

THE NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIALS

"JUSTICE IN OHIO"

On 4 May 1970, twenty-eight Ohio National Guardsmen fired, indiscriminately, sixty-one rounds of M-1 ammunition, some of it in the form of "dum-dum" (explosive) bullets, in the general direction of a mob of 200 students and "street people" on the Kent State University campus. Nine students were wounded. Four were killed.

On 16 October 1970, a special grand jury impaneled by the State of Ohio relieved the guardsmen of responsibility for the shootings while indicting twenty-five other people (widely reported to be students) involved in the case.

The grand jury's decision is a disgrace.

The guardsmen claimed, and the grand jury believed, that "their lives were in danger."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation report on Kent State concludes:

Most of the national guardsmen who did fire their weapons do not specifically claim that they fired because their lives were in danger. Rather, they generally state in their narrative that they fired after they heard others fire. We have reason to believe that the claim by the national guard that their lives were endangered by the students was fabricated subsequent to the event....One guardsman admitted that his life was not in danger and that he fired indiscriminately into the crowd. He further stated that the guardsmen had gotten together after the shooting and decided to fabricate the story that they were in danger of serious bodily harm or death from the students. (CONGRESSION RECORD, October 13, 1970. Page S17814.)

The guardsmen claimed, and the grand jury believed, that they were "knocked

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to the ground or to their knees by the force of the objects thrown at them."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation report on Kent State concludes: "No guardsman had been hurt by flying rocks, and none was in danger of his life at the time of the shooting." (op. cit.)

The guardsmen claimed, and the grand jury believed, that they had no other way to protect themselves, except by firing into the crowd.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation report on Kent State concludes: "The guardsmen had not run out of tear gas, as was widely reported at the time, and could have controlled the situation by using tear gas or making arrests." (op. cit.)

By an amazing coincidence, much the same verdict was handed down, again in contradiction to federal findings, by a special panel investigating the shooting deaths of two students at Jackson State College.

Could it be that the War has been brought home at last?

AUSTIN

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BUFFALO—AN EXPLOSIVE MEETING GROUND

BUFFALO—(CPS)—It is seldom in a city as politically polarized as Buffalo that the town reactionaries and the campus revolutionaries are talking about the same thing in their separate circles (or cadres) of friends. This fall, however, nearly all residents and out-of-towners seem busy predicting how soon the State University of Buffalo will be re-activated—and for good reason.

After two consecutive years of rallies, demonstrations, and strikes, the Univer-