

Student's Story of Southern Violence

Baton Rouge, La.

An all-black, unofficial committee of inquiry was told yesterday that the November 16 violence that left two students dead at Southern University started when a state policeman tossed a tear gas canister into a crowd of blacks sitting outside the administration building.

"The first that I noticed, the state police came closer to the administration building, and they were seven to five feet from the first of the students that were sitting down," a black student told the panel. The student, Herschell Harris, said he was outside the administration building during the confrontation.

"One of the state police officers took a tear gas canister and he lobbed it underhand into the crowd of brothers that was sitting there. I grabbed it and I flung it out away from the students."

PANEL

Within seconds, Harris told the panel, the choking gas had scattered the students.

Harris delivered his account as the Black People's Committee of Inquiry heard

Mounties Get Their Man Again

Salmon Arm, B.C.

Nalszlo Nagy, on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police list of eight most wanted men in Canada for escaping two years ago from Matsqui Prison near Vancouver, has been recaptured here.

When Nagy escaped, he had served three years of a seven-year sentence for theft from a British Columbia government liquor store.

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witnesses for the second day. The committee has no legal authority.

Harris' account of the initial clash conflicted with evidence Governor Edwin Edwards and other high-ranking officials say they have. Edwards has said films show the first tear gas came from the students.

Across town, the president of Southern University, G. Leon Netterville, testified in private before a biracial investigating committee set up by Louisiana Attorney

General William Guste.

Netterville has been invited to testify before the all-black committee, but leaders said they had received no reply.

FORCE

Guste's grand jury-style investigation, the only state-sponsored inquiry with any legal force, was also meeting for the second day.

Focal point for the investigations is the half-hour-long clash which climaxed three weeks of student protests at the nation's largest black university.

Denver A. Smith, 20, of New Roads, La., and Leonard Douglas Brown, 20, of Gilbert, La., died of head wounds after they were hit by buckshot during the confrontation.

Harris, in testifying before the black committee, identified himself as a leader of Students United, the group behind the demands for more of a voice in the administration of the school and for Netterville's ouster.

ACCOUNTS

Another Students United leader, Nathan Howard, delivered testimony which likewise conflicted with official accounts.

Howard told the black panel the students had gathered inside the administration building to confer with Netterville, and were in the president's office at Netterville's invitation.

Netterville has said the students forcibly took control of his office.

Both Harris and Howard denied the students had taken over the building, and disputed official reports that officers had warned the students to leave the area before exploding the tear gas.

"Did you ever hear an order to disperse or vacate the building," Howard was asked at one point.

"Nothing at all," was his reply.

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