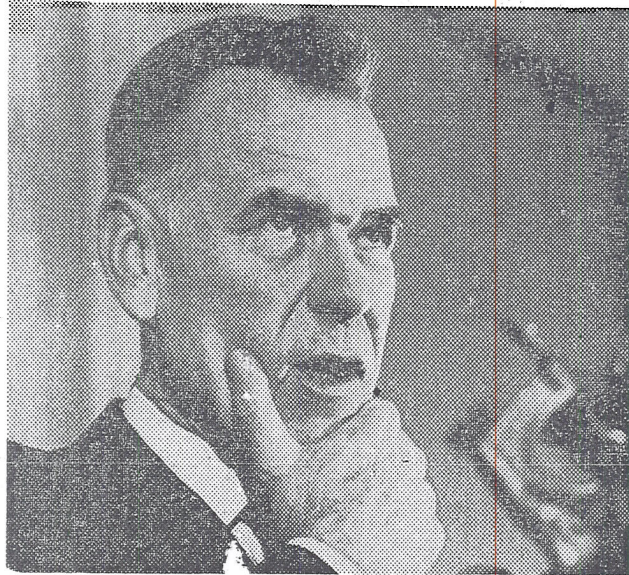


# President of Kent Scores Jury's Report on Shooting



United Press International

**President Robert I. White of Kent State at news session**

**By JACK ROSENTHAL**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9—The president of Kent State University said today that the recent special grand jury report on the Kent shootings was not only inaccurate but also reflected a frightening and wide assault on all free universities. "If pursued in all its nuances," Robert I. White, the president, told a special news conference here, the report "would eventually destroy not only Kent State but all major universities in America." The condemnation was Mr. White's first public response to the grand jury. Its report, Oct. 16, exonerated National Guardsmen whose bullets last May killed four Kent State students and wounded nine. Until a Federal court order last week, Mr. White had been forbidden to comment by a state judge. Mr. White chose as his first

Continued on Page 30, Column 3

# Kent's President Scores Jury Report on Shooting

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

forum the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, comprising 113 major public institutions, which began its annual meeting here today.

Mr. White, a tall man with wiry gray hair, spoke slowly and carefully. The grand jury went beyond criticism of the Kent State administration, he said.

"The charges are applicable to all higher education," he said. "In fact, the constitutional safeguards of American democracy are themselves under fire."

He suggested that the grand jury report was symptomatic of a national "satanic alliance" between extremists of both the right and left. "Action produces reaction, followed by overreaction and increasingly endangering the university's ability to exist," he said.

While the report has been well received in Ohio, Mr. White said, he felt compelled to speak out against it. Alluding

to campus targets of McCarthyism, he said, "The time has come when we must begin saying some of the things that were said in the nineteen-fifties, come hell or high water."

The grand jury indicted 25 persons in connection with riot charges arising from disorders on the campus after American troops had been sent into Cambodia. All but four of the indictments are now public, and they are against students, faculty members and young outsiders.

Mr. White said today that he would not answer the question of whether the grand jury was unfair in not also indicting National Guardsmen. One reason, he said, is the possibility of a Federal grand jury investigation.

"I would be very unhappy over another investigation that would add to our strain," he said. "But a Federal grand jury would help to answer some questions about which considerable confusion remains."

He did not criticize the National Guard but said pointedly

that if there were further disorder, he would first call the Ohio Highway Patrol, which he described as disciplined and well-trained.

## Report Called Inaccurate

There was no hesitancy in his criticism of the grand jury report, however. He described it as inaccurate and said it "disregarded clear evidence."

Mr. White would not elaborate on these assertions, saying that he would go into specifics in a speech Saturday in Columbus, Ohio. But his statement was taken to refer to the Kent State report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Contrary to a central finding of the grand jury, this report quoted National Guardsmen as saying that they did not fire into a crowd of students because they were endangered.

Mr. White expanded extensively, however, on his larger point—that the public was vulnerable to "a frightening misunderstanding of the role and mission of higher education."

One level of misunderstanding concerns campus adminis-

trators, he said. He spoke of "the almost hopeless task of anyone who attempts to hold a balance against the rash extremists" of both sides.

"Too many people think that when the president says something, everybody jumps," he said. Well, it's just not that way in a university."

## 'Grotesque Generalization'

A second "grotesque generalization" relates to students, he said. While there are "some immeasurably sophisticated, well-trained, dedicated destroyers," the great majority wish to work peacefully to correct social wrongs.

"The academic community is not to be considered a sanctuary for those who wish to disobey the laws. . . . But neither is the academic community a place where ideas—no matter how offensive—are to be suppressed," he said.

Another university president, the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh of Notre Dame, expressed similar views today in a separate meeting with reporters.