

Distress at Home, 1970

WAR IN VIETNAM

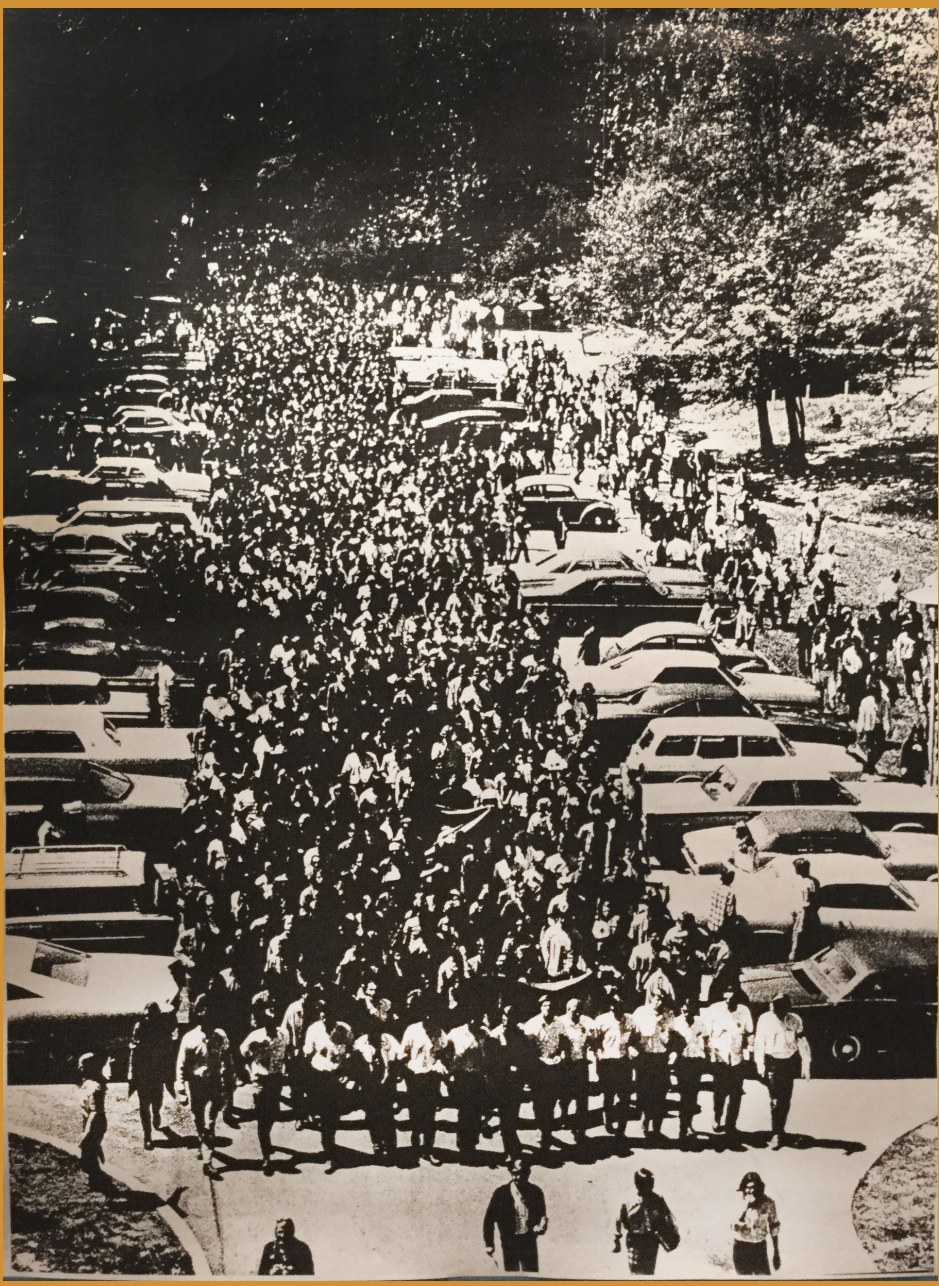
The Vietnam War was supposed to be a brief conflict to combat the growing influence of communism in Asia with minimal U.S. military involvement. As the war continued, however, President Lyndon B. Johnson sent in more troops. Johnson followed the “**domino theory**,” stating that if one nation fell to communism, more would follow.

The Vietnam War was the first televised war, which allowed citizens to see the reality of war and violence. Many spoke out against the war, including Martin Luther King Jr. and reporter Walter Cronkite. As more Americans were drafted and the death toll increased, protests and hatred erupted throughout the country, including the IU protests of 1970.



Soldiers Carry a Wounded Comrade Through a Swampy Area; 1969, National Archives

IU BLOOMINGTON PROTESTS



Protestors
Bloomington Herald-Telephone, May 14, 1970

Indiana University at Bloomington students demanded that the university’s President Joseph Sutton renounce President Nixon’s policy in Southeast Asia, and support the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Vietnam region. When these demands were not met, students took their protest to the streets.

