

Campus Killings

2 More Blacks On Probe Panel At Southern U.

Baton Rouge, La.

Louisiana's attorney general yesterday named a coed and a Vietnam veteran working his way through college to a commission that will try to find out who killed two blacks at Southern University during a battle between police and students last Friday.

William Guste, who announced formation of the commission Tuesday, appointed Wanda Butler and Cornelius Bass, both black students at Southern's New Orleans campus.

"These students have the respect of their peers and were selected by a consensus of the student leadership," Guste said.

Miss Butler is vice president of the junior class and is majoring in mathematics and physics. Bass is a sophomore studying psychology. He also is studying drug abuse and is working his way through school with a part-time job in the college's department of drug abuse.

BOARD

Other members of the Commission of Inquiry include Turner Catledge, former executive editor and a member of the board of the New York Times, and Revius Ortique, a black New Orleans attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

First witnesses will appear Monday before the panel, which has six white and six black members. The testimony will be secret, Guste said, because of possible criminal charges that might come from the investigation.

Guste will head the commission. He created it to

find out exactly what killed Denver A. Smith and Leonard Brown Jr., both 20-year-old Southern students at Baton Rouge. Police and students have blamed each other for the killings.

Smith and Brown were killed November 16 during a clash between students and police at the administration building. Brown's funeral was held Wednesday at Gilbert, La., and Smith was buried Thanksgiving Day at Morganza, La.

CLOSED

The Baton Rouge campus has been ordered closed until January 3 to reduce tensions. Governor Edwin Edwards said he would keep armed police on campus on an "hour-to-hour, day-to-day basis" to prevent more violence.

Fourteen prominent blacks, saying they have no confidence in Guste's commission, will conduct their own investigation into the killings. The group, calling itself the "Black People's Committee of Inquiry," includes state Representative Julian Bond of Atlanta, City Councilman D'Army Bailey of Berkeley, and Owusa Sadauki, president of Malcolm X University at Greensboro, N.C.

"We have two blacks dead, others injured," Bailey said. "There are blacks across the country who have a real concern as to what the facts actually are. So I think there is a need for the black community to take a particular look at the situation and to make some report on our findings."

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