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which were occurring. From class he walked toward the "Commons" and stood on the front grounds of Johnson Hall for about 5 minutes. From there he walked down to the fence that surrounds the "Commons". While standing by the fence a trooper in a uniform using a bull horn, ordered the people to disperse. He immediately then proceeded to a point just outside of the Student Activity Office at Johnson Hall. He stayed there for 10 or 15 minutes and during this time the tear gas started seeping toward Johnson Hall. He then went inside Johnson Hall to use the bathroom. From the bathroom he watched the activity and observed the line of the National Guard. While he was observing from the bathroom he heard and observed the Guard firing. His view was restricted and he did not see anything in particular but near the back of the Guard.

He denied being a participant in the demonstration in any manner whatsoever.

[redacted] advised that [redacted] and [redacted] had already left the campus and were not on the date of the shooting. He had no information which would indicate that his other two roommates, [redacted] or [redacted] had observed or were involved in any activities on the date of the shooting.



**IV. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING**  
**C. INTERVIEWS WITH KSU STUDENTS AND**  
**MEMBERS OF THE KSU STAFF**



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 13, 1970

[REDACTED], Cleveland, Ohio, furnished the following information:

He stated he is a Senior at Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, and is majoring in Education. He said he lived in [REDACTED] Johnson Hall while attending KSU, and was on Campus on May 2, 1970. He commented between 7:45 PM and 8:00 PM on that date, he went to the Student Activities Center at KSU and became a student deputy, to assist in preventing violence among the students at KSU. He remarked he was given a white arm band to wear in order to identify himself to other students and faculty members.

[REDACTED] advised he left the Student Activities Center and immediately joined a group of students leaving the Commons area. He said the group went from the Commons to Tri-Towers and then back past Eastway Center to the Commons, stopping in the area of the U. S. Army ROTC Building that is immediately adjacent to the Commons area. [REDACTED] advised he estimated the crowd to be about 4,000, but added he felt most of the persons there were on-lookers. He stated there was a group of about 50 to 60 persons who were in the area of a large rock and the corner of the ROTC Building nearest the Commons. He said this group was chanting and throwing rocks and other objects at the Building, resulting in several windows being broken. He commented among the group there were about ten persons who were actively trying to set the U. S. Army ROTC Building on fire. He remarked he recalled seeing one railroad type flare thrown from the crowd, but this flare did not appear to cause any damage or start a fire. He said he saw two other young white males he did not know and could not further describe, light and throw what appeared to be a "Molotov Cocktail" or firebomb. This object hit the side of the ROTC Building, bounced off and broke on the pavement next to the building. This fire bomb did not ignite. He added he recalls the person throwing the firebomb was wearing a white T-shirt with a red fist on the front and back.

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[REDACTED]

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About ten minutes later, he said he saw two young white males go to a motorcycle parked near the ROTC Building, next to the street and on the Commons side of the building. He advised they opened the gas tank on the motorcycle and put a light colored rag into the tank. He said the rag appeared to be a handkerchief, an arm band or a small piece of cloth. After removing the rag from the gas tank, the two persons ran to the Commons end of the ROTC Building where they tried to put the rag in a window. When they were unsuccessful at this window, they went to another window already broken out. This window was the second one from the end, on the corner of the building closest to the Commons. He said he could not see which of these persons was holding the gasoline soaked rag and which one lit it, but it appeared as though they held the rag up to the window, lit it, and threw it in. He remarked a fire had flared up, the curtains caught fire and the crowd cheered.

[redacted] advised after these two young men threw the flaming rag into the ROTC Building, they ran into the crowd in different directions. He stated he was only able to keep one of these men in view, and he had run through the crowd on the Student Union side of the ROTC Building and joined a group of three other persons. Periodically, this person would throw rocks at the building. He commented he did not know either of the persons who threw the gasoline soaked rag in the U. S. Army ROTC Building, and he did not know any of the persons in the group where the one person ran. He remarked he was sure one person was a girl, but he was not certain whether the other two persons were male or female.

