

# S.U. Panel Raps Police

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The unofficial Black People's Committee of Inquiry into the violence at Southern University here last November today issued a report blaming police and officials for the deaths of two students.

The committee, which held two days of hearings after the incident, exonerated students at Southern's Baton Rouge campus and placed the blame on law officers, university administrators, Gov. Edwin Edwards and the Louisiana state Board of Education.

The students were struck by buckshot as police moved to clear demonstrators from in front of the predominantly black university's administration building.

A state investigating committee issued a report in mid-December that said it had "concluded that the lethal shot came from the area where sheriff's deputies were deployed." The 12-man, biracial commission said the matter should be turned over to a district attorney for possible criminal prosecution.

The state panel, headed by state Atty. Gen. William Guste, also said it determined that a state policeman who misunderstood a command fired the first tear gas canister in the Nov. 16 clash between students and police.

The report issued today closely paralleled a tentative report given verbally by the black panel at the time. Edwards has termed that report "a blackwash."

The black committee, composed of 12 prominent blacks from various parts of the nation, was chaired by Heywood Burns of New York, director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, and by D'Army Bailey, a city councilman at Berkeley, Calif. They heard testimony from students, faculty members and others, including the governor.

Bailey told newsmen the committee concluded that the demonstrating students "acted in a peaceful and orderly fashion in attempting to communicate grievances to the university authorities."

The report said "prompt federal and state action is in order" to determine whether criminal charges should be lodged against the state policeman who reportedly threw the tear gas canister and against law enforcement officials, including the sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish.

It also called for criminal action against "the sheriff's deputy or deputies responsible for firing live ammunition into the bodies of Denver Smith and Leonard Brown, resulting in their deaths."

The report also said university administrators and law enforcement officers were "criminally negligent in failing and refusing to provide immediate medical attention and treatment for the two critically wounded students."