

# Reprisal Threat in Kent State Cases

Examiner News Services

COLUMBUS (Ohio) — An attorney for the Ohio American Civil Liberties Union said today that some of the 25 indicted in the Kent State violence might seek redress against government officials and members of the grand jury.

Indictments against 20 of the 25 were dropped yesterday.

"They may seek redress in the courts against those persons in the government and the courts responsible for putting them under a Sword of Damocles," Niki Schwartz said.

## Ramsey Clark

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, co-counsel for Craig Morgan, who was president of the student body at the time of the disorders, said at the same news conference:

"There has been a failure

in the system of criminal justice in Ohio. The dismissals haven't corrected it."

## Insufficient Evidence

The Ohio attorney general, conceding "we just didn't have enough to go on," asked yesterday that charges be dropped against the remaining 20 defendants.

Attorney General William J. Brown made his unexpected announcement after a jury had acquitted the fourth of the 25 indicted on charges stemming from the May, 1970, disorders at Kent in which National Guardsmen shot and killed four students.

Brown, elected after the indictments were returned in October, 1970, said his office had examined the evidence brought before the grand jury that indicted the 25.

## 'As Far As We Could'

"We just didn't have enough to go on," Brown said. "We went as far as we

could possibly go, ethically and morally, and we just weren't going to waste the taxpayers' money by trying to go further."

Clark said today he was "personally outraged" at what he said was injustice at Kent.

Both Clark and Schwartz were designated by the American Civil Liberties Union to represent Morgan. Neither received a fee.

Morgan said his family had estimated it would have cost them \$20,000 to \$30,000 in attorney's fees alone if they had had to pay for legal representation during the 14 months the indictment was hanging over him.

"What does the normal man in this country do when he finds himself under indictment for a crime he knows he didn't commit?" Morgan asked.

Clark said his investigation showed that Morgan was trying to keep the campus cool during the weekend of the disorders which brought on the confrontation with Ohio National Guardsmen. The troops were sent onto the campus by then Gov. James A. Rhodes after two nights of burning and rioting.

Clark said the indictments helped erode confidence in the American system of justice among youths.

"If students say what they really think about Indochina, some will get shot and the others indicted," he added.