

# Light on Kent State

The judicial actions in the wake of the disorders at Kent State University in 1970 had the appearance of a cover-up rather than an effort to get to the bottom of the events that culminated in the death of four students and the wounding of nine others. The doubts and suspicions—and, most important, the outrage and anxieties of the victims' aggrieved families—are at long last to be given a credible hearing when the issues of that American tragedy go to a Federal grand jury in Cleveland.

In addition to new testimony by the Justice Department, the jurors will be able to sift extensive reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by the Scranton Commission on Campus Disorders, which seem to have been given scant attention by the original Ohio grand jury. J. Stanley Pottinger, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, has pursued the case energetically ever since former Attorney General Elliot Richardson reopened the case last August, reversing the termination of the inquiry in 1971 by his predecessor.

Equally encouraging has been the pledge by Senator William B. Saxbe that he would "excuse" himself from any decisions concerning Kent State if he is confirmed as Attorney General. This hands-off posture is correct, in view of Senator Saxbe's past service as an officer of the Ohio National Guard and his earlier publicly expressed doubts about the wisdom of a new investigation.