

School Boycott

Blacks March in Jackson

S.F.
Chapman

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Jackson, Miss.

About 500 negro youths — several wearing black arm bands — marched on the governor's mansion in downtown Jackson yesterday to protest the fatal shooting of two black students by highway patrol officers at Jackson State College.

The demonstration, which followed massive walkouts by students at predominantly black public schools, came a few hours before United States Attorney General John Mitchell's meeting with local officials over the shootings last Friday at Jackson State.

Mitchell, accompanied by his wife Martha, told newsmen upon his arrival that he was here "to show our concern and see what we can do about taking care of the situation."

Mitchell already had planned to be in the state to speak today to the Delta Council. (Negro groups planned to protest the speech. They maintain that the council is a "racist" organization.)

School officials said large numbers of black youngsters either failed to show up or walked out of their class-

rooms at about a half dozen high schools and junior high schools. No major incidents were reported in connection with the boycotts, and an education spokesman said no schools were closed.

HEART

The marchers, mostly black teenagers, assembled near a high school and walked several blocks to the governor's mansion in the heart of Jackson's business district. They paraded silently on the sidewalk around the mansion while police and highway patrolmen stood guard. No attempt was made to see Governor John Williams.

Jackson State students participated in the demonstration, which ended with a brief rally at a small city park behind the mansion, but an adult with the group said the boycott and march was "organized by the kids themselves."

Following the march to the governor's mansion, a Jackson State student told the rally in the park:

"I'm not trying to stir you up. These people (white officials) should have stirred you up when they came to your school and slaughtered

your people. If that didn't stir you up, you're less than human."

A boycott of white merchants was called by Negro leaders following the violence.

INCIDENT

Federal investigators and a special biracial committee appointed by Mayor Russell Davis are making separate investigations into the incident at Jackson State, a predominantly black, state-supported college.

Authorities said the trouble began when a group of black youths began throwing bricks and rocks at passing cars, and snipers, they said, fired on police. It ended when state patrolmen unleashed a volley of shotgun blasts at a women's dormitory, leaving two persons dead and 15 injured.

Students and black leaders maintain the shooting was without provocation.

No clear reason has been established for the rock-throwing. One student said after last week's troubles: "Tensions have been building up over everything—you know, the draft, Vietnam, the schools. It just happened."

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