

S. U. Probe: Passing the Buck

By **CHARLES LAYTON**

BATON ROUGE (AP)—The politicians are ducking for cover to escape fallout from Atty. Gen. William Guste's commission of inquiry into the Nov. 16 violence at Southern University, where two students died.

The worst of the fallout is on Page

21 of the commission's 24-page report:

"... The commission has concluded that the lethal shot came from an area where sheriff's deputies were deployed.

"It is, therefore, the conclusion of this commission that the evidence and statements accumulated by the com-

mission be turned over immediately to the district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish for further investigation by his office of possible criminal liability of any individual involved."

MOST POLITICIANS are convinced public sympathy is on the side of the deputies, not the students. Therefore, they would rather investigate students than deputies.

Sheriff Al Ammiss said he intends to do just that, beginning Monday.

"We've been investigating it all along, but Monday we're going to try to find out who burned the building up out there at Southern. That and maybe, you know, who was the one that led the students into the administration building," Ammiss said. "We're going to start full-scale Monday."

Guste said Ammiss should have investigated his own deputies, but Ammiss had no plans to do that. The sheriff has maintained all along his men fired no live ammunition, only tear gas.

THE MATTER of possible grand jury proceedings against a deputy seems to have boomeranged back to Guste.

The Guste commission handed its ev-

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idence to Dist. Atty. Sargent Pitcher, who said since he is a lame duck he will leave the matter to Ossie B. Brown, who takes office Jan. 3. Brown in turn said he thought Guste should be the one to handle any grand jury investigation.

Guste said he will if he has to. "However, I really believe the district attorney should do this. First we will try to persuade him to accept the constitutional duty of a district attorney."

"Well, I'm not refusing," Brown said, "but since Mr. Guste has handled the investigation thus far and he has the authority under the law to come in and handle such matters, I think it would be better for me to cooperate with him and work with him."

"**HE HAS** had this hearing and he knows what witnesses are available, he knows what technical evidence there is

—I think it would expedite and make the matter being presented to the grand jury more, you know, would be more continuity involved."

But hasn't Guste asked Brown to handle it?

"Well, I'm asking Mr. Guste to handle it," Brown said, "since he originated the investigation."

But what if Guste insists Brown handle it?

"If he refused, of course, then we'll have to cross that bridge when we get to it," Brown said.

IF AMISS chooses to investigate the students, there is plenty of room for that. During the three weeks of campus unrest preceding the Nov. 16 tragedy, the Guste commission reported these acts of violence occurred:

— A bomb exploded in T. T. Allain Hall and an unidentified explosive device was found in another campus

building.

— A fire destroyed the horticulture barn.

— A campus security officer reported six shots fired in his vicinity.

— Several explosions were reported in the vicinity of the horticulture barn. Six Molotov cocktails were found in the area.

The Guste commission also faulted students for having occupied the administration building on Nov. 16, for refusing to leave when ordered out by police and for outbreaks of arson and vandalism on campus immediately following the shotgun deaths of the two students.

But the commission's report said law officers tossed the first tear gas on Nov. 16. It said the students were unarmed, held no hostages and were engaged in no violence at the time the police arrived.