[redacted] described the young man who had run to the above group and who he had most closely observed as being 22 years old, 6' to 6'1", 190 pounds, long dark blond hair or light brown hair, beard and mustache which was trimmed, dark corduroy jacket which possibly had a belt, yellow-orange t-shirt with thin blue horizontal stripes, long dark blue bell bottomed pants, light blue canvas sneakers, and wearing no head band. He added



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was this person who had soaked the rag in the gas tank. He said he had not closely observed the other person who had engaged in the lighting of the gasoline soaked rag, and could only described him as being a white male, 5'10", medium size and smaller than the first described person.

██████████ advised on Sunday, May 3, 1970, between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM, he had seen the person he described above first, looking at the burned structure of the ROTC Building. He said this person looked at the building for about 15 or 20 minutes after which he walked away. He stated later that same evening he had again seen this same person sitting with a group of other persons in the "Hub" area of the KSU Campus.

██████████ was displayed two photographs of groups of persons and he made the following identifications:

He said the person he is identifying is not known to him by name, but was the person he described above first, who participated in the placing of the gasoline soaked rag in the ROTC Building on May 2, 1970.

██████████ said in the photograph of a group of persons carrying a banner or sign, the person he recognizes is that person holding a pole and wearing a light jacket. He commented he recognizes this same person in a photograph of persons sitting next to a building and he is under the fourth window from the left. He added he is positive in his identifications, and recognizes the scene shown in the second photograph since this was taken in the "Hub" area of May 3, 1970, where he had personally observed this person as previously described.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 5/13/70

[REDACTED] Cleveland  
Ohio, furnished the following signed statement:

"May 12, 1970  
[REDACTED] Ohio

[REDACTED]  
Cleveland, Ohio, make the free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am a student at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, and prior to May 4, 1970, I lived in Room [REDACTED] Johnson Hall on the Kent State University campus. On the evening of May 2, 1970, I was acting as a student deputy, in an effort to stop any violence among the Kent State University students. At about dusk that evening I was on the Commons near the U.S. Army ROTC building, where a crowd of about 4000 students had gathered. Most of these students were onlookers, but there was a group of 50 or 60 students who were active in throwing stones and other objects at the ROTC building causing windows to be broken. About 10 persons in this group were active in trying to set fire to the U.S. Army ROTC building and I observed two unknown white males throw a bottle at the building which I believe was a fire bomb. The bottle hit the side of the building, fell to the pavement where it broke, but did not ignite.

"About ten minutes later I saw two other young white males go to a motorcycle that was parked near the street on the Commons side of the U.S. Army ROTC building, where they put a light colored rag into the gas tank of the motorcycle. After taking the rag from the gas tank, they ran to a window on the Commons side of the U.S. Army ROTC building, but they were unable to put the rag in that window. They then went to another window on the same side of the building where it appeared as though they

On 5/12/70 [REDACTED], Ohio

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SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

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Date dictated 5/13/70



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held the rag up to the window, lit it, and threw it into the building. The curtains caught fire and the crowd cheered. I did not see which one of these persons held the rag or which one lit the rag.

"After throwing the rag into the building these two persons ran back into the crowd and I could only keep one of them in view. This person is described as a white male about 22 years of age, 6'0" to 6'1", 190 pounds, long dark blonde or light brown hair, full beard and mustach which was trimmed, brown corduroy jacket possibly with a belt, yellow orange T shirt with thin horizontal blue stripes, dark blue bell bottomed pants and light blue sneakers. I can only recall the other person as being a white male, 5'10", medium size, and smaller than the other person I've described.

"The following day, May 3, 1970, I again saw the first person I described, some time between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM standing looking at the burned U.S. Army ROTC building for about 15 or 20 minutes and then left. Later that evening I observed a group of persons sitting in the "Hub" area of the Kent State University campus. Among this group I again saw the same person I described first above.

