

May 4, 1970

By ARTHUR S. KRAUSE

PITTSBURGH—In the afternoon of May 4, 1970, my wife and I learned, through telephone calls and radio newscasts, that our daughter Allison had been killed at Kent State University. Several hours later we arrived at the hospital in Ravenna, Ohio, to witness a scene of military activity in the town which recalled for me similar scenes from the last months of the war in France and Germany.

Two policemen informed us that guardsmen had been killed on the campus and the local newspaper carried glaring headlines to this effect. The atmosphere pervading Ravenna and the hospital was indeed comparable to that which one would find in the aftermath of a fire-fight between G.I.'s and the enemy. It was not until a C.B.S. employe came up to us and insisted the police and Ohio National Guard were lying about the dead guardsmen that I sensed the future.

"The demonstration was over," he said, "when they suddenly opened fire and killed the students." At that moment I knew the great whitewash had begun.

A few weeks later I spoke to John Ehrlichman at the Key Biscayne White House and he assured me I was mistaken. The conduct of the Ohio Guardsmen would be fully investigated and, he said, there would be "no whitewash." I responded by telling him I would only believe it when the President and his Justice Department demonstrated the sincerity of his assurances.

Six months after the tragedy, the state of Ohio made the Administration's snow job that much easier by demanding, and dutifully receiving, total exoneration of the National Guard's role in the killings, and condemnation of the university, faculty and students. This childish prejudicial finding was solemnly rendered by a Portage County grand jury.

Within twenty-four hours of my daughter's murder I knew justice would not only be delayed, it would be denied as long as this Administration remained in office. With this thought in mind I appealed to then Attorney General Mitchell not to allow the Portage County grand jury to become an obscene travesty of justice. I am still waiting for the Justice Department to act.

It is almost two years now since Allison and her fellow students Sandra Scheuer, Bill Schroeder and Jeff Miller were shot to death during a fusillade which violated both Federal and state laws. The Government has amply demonstrated its contempt for those laws when enforcement would not be politically advantageous.