

SFExaminer

AUG 5 1973

'... Students Started Beating Me ... I Grabbed My Gun'

The Kent State Triggerman

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — A man claiming he worked for the FBI may have fired a shot that sparked the killing of four Kent State University students by National Guardsmen in 1970, according to letters released yesterday by Sen. Birch Bayh, (D-Ind.)

Authors of the letters said the man whom Bayh identified as Terrence Brooks Norman, 24, now a District of Columbia policeman, told them he had fired a shot.

Questioned yesterday, Norman declined comment. 'I will have to consult with my attorney,' he said.

Money

Bayh said FBI director Clarence Kelley told him Norman had never been under contract or directly employed by the FBI, but had received \$125 in April, 1970, for providing information on the National Socialist White People's Party, a successor to the American Nazi Party.

The authors of the letters were not named by Bayh.

Guardsmen summoned to the Kent State campus in Ohio have said they opened fire on the students only after a sniper shot at them.

Tape recordings of the campus antiwar demonstration on May 4, 1970, record a single shot of unknown origin, followed by firing from the guardsmen.

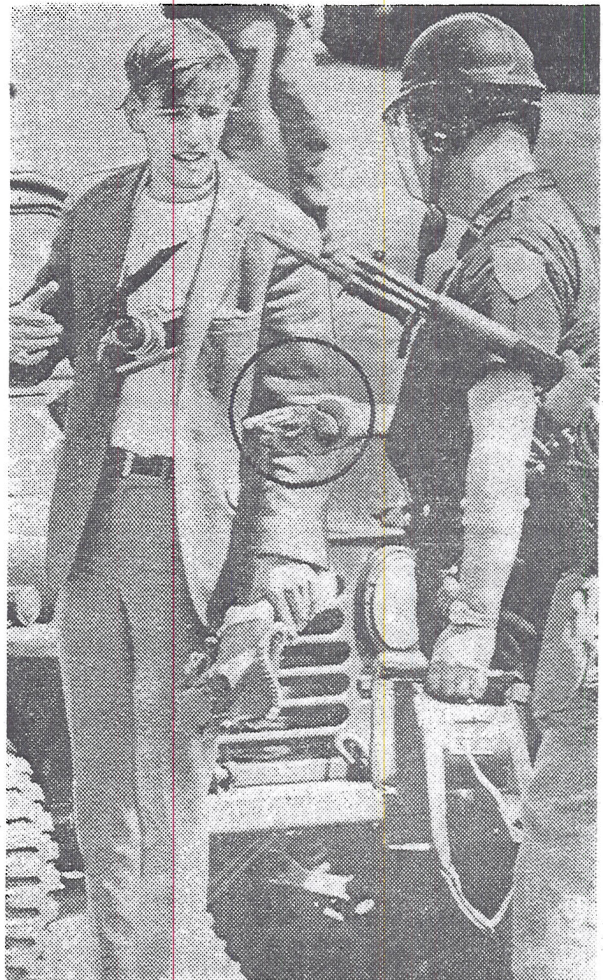
Catalyst

Bayh speculated that the unexplained first shot prompted the guard response. 'In my judgement,' he said, 'it is entirely possible that one Terrence Norman was the catalyst.'

Attorney general Elliot L. Richardson announced Friday the Justice Department was reopening its inquiry into the killings as a result of unspecified new evidence.

One letter from the company commander's letter said he did not personally arrest Norman, but questioned "several others" who were present. He said four enlisted men made the following statement:

"As Norman ran toward our line, people were chasing him, yelling 'stop that man — he killed someone.' Another man, a lieutenant, overheard Norman tell the campus police, 'I think I shot one of the students ... the students grabbed at me and started beating me, so I grabbed my gun.'"



Police disarm Terrence Norman after Kent State tragedy in 1970. Now a policeman, Norman is believed to have triggered the killings.

—AP Photo