

## **"Night of Sorrow"**

There will be shock and sadness both north and south of the border over the bloody clash between soldiers and students in Mexico City Tuesday night. It is reported that more than 500 civilians were wounded and more than two score were killed in an outburst of rifle and machine gun fire at what seemed a peaceful student rally. The affair has already become known as "The Night of Sorrow."

As to the origins and the responsibility for this tragedy, we do not yet know enough to comment. But it carries an ominous warning for the United States. This country has already had examples of its own in which National Guard troops, panicked by what they took to be sniping, fired recklessly into inhabited dwellings and killed innocent observers. Mexico City tells us what could happen here if force were to become the chief agent of order as George Wallace, for one, has urged. The nihilists who have been fomenting violence on college campuses and at political rallies, often apparently for its own sake, would do well to look realistically at the ferocity they are likely to unleash.

Violence is invariably an instigator of violence. And once it is given sway, the issue is left to ruthlessness, not reason. We have desperate need now, in this land, blessed by a rich tradition of democratic usage and with ample avenues for persuasion and debate, to govern ourselves in ways that will lead to orderly and peaceful settlement of our domestic disputes. We share in the grief of our Mexican neighbors. Let us reap from their tragedy an awakening to our own peril.