

DEC 18 1972

NEW ORLEANS *States-Item*

## Guste Hits Edwards For S.U. Statements

Atty. Gen. William Guste said today that some of Gov. Edwin Edwards' statements about the Nov. 16 shooting deaths of two Southern University students should not have been made.

Edwards "was trying to be helpful, to show he was terribly concerned," but "some of his statements were premature," Guste said. "It might have been better if he had not made them, because they caused confusion in the public mind."

However, Guste refused to criticize Edwards' reaction to the report by the special biracial commission that investigated the deaths. That commission, headed by Guste, concluded that the violence was started by police and that officers fired the tear gas that touched off the confrontation.

Edwards, who had maintained that the students had thrown the first gas, declared Thursday that he "personally, Edwin Edwards the human being, not Edwin Edwards the governor," still disagrees with the commission, but that the panel's conclusion will stand as the state's "official position."

Guste said he is "confident" that Ossie B. Brown, who takes over as East Baton Rouge Parish district attorney

Jan. 3, "will accept his constitutional responsibility" and begin a grand jury investigation of the shooting.

If Brown does so, Guste said, "members of our staff will be present with him in the grand jury room to see that this (case) is properly presented."

If Brown refuses, Guste said, the attorney general's office will institute proceedings.

The investigating commission decided upon its report "without ever taking a single formal vote," Guste said. As a result, there were no minority reports, he said.