

San Quentin Probes Smuggling of Gun

By Min S. Yee

Special to The Washington Post

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Aug. 23 — Prison officials said today they believed the gun used by Soledad Brother George Jackson in Saturday's bloody escape attempt was smuggled into the prison in a hollowed-out tape recorder.

Police, meanwhile, pressed their search for Oakland attorney Stephen Mitchell Bingham, 29, a nephew of U.S. Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D-N.Y.) and grandson of the late Hiram Bingham, former Connecticut governor and U.S. senator.

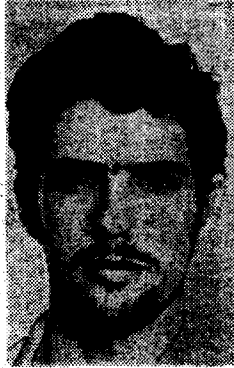
Prison officials said Bingham was accompanied to the prison Saturday by an unidentified woman who did not visit Jackson but waited outside the visiting room. Authorities want to question her.

The officials said Bingham was searched and walked through a metal detector. Associate Warden James Park said guards opened Bingham's briefcase and went through it but did not open a small tape recorder inside.

Park told a news conference he believed the gun was brought in a tape recorder.

Tape recorders are not passed through the prison detection device because it erases tapes.

The 9-mm. automatic pistol used by Jackson was discovered in the convict's Afro hairdo, Park said, by a guard shortly after Jackson returned to the maximum security wing from seeing Bingham.



STEPHEN M. BINGHAM
... sought by police

Less than half an hour after Bingham's visit to the prison Saturday, Jackson, two convict trustees and three guards were dead. Jackson was shot as he broke out of the prison's Adjustment Center for hardcase convicts. The others were found murdered inside the center, their bodies piled in Jackson's cell.

Marin County police put out an all-points bulletin for Bingham but no charges have been filed against him.

Jackson and the two other Soledad Brothers had been scheduled to appear in a San Francisco court today to offer evidence to support their contention that the judge who was to try them for the killing of a Soledad Prison guard was racially prejudiced.

(Prison officials said Jack-

son had engineered an elaborate escape plot through a former cellmate and that his two sisters two nephews and a niece had gone through a "dry run" on Aug. 1, the Associated Press reported.

(During the so-called "dry run," prison officials said, they found a cap pistol in a holster taped to the inside thigh of Jackson's 12-year-old nephew and toy pistols concealed in holsters hidden in the clothing of his 10-year-old niece and 5-year-old nephew.

(Authorities said they obtained a copy of a letter in which Jackson outlined a proposed escape plan that involved having two of his sisters smuggle derringers in hollowed-out heels of their shoes past guards and the metal detector.

(The sisters also were to bring in tubes of plastic explosive in body orifices and remove them in prison, officials said.)

The letter outlining escape plans was sent to a former cellmate and discovered when a dry cleaning firm found it in the man's pants, prison officials said.

The letter, officials said, suggested an escape at night because Jackson thought he could short-circuit the prison's single power line by driving a metal stake into the ground and attaching a steel cable to it. The cable was then to have been tossed over the power line.

Bingham, a 1969 graduate of Boalt Law School at the Uni-

versity of California's Berkeley campus, was an attorney for three men accused of assaulting police at a Soledad Brothers hearing in San Francisco in April.

Bingham worked with Berkeley Neighborhood Legal Service, but left to join the Berkeley law firm of Franck, Hill, Stender, Ziegler and Hendon. A secretary at the firm said Bingham was not available but she expected to hear from him by phone.

Bingham was arrested during a 1968 sit-in at the office of University of California President Charles Hitch in connection with the AFL-CIO United Farm Workers Organizing Committee grape boycott. He pleaded guilty to trespassing and paid a \$100 fine and was given a 30-day suspended sentence.

In Salem, Conn., Bingham's father, Alfred M. Bingham, said his son had been active in the civil rights movement in the South, had worked for a summer organizing Mexican-American grape pickers in California and had served in the Peace Corps.