- **APRIL 30, 1970** About **1500** IU students peacefully protested by marching to the courthouse square.
- **MAY 3 to 7** Student body presidents across the country called for a “Student Strike.” Thousands of students marched on the IU campus.
- **MAY 11 17,450** students voted on referenda related to the war including the cancellation of classes. However, President Sutton refused to cancel classes.
- **MAY 12** The student body government announced it would no longer monitor student protests on campus.
- **MAY 13** Over **600** students gathered at Bryan Hall, Indiana University, and blocked the entrances to the administration building and the street. Monroe County’s sheriff’s department arrested **8** students, including Gregory Hess.

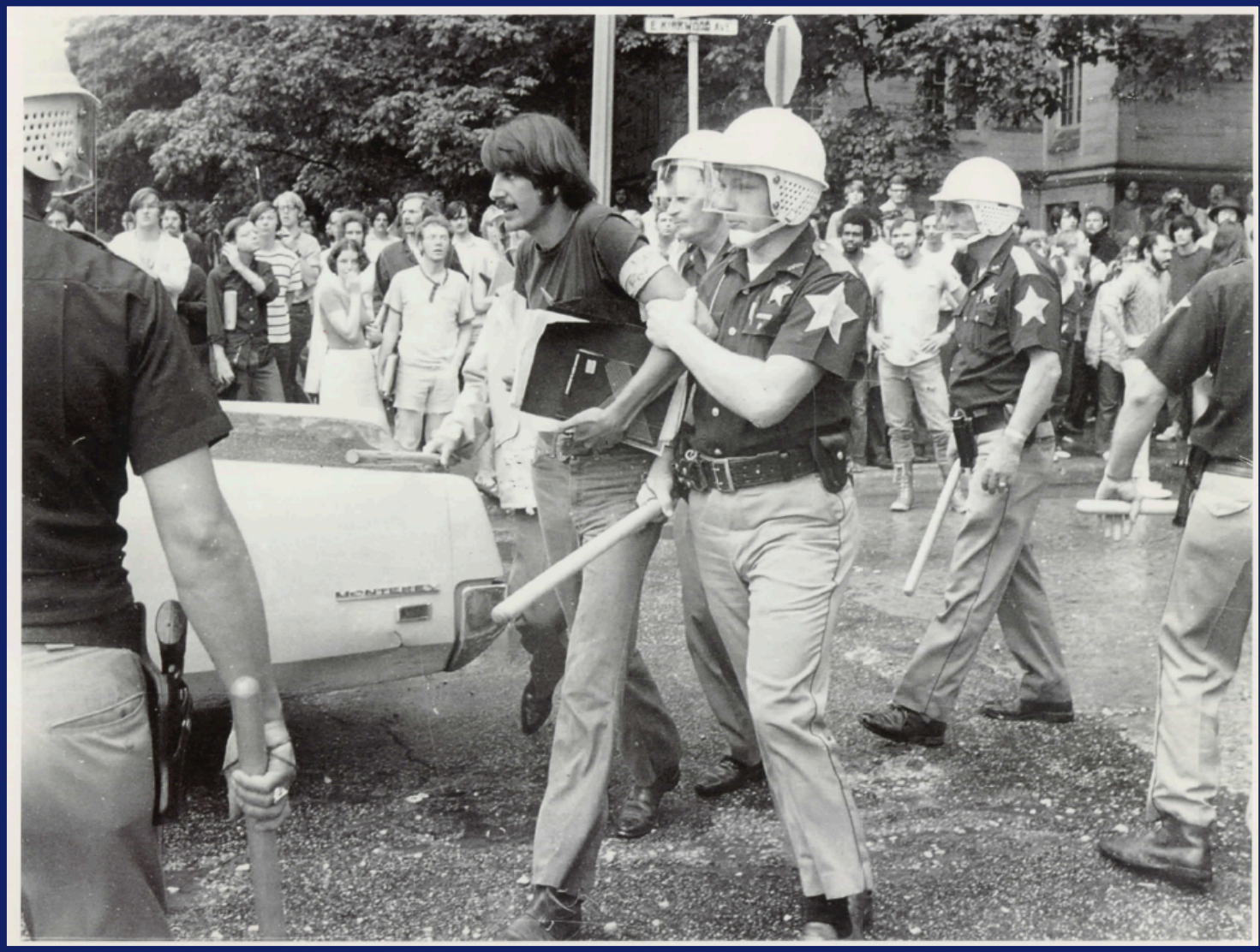
GREGORY HESS

Gregory Hess, a student at Indiana University at Bloomington, was involved in the protest. He was protesting in the street and stepped onto the curb as authorities began to clear the street. Hess loudly said,

“WE’LL TAKE THE FKING STREET LATER (OR AGAIN)”**

Sheriff Clifford “Babe” Thrasher, who was standing nearby, immediately arrested Hess. **8** students were arrested that day and held in a holding cell at the Monroe County Jail before being bailed out by IU faculty members. Gregory Hess was the only student who was formally charged and tried.

The Bloomington City deputy prosecutor charged Hess with **misdemeanor disorderly conduct** for acting in a loud, boisterous, and disorderly manner in violation of the Indiana Disorderly Conduct Statute.



The Arrest of Gregory Hess
Bloomington Herald-Telephone, May 14, 1970

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