed coped successfully with student unrest," he said. "The sky is not falling. Many victories have been won."

Mr. Dumke said that recommendations of the commission were "calculated to please the violence-prone."

Other educators disputed the commission's call for the President to exercise moral leadership and its recommendations for university reform.

James Robinson, president of Ohio State University, described the report as disappointing and said that it put too much emphasis on the Vietnam war.

Some students dismissed the report for the opposite reason.

"A campus report that doesn't come out and put the blame on the Administration very hard, on the war that is still killing thousands of people, isn't worth talking about," said David Hollander, president of The Harvard Crimson.

Other persons, however, praised the report because it did not single out targets of blame and because it called instead for balanced action by all sectors.

"I read the report with great

admiration," James M. Hester, president of New York University, said. "It presented the Government, the academic leadership, the whole country with a clear statement of the major problem before the nation."

Commission members stood firm in their belief that neither blame nor future responsibility could be assigned in only one direction.

Previous major Presidential commissions concerning violence made major spending and program recommendations.

"But when we addressed ourselves to the President, to universities, to law enforcement, to students and to the public, we didn't ask for any pie in the sky," Bayless Manning, 47, another member of the commission, said. "We only asked people, at each level, to do these things that they can do."

Mr. Manning is the dean of the Stanford Law School.

The commission report focused first on the President, saying only he could offer the moral leadership necessary to start a period of nationwide reconciliation.

But the commission also called for conciliatory action by state governments, law enforcement agencies, universities, faculties, alumni, students and the public, and made recommendations to each sector.

"To some people," a staff member said today, "it may sound like we're trying to be all things to all people. But there is responsibility enough here for all of us. The issue ought not to be who's to blame, but ohw do we all solve the problem?"

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