

# Judge in Kent Trial To Allow Questions On Political Beliefs

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CLEVELAND, June 16 (UPI)

—Judge Donald Young of the United States District Court ruled today that plaintiffs in the \$48-million Kent State University civil damage suit could be questioned about their political beliefs.

In so doing he rejected a motion by Joseph Kelner, the plaintiffs' attorney, that defense attorneys be prohibited from inquiring into the political beliefs of a plaintiff.

"This is not a political trial," Mr. Kelner said.

However, Judge Young said a basic issue in the trial was "how far may a man act in support of his beliefs and how far may the government suppress, not the holding of those beliefs, but the translation of them into action."

The combined damage suit was filed against Gov. James A. Rhodes and 42 other persons by the parents of the four students killed and nine wounded by National Guard troops during an antiwar demonstration on the Kent State campus on May 4, 1970.

Barry Morris, a former Ohio National guardsman, who is a defendant, concluded his testimony today by describing the events and movements of the guardsmen as they walked to the area where they turned and fired on the students.

Also testifying was Larry Mowrer of Wooster, Ohio, a former guardsman who said he fired two rounds from his rifle.

"I had the feeling that I hadn't harmed anyone," said Mr. Mowrer. "I was praying that no one had been killed or injured."

Asked about how he felt regarding the shootings, Mr. Mowrer replied: "I felt ashamed, I still do."

The plaintiffs also dismissed today, their case against James Farriss who was also a guardsman at the time.