"I have observed a photograph of a group of persons walking in a street with some carrying flags and banners. I recognize the person I described above first as being the person holding the third pole from the left that supports the large banner above this group. I have also observed a photograph of a group of persons sitting near a building and I recognize this same person as being the individual sitting in front of the fourth window from the left. I have observed a photograph of a person not known to me by name who has a cigarette in his mouth and is holding what appears to be a pole. This is again the same person I described first, above.

"I have read the above statement consisting of



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this page and three others and I have initialed each page and all corrections. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses

[REDACTED]  
5/12/70

Special Agent, FBI, Akron, Ohio

[REDACTED]  
Ohio, 5/12/70"

Special Agent, FBI, Cleveland,



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date May 10, 1970

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his residence at Kent, Ohio. [REDACTED] advised that a group formed spontaneously of members of the faculty senate of KSU on May 2, 1970. This group was formed for the purpose of cooling off students at a rally to take place that evening. To identify members of the group, all of them wore blue arm bands.

The faculty members were to circulate throughout the crowd and attempt to head off trouble. They also handed out a sheet of paper showing the curfew regulation and various legitimate activities taking place on the campus that evening.

DR. GLENN FRANK of the Geology Department at KSU seemed to be in charge of the group.

[REDACTED] was asked to be a member of this group by [REDACTED], a professor in the English Department. Other faculty members involved known to [REDACTED] of the Honors College, [REDACTED] of the Psychology Department, (First Name Unknown) [REDACTED] of the Speech Department, and a teaching fellow by the name of [REDACTED]. Numerous other faculty members were involved, but he knows none of their names.

[REDACTED] went to the KSU campus at approximate 7:00 p.m., May 2, 1970, and at that time, a large number of students were milling around on the Commons at the university. [REDACTED] talked with a few students here and there. He knew none of the students to whom he talked, and, in fact, knew none of the demonstrators whom he saw the whole evening. He noted no one agitating at this time.

Suddenly, some time shortly after the curfew bell sounded, the crowd drifted towards a bell located at one end of the Commons. Then, two individuals he never saw before stood up and rang the bell to get the mob's

5/7/70, Kent, Ohio

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SA [REDACTED] ER./jac

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attention. One of these individuals stood on top of the bell and announced that a lot of students were in Tri Towers. He yelled at the mob to go to Tri Towers and round up more students. This individual was tall and slender and wore steel-rimmed glasses. He was a pleasant looking individual wearing bluejeans and a jacket of some sort. He could recall no further description, but stated that he may possibly recognize this person again.

At that time, the mob started in the direction of Tri Towers. The faculty members did not follow them, but a short time later, the mob returned to the Commons. He guessed the number of persons in the mob at that time to be approximately 500 to 600. In the crowd were several persons who had walkie talkies and he also saw a few people with cameras. He saw one person with a camera being beaten up and his film taken away. He does not know the identity of this person.

[REDACTED] noted that there were very few, if any, black students involved in this activity. He stated that there was one small group of black students observing the mob and one of these individuals had a camera. The one with the camera spoke to [REDACTED] while the mob was at Tri Towers. However, this group was not a part of the mob.

The mob milled around the Commons again briefly, and [REDACTED] could hear voices yelling that they should go to Taylor Hall. Few agitators were noted by him, and he knew none of them. The mob then drifted toward the student union building at KSU and actually went to the ROTC building.

They started throwing rocks at the ROTC building and [REDACTED] heard the clatter of the rocks on the building. He saw one figure go up to the building and throw something in the window. This individual immediately dashed back to the mob. What this person threw in the window was apparently lit and exploded or flared up when it was thrown in the window. This was repeated four or five times. The fire in the ROTC building burned awhile in one spot before spreading.



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In addition to the firebombs thrown in the building, flares were being thrown from the crowd at the building. [REDACTED] had the impression that only two or three people were actually involved in the lighting and throwing of the firebombs and the flares.

They seemed to come from, to [REDACTED] the same spot in the crowd. [REDACTED] said he was approximately 40 yards from the action and was unable to see who any of these individuals were and would not be able to identify them again. He kept circulating and the crowd surged and milled around the building.

