

# 29

11/16/72 Sundance not available at best-stocked Wash mag and news stands Ian McDonald told me today. He phoned for it and it is being sent. I heard nothing from Post on it, left phone number for Valentine, not in, when I saw it in masthead... Ian was concerned about Baton Rouge/Southern Univ. killings and inflammatory statement by mayor. He was on deadline when we spoke. He phoned before going home and before I saw excellent NBC TV footage, like but better than Zapruder's. From One look (it was not repeated) I'd say it is possible to deduce much with reasonable accuracy: shots from back, at least 00 Buck, full choke or very close, not possibly by students or tramping, first and repeated official conjecture. NBC's sound track helps, and outtakes, which in this case should have been saved, can do more. There can be no doubt the camera panned, from cops to students. Slow motion shows forward fall. CBS' footage shows police to the right before students broke and ran, and NBC's sound track says it was the last two students who were shot. Properly translated, the governor is saying that the students in general, if some with good intentions, brought it on themselves. CBS' footage was better in showing tear gas from students to cops. If as is possible, this was first, it is hardly provocation for what ensued and could still have been of police origin. It seemed like thrown canister. Not a trajectory of a shell. If most were armed as sheriff says all were, with tear-gas guns, then examination stills could show who was armed otherwise as obvious, someone was. The essentials will soon be gone again. There should be an immediate filing of a civil suit in these kinds of cases, with demands for the sequestering of specified evidence, but nobody will do it. If there are concerned lawyers willing to do something, they generally don't know what to do. If there is an FBI investigation, as the civil-rights law requires and thus enables, it will obfuscate everything. And taint the evidence, etc.... hope the signal from Chicago is clear tonight! H

Later 11/16/72 Or, first add, "No Permissiveness, Baton Rouge".

I expected the local NBC station in Wash would rerun the net footage, from the BR NBC station. I asked Lil to watch for certain things, she did, but they are obvious when you look for them, every one of the things I noted earlier. Plus a semantic trick. The sheriff ONLY said his men had only gas. Nobody I've heard spoke for most of the pigs-the State police. THEY had repeating shotguns or rifles. I saw no gas gun in the picture but from off camera, from the foreground when the police were to the right, there was the vapor trail.

My purpose in writing is to ask that if it is not too much more work for Jr, she please clip all of this. On the chance that someone down there asks for help. There is at least one lawyer who might. Odd thing, before seeing this film I suggested to Ian that if he wants a background to call him, use my name, and I gave him the office number.

This is what will never be prosecuted, a clear case of cold-blooded murder. You don't have a TV, so let me add that the students were so unviolent and so without expectation of it that they did not run fast and those at the back, where the two who were shot were, included some not even running.

CBS 11:30 radio "News Tonight" opens with "Sheriff's deputies..." Reception not good, fading, but the audible part, local reporter BR, no mention of State Police.

That, by the way, is a special barracks, more than just another barracks.

I have no personal interest in this, am interested in case I can help others. I'm not even making a carbon of this.

It would be possible to trace the buckshot, so I predict there will be a collection of what wasn't used, if anyone thinks there will be a real investigation.

Of all the recent cases, this is the one with the least equivocal photographic record, without stills, without outtakes. The shots could have come from the ranks of the police ONLY. Pretty raw. HW

11/17/72 2add, BR: Early a.m. radio reports give slightly different official quotes: chief deputy, his men did have shotguns, but none fired any (a picture is worth...); coroner's original statement given as he could not tell if wounds were from buckshot or shrapnel, which bears on Instant Analysis #1, closeness of weapon, which is reflected in character of wound it makes. HW