

# U.S. Jury to Reopen Study Of Jackson State Killings

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—A Federal grand jury will reopen its investigation into the killing of two black students by Mississippi police officers last May 14 at Jackson State College.

The grand jury has been in recess for five months, pending the outcome of investigations by a local grand jury and by the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

Now that those investigations are completed, the special Federal grand jury will resume hearings on Dec. 7. The hearings, in Jackson, Miss., may last "possibly a month," John W. Hushen, the Justice Department spokesman said today.

Mr. Hushen would give no further details, but it is known

that Federal officials were deeply disturbed by the findings of the Hinds County grand jury.

State and city policemen reportedly fired 150 shots into a crowd of students and a Jackson State dormitory during a 28-second barrage on May 14. In addition to the two deaths, 12 students were wounded.

The incident followed by 10 days the deaths of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, and helped bring about the appointment of the Commission on Campus Unrest.

The Hinds County grand jury exonerated the Mississippi policemen, saying they "had a

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# Federal Jury to Reopen Study Of 2 Killings at Jackson State

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right and were justified in discharging their weapons."

The commission, however, in a special report on Jackson State, assailed both the grand jury and the policemen. It described the grand jury report as "patently inadequate" and based on "a number of inaccurate findings."

The commission said the conduct of the police had been "completely unwarranted and unjustified." City policemen followed "a pattern of deceit" and lied to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the commission report said.

Papers concerning the Federal grand jury investigation have been sequestered in the United States District Court in Jackson. It was not possible, therefore, to learn even such customarily public details as which statutes it is looking into.

But three likely areas of Federal interest are evident from the report of the commission on unrest. One concerns the alleged lies by policemen to the F.B.I. A second concerns the alleged conspiracy of deception by policemen. The third concerns a Federal statute covering civil rights violations by law enforcement officers.

This statute could provide the principal legal basis for Federal intervention into the

Kent State case, in which four students were killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen.

A Portage county grand jury has exonerated the guardsmen and no Federal grand jury has been impaneled. Whether one will be, Mr. Hushen said today, "is still an open question."

"We expect a decision within a month," he said.

It is customary for the Justice Department to defer initially to local law enforcement agencies. That custom was broken in the Jackson State case last May after the police refused to turn over physical evidence to Federal investigators.

The Federal grand jury was then impaneled and, with its subpoena power, it compelled the Mississippi Highway Patrol to produce spent shotgun casings picked up at the scene of the shooting.

These casings included some for a type of shell used only by city policemen. Until that time, the city police had insisted that none of them fired during the incident.

The commission on unrest established that at least one of the dead and one of the wounded had been struck by this type of shotgun shell.

The Federal grand jury also subpoenaed other evidence and heard some witnesses before recessing, pending the other investigations.