Very shortly after the original lighting of the fire, the fire department showed up. [REDACTED] saw no more incidents in the building after the fire department showed up.

The fire department parked close to the ROTC building. They were trailing a hose from a large hydrant. Students grabbed this hose and other students saved and hacked on it. The hose was dragged away from the firemen. There was no one from the police department there at that time. [REDACTED] recognized no one involved in this activity.

A short time thereafter, a contingent of police, whom he thought were KSU police, came on the scene from the direction of Bowman Hall. They deployed around the firemen. A yell went out among the demonstrators to get rocks. The demonstrators threw rocks at the police and firemen and milled around some more. Tear gas was then fired or thrown by the policemen. The crowd began to dissolve. [REDACTED] decided to leave as there was nothing more he could do.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date May 10, 1970

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[REDACTED] Kent State University, was contacted at [REDACTED]. After being advised of the matter under investigation, [REDACTED] advised as follows:

"May 10, 1970

"Kent, Ohio

"I, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kent State University, and residing at [REDACTED] Kent, Ohio, was in Cincinnati, Ohio on Friday, May 1, 1970, and returned to Kent, Ohio on Saturday, May 2, 1970. Following an anniversary dinner with my wife on the evening of May 2, 1970, I went to the home of [REDACTED], Kent, Ohio, where I was told by [REDACTED] had gone to Kent State University because he had been called as a result of a disturbance taking place at that time.

"I then went to Kent State University alone, at which time I went to the area of the Kent State University Library on Main Street in front of the Library, arriving there at approximately 9:15 PM. At approximately this time I noted a group of individuals, approximately 1,000 in number, walking west on Main Street in the middle of the street. I noticed that there appeared to be a few individuals who were more or less assuming the leadership of this crowd. These individuals I noticed picking up litter trash cans and throwing them into the street. I overheard some of the individuals in the crowd, who appeared to be upset by the actions of these individuals, and I overheard comments such as 'why are they doing that', 'why don't they stop that.'

"Approximately 10 minutes later I overheard someone shouting 'the Guard, the Guard'. At this point the crowd began running south on to the lawn of the campus in the vicinity of the Library. I decided that I was going to stay on the sidewalk and not move.

On 5/10/70 at Kent, OhioFile # Cleveland 98-2140by SA [REDACTED] JLB/eaDate dictated 5/10/70



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"Shortly thereafter some persons in the crowd began to throw rocks and bottles over my head in the direction of the National Guard which was on Main Street. I noticed no response on the part of the Guard and I do not know what particular individuals were involved in throwing objects toward the Guard. The National Guard was composed of a convoy of jeeps, trucks and what appeared to me to be half tracks. To my knowledge, they did not stop prior to the time that I left the area.

"I then went to the parking lot of the Library which is located on Lincoln Street, just south of Main Street, where the campus information booth is located. At this point I heard the sound of breaking glass and noticed one individual throwing rocks at the parking lot light and several youths throwing rocks at the glass of the information booth. I then noticed several individuals in the booth attempting to set fire to the booth by lighting newspapers. I did not see any of these individuals close enough to identify them. After helping other individuals in the vicinity extinguish the fires in the information booth, I then left the area. The individuals who had broken the glass in the building and had attempted to set the building on fire had left the area by this time. I followed the crowd southeast across the campus in the direction of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) building. I arrived at the heating plant located to the west of the ROTC building and at the time I arrived, the ROTC building was ablaze. I did not see anyone lighting or attempting to set fire to the building, interfering with firemen or with Security Police. [redacted] and I then returned to his home.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and 2 additional pages. I have signed each page and initialed each correction. I sign this statement because it is true.

