



Department of Justice

PS
668
.M6

ADVANCE
FOR RELEASE AT 8:00 PM, EDT
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1969

Attorney General John N. Mitchell today called "for an end to minority tyranny on college campuses and for the immediate reestablishment of civil peace and the protection of individual rights."

"If arrests must be made, then arrests there should be. If violators must be prosecuted, then prosecutions there should be," the Attorney General said.

"It is no admission of defeat," Mr. Mitchell said, "as some may claim, to use reasonable physical force to eliminate physical force. The price of civil tranquillity cannot be paid by submission to violence and terror."

In pointing out that peaceful students also have rights -- the right to study in an atmosphere of reason and civility -- the Attorney General said:

"Let me be specific. University officials are not law enforcement experts or judges . . . they should not take it upon themselves to decide how long the violence should endure and what rights should be trampled upon before local government is called in"

"When people may be injured, when personal property may be destroyed, and when chaos begins, the university official only

aids lawlessness by procrastination and negotiation."

The Attorney General emphasized that the federal criminal jurisdiction is quite limited and that, in general, states and municipalities have the primary obligation to deal with local law enforcement problems.

Mr. Mitchell said the Justice Department is collecting a great deal of information about student disorders and those who cause them, and the information will be offered to state and local law enforcement officials in areas where campus disorders may occur.

The Attorney General suggested that universities prepare for possible outbreaks of violence by establishing accepted procedures for handling illegal demonstrations.

He rejected the notion that the university is an "extra-territorial enclave" further from the reach of law enforcement than other institutions in our society. As one alternative to dealing with student demonstrations, he suggested that university officials consider applying to courts for injunctions to remove demonstrators.

"This tactic has proved fairly successful in the past," he said. "It takes the university out of the law enforcement business, where it does not belong, and gives it to the courts, which are better suited for this purpose."

At the same time, Mr. Mitchell suggested that there should be full participation by students, faculty, and administration officials in the decision-making process on campuses.

"What this means, at a minimum, is that university administrators must offer a serious forum for responsible student criticism -- and more than that, it must be clear to the students that their grievances will be honestly considered and will not be lightly dismissed under the procedural ruse of an artificial dialogue," he said.