

Kent State suit settled yesterday

CLEVELAND (AP) — Damages resulting from the killing of four students and wounding of nine others by National Guard troops at Kent State University were settled for \$675,000 yesterday. But the mother of one of the dead students refused to "accept that blood money."

The announcement of the settlement of the suits against Gov. James A. Rhodes, National Guard officers and enlisted men was made in federal court by U.S. District Judge William J. Thomas, who was presiding at the retrial of the damage suits.

Thomas announced the settlement, which gave the parents of the four slain students \$15,000 each, shortly after the state Controlling Board in Columbus appropriated the \$675,000 for the payment.

"It doesn't matter to me one way or another," said the mother of one of the slain students who did not wish to be identified. "Do you think I'm going to touch that blood money? Would that pay for my child's life? I'm going to give it away if I get it."

National Guard troops opened up a 13-second volley of gunfire on hundreds of students demonstrating on the Kent State University campus on May 4, 1970, against the expansion of the war in Vietnam. Four students were killed and nine wounded.

Gov. James A. Rhodes said he was "very pleased" with the settlement. A statement issued by his office said:

"He realizes that all parties agree that it is a fair settlement. He is particularly happy for the university, the guardsmen and their families. It's fair to say that this ends the Kent State litigation."

In the first damage suit in 1975, the defendants were exonerated but the decision was overturned by an appellate court which contended the trial judge had made an error in the case.

"The 13 Kent State civil damage cases are settled and will be terminated," said Thomas in announcing his order after



Dean Kahler, 28, wounded by Ohio National Guardsmen in the Kent State shootings, discusses the terms of yesterday's out-of-court settlement at a press conference — surrounded by another wounded student and the parents of three of the slain students. Kahler has been confined to a wheelchair since the shootings in May, 1970.

attorneys for the parents of the students accepted the settlement.

"This is the culmination of a series of events that happened in the 1960's and '70s," said Ohio Attorney General William J. Brown in Columbus. "This is something I think everybody in America would like to forget."

Thomas said he felt the settlement was "fair and reasonable" and said it included a statement to be signed by the defendants.

"The settlement spares the parties —

the plaintiffs and the defendants — the trauma, the anguish and the uncertainties of a trial that is reliving the events of that day in early May, 1970," Thomas said.

"We devoutly wish that a means had been found to avoid the May 4 events culminating in the guard shootings and in the irreversible deaths and injuries," the statement said in part. "We deeply regret those events and are profoundly saddened by the deaths of four students and wounding of nine others which

resulted . . . Former State Adjt. Gen. Sylvester DelCorso, who headed the National Guard at the time of the shootings, said the statement was "no apology" by the guard.

"It expresses sorrow and regret at what happened, the same as if you have a friend who passed away," said DelCorso. "Having sat through 15 months of trial, I can state now that there was justification for some of the guardsmen who fired."

Wilderness to be retained in nation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department said yesterday it took the nation's future energy and timber needs into account in its proposal to designate 15 million acres of undeveloped national forest as wilderness.

Another 36 million acres of roadless, undeveloped area would be opened to a broad range of uses, from wildlife habitats to skiing to timber harvesting.

A third category included 11 million acres, 18 percent of the land reviewed, and was set aside for further planning.

Although areas designated for further planning could not be harvested for timber, exploration for oil and gas would be allowed.

In wilderness areas, no machinery, roads or structures would be allowed unless permitted by prior law or right and development would be prohibited.

"We have excluded from most of our wilderness designation areas that have a high priority for oil and gas," said Assistant Secretary Rupert Cutler, in the absence of Secretary Bob Bergland who was suffering from a sore back.

Cutler said at a news conference that most of the energy-rich over-thrust belt in the Rocky Mountains would be open to development, under normal restrictions.

Timber interests said they feared the plan would reduce needed timber supplies, but Cutler said the timber impact would be "very small." Of 26 million acres of commercial forest under review, 17.7 million acres were designated for non-wilderness uses, he said.

President Don-Lee Davidson of the National Forest Products Association welcomed the recommendations in a

statement but said the non-wilderness areas should be opened quickly to timbering.

He said the proposals would have "a significant negative impact" on timber supply in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain states, reducing the annual potential timber yield by 1.2 billion board feet — enough to build 100,000 new houses a year.

Recommendations to President Carter and Congress culminated a lengthy 18-month environmental impact review of one third of the 187-million-acre national forest system.

The study was called Roadless Area Review and Evaluation or RARE II.

An environmental coalition, which wanted 36 million acres of wilderness, said it was acutely disappointed in the amount of land available to timber and mining interests.

However, the coalition complimented the Forest Service for designating wilderness areas close to population concentrations in the East. Most federally protected wilderness has been in the West, but the review included land in 37 states and Puerto Rico, including grasslands.

"This is the first time anyone has attempted to describe what the national wilderness system should look like as an entity," Cutler said.

More than a third of the wilderness, 5.6 million acres, was in Alaska. That included land already designated wilderness late last year by Carter.

Non-wilderness areas would be available for uses on April 15 if congressional committee chairmen do not object.

"They are not going to be indiscriminately developed," Cutler said.

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