/s/ [redacted]

Witnessed:

[redacted], Special Agent, FBI, Buffalo, N.Y. 5/10/70  
[redacted], Special Agent, FBI, Buffalo, N.Y. 5/10/70



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The following descriptive and background data was taken through observation and interview:

Name	[REDACTED]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	[REDACTED]
Height	5' 11"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	[REDACTED]
Eyes	Hazel
Occupation	Professor
Employment	Kent State University
Residence	[REDACTED]
Residence Phone	Kent, Ohio
Organizational	[REDACTED]
Membership	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the residence as above is his permanent residence and that [REDACTED] Pennsylvania, is a person who will always know his whereabouts.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

May 9, 1970

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(home address) student, senior, Kent State University (KSU) residence Room [redacted] Johnson Hall, advised he is a [redacted] in the KSU student government, advisor to the President of the student body, and was on the main campus on May 2, 1970, at the time the ROTC building was burned. [redacted] explained he was connected with the Student Activities Center, Rumor Control Center, which operated in efforts to direct students away from groups and rallies on the Kent State campus on the [redacted] advised a flyer, yellow sheet of paper, circulated on Kent State campus, May 2, 1970, indicated a rally was to be held at 8:00 p.m., on the Commons with regard to the anti-war demonstrations. He advised at approximately 7:30 p.m., on May 2, 1970, he went to the area known as the Commons on Kent State campus and he noted students began to gather at approximately 7:40 p.m., with tension growing. He advised at 8:00 p.m., an unknown white male, who he did not recognize, as a student, on the victory bell and shouted obscenities and indicated to the gathered group they should go to the dorms and get the people out. [redacted] explained he is acquainted with most radical students who are members of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society and Black United Students (BUS); however, he does not know the individuals by name. [redacted] advised the unknown individual announced the students should march at this time on the Tri and the entire group moved from the Commons toward Tri Tower picking up rocks on their way.

[redacted] advised at this time, he returned to the Student Activities Center and at approximately 8:25 p.m., through the use of binoculars, he observed unknown students burning an American flag at a location between Union Hall and the ROTC building. He advised at this time the crowd of students which he would estimate at 300, moved toward the ROTC building and of this group, there were approximately 10 white males whom he did not recognize as students, KSU. [redacted] advised the students began throwing rocks through the windows of the ROTC building, and a fuse flare was thrown at the ROTC building.

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Ohio

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SA [redacted]

Date dictated 5/9/70



however, same did not go into the building. He stated at the point it was dark and from his position with binoculars, he was unable to determine who threw the flare or who was throwing rocks at the ROTC building. He stated at approximately 9:00 a fire bomb was thrown into the ROTC building, and due to the flareup of same, it is his impression the fire bomb was made of gasoline. He stated the fire inside the building began to spread and the Fire Department was summoned by a student at office where he was located. Upon the arrival of the Fire Department, firemen attempted to get near the building to extinguish the blaze; however, they were pelted with rocks and after laying out their hoses, according to another student who informed him, the fire hoses were slashed with machetes by students. He stated he did not observe the fire hoses being cut; however, the Fire Department pulled back and the building thereafter was completely destroyed by fire and he noted the firemen had no police protection at the time they attempted to extinguish the fire.

[redacted] advised at this time many of the students disbanded and moved out of the Commons to a shed, which was on fire. He stated [redacted] Kent faculty, called him telephonically and told him the students roving on the campus were smashing everything in sight.

[redacted] advised the Ohio National Guard arrived on the Kent State campus at approximately 10:15 p.m., and the groups of students dispersed on their own. He stated some of the unknown individuals previously mentioned, approximately ten in number, had red bands on their arm or around their forehead, and they were wearing field-type jackets, and he observed these individuals only at the time the rally started at 8:00 p.m., May 2, 1970. He stated he did not observe four white males, commonly referred to as the "Big Four," former Kent State students, HEIDERGER, ERICKSON, FISHER and POWELL. He stated he knows most of the radical students on campus by face, not by name, and could identify those present at the time the ROTC building was burned. He stated he did not observe NICK ALBERTZ (phonetic), President of the YSA; RALPH BELAND (phonetic), and [redacted] known radical students on campus.



