

## Questions for the Police

New York policemen are as entitled as anyone else to a presumption of innocence until they are found guilty. But from Mayor Lindsay's angry comments on their failure last Friday to contain marauding construction workers bent on mayhem, it is clear that some members of the force have a lot to explain.

City Hall officials concede that a number of calls had been received that same morning warning of planned violence against student demonstrators in the Wall Street district. These were duly passed on to the Police Department, which had received similar information directly.

Certainly at City Hall the police force on hand was wholly inadequate to cope with the frenzied mob determined to raise a flag that had been lowered to half-staff in memory of the student dead of Kent State University.

Some of the questions that should be forthcoming from the inquiry launched by the Mayor are to what extent policemen literally stood by as the "hard-hats" went about their brutal work; why was not a single arrest made as these thugs attacked the students; why reserves were not rushed to City Hall in the twenty minutes or so of mob action, and similarly why patrolmen were not sent in time to rescue the victims of the invaders at nearby Pace College.

Beyond these, there is the deeper question of what must be done to restore the position of a police force that over the months has behaved better than those of most large cities in these times of terrible tension.

But whatever the provocation no community can afford to allow its police force to fail as New York's did last week.

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## Campus Dissent in Saigon

The closing of the University of Saigon and of all the city's elementary and secondary schools for an indefinite period adds a poignant footnote, not only to the issues of the war but to the outcry against it on America's campuses. The shutdown was ordered by the Thieu Government in answer to a rising tide of student protest against both the war and the Government's often repressive policies. Students in Saigon, moreover, appear to agree with those in the United States in viewing the invasion of Cambodia as a postponement of prospects for peace.

There is cruel irony in the Nixon Administration's portrayal of the American mission of protecting the Saigon regime as a symbol of democratic rule in Southeast Asia, while that Government lives in growing fear of its own rising generation. The Vietnamization of the war does not seem to be moving ahead as fast as the Americanization of Saigon's campuses. It is not likely that the young people's quest for peace will be stopped by President Thieu's effort not to hear it.

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