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[REDACTED] advised on Sunday, May 3, 1970, the Kent State campus appeared rather calm with the students generally wondering what would happen next. A group of students gathered Sunday evening and the instigators, who were utilizing obscene language toward the Guard apparently drifted in and out of the action. He stated at no time did he observe students carrying firearms on their person and he observed no pamphlets put out by any of the radical groups with instructions regarding rallies and demonstrations. [REDACTED] pointed out that he signed, along with other members of the student government, a statement for the President indicating their belief that the Ohio National Guard's presence on the campus was necessary to dispel further destruction of property. He stated very few black students were noticed at any of the rallies and they were obvious by their absence.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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(1)

[REDACTED], Ohio advised as follows:

On Saturday evening, May 2, 1970 students at K State University (KSU) held a rally or demonstration at the Commons at KSU. It started out as a march around the campus, in an effort to gather support, and the rally to place at the Commons. [REDACTED] followed the group around the campus to be certain that no black students became involved in this demonstration, he being a member of the Black United Students. When he got back to the Commons, those gathered were shouting slogans such as 'One, two three four, we can't win the war' etc. It was dark by the time, and possibly 9:30 P.M. and as [REDACTED] walked from Taylor Hall area across to Johnson Hall he noted flares being thrown at the ROTC Building. It was not burning at the time, but the flares made a red glow. Then some of the students, individually, started breaking windows in ROTC Building and flares were thrown in the windows, and suddenly the building started to burn. Firemen came, and some men from the Sheriff's Office, with tear gas. When the tear gas was thrown, [REDACTED] left to go to the Black Culture Center. He wanted to be certain that no damage done to this building, as there had been rumors that some of these students were going to burn this Black Culture Center. There were lots of rumors going around, one being that a black girl had been bayoneted. These were efforts to get the blacks to participate in this demonstration, but the blacks did not participate.

[REDACTED] said that only about 5 or 6 students appeared to be involved in the efforts to burn the ROTC Building. It was dark at the time, and [REDACTED] could not see them clearly—only as shadows, and could not even tell if they were black or white, or girls or boys that were doing this.

[REDACTED] stated he not only could not see who involved in this burning, but that he has heard nothing

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to indicate who might have been responsible. He stated that the feelings between the black students and the radical white students are not good, and no radical white student would confide in a black student.

[REDACTED] stated that he would estimate that he was at least 100 yards away from the burning ROTC Building at all times. He did not at any time see anyone carrying flares or starting fires. He saw no one throwing rocks at firemen, nor cutting hoses.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/10/70

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[REDACTED] Ohio, was advised of the identities of the interviewing agent and the fact that he was being interviewed in connection with a violation involving sabotage due to the burning of the ROT Building at Kent State University. He then provided the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he is the president of the Kent Inter Hall Council, and that he was near the Student Activities Center between Johnson and Stoffer Halls at the time of the burning. He stated that the only radical that he observed and knew by name was [REDACTED] who was on the Commons stirring up the crowd at approximately 8:00 P.M. Saturday, May 2, 1970. He advised that he saw three or four persons throwing railroad type flares at the building, but that none of them went through the broken windows of the building. He stated that after these efforts were unsuccessful, a single student lighted a rag, and threw the rag into the building. He advised that [REDACTED] was in the crowd as a student marshal, and that [REDACTED] Manchester Hall, who lives in Lakewood, Ohio, was also in the crowd. [REDACTED] stated that immediately proceeding the fire, [REDACTED] was moving through Fletcher Hall nullifying fire alarms to rouse out students to participate in the demonstration. He advised that [REDACTED] who is from Lakewood, Ohio, had seen and reported [REDACTED] to him.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] was one of the leaders at a meeting in the Rotunda area on Sunday, May 3, 1970, at which time plans were formulated for a demonstration on the Commons area Monday, May 4, 1970. He stated that after each demonstration was dispersed, students would return to the dormitories, and pile their rocks or bricks, and other missiles near the entrances to the buildings. He recalled that on the day of the shooting incident, and throughout the demonstration the leaders wore red headbands, carried red handkerchiefs, and attached red pieces of cloth to their clothing. He stated that some of the militant student leaders carried knives, and [REDACTED] reported a knife pulled on him in the Tri Tower.

on 5/9/70

Ohio

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SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

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