

Some Witnesses Refuse SU Death Probe Call

By **BILL LYNCH**
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BATON ROUGE — State investigators probing the fatal shootings of two students at Southern University have been rebuffed by some potential black witnesses in their efforts to lay the groundwork for a special citizens committee scheduled to begin closed-door sessions today.

State Atty. Gen. William Guste, chairman of the 13-member citizens committee, has assigned agents from his criminal division to gather information for the group.

In some instances, it was learned, some students at the scene have refused to cooperate with the investigators. There was some indication that the reluctant witnesses might be waiting to give testimony before a group of blacks holding its own hearing in competition with the state.

Guste named six blacks and six whites to serve with him as a state committee to probe the death of the two students, apparently from buckshot wounds.

IN ADDITION to the state and black groups, the federal government has assigned some 50 agents to investigate.

The FBI, conducting the main investigation for the Justice Department, has ignored suggestions by Gov. Edwin Edwards and Guste that

they conduct a cooperative venture.

East Baton Rouge Parish coroner Hypolite Landry was among the witnesses scheduled to testify today at the start of the state inquiry.

A **SPOKESMAN** said the 12-member investigating panel set up by Guste would view films of the 30 minutes of violence and examine other evidence before calling witnesses.

Across town, the black people's committee of inquiry was late in starting its independent investigation.

There were reports that Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond, the most widely known of the panelists, would not be on hand for the start of the investigation.

Only Guste's panel carries legal force and has access to subpoena powers.

It was anticipated Landry would describe for the panel the buckshot wounds that killed the students.

START OF the official and unofficial investigations brought a sharp protest from a member of the state Board of Education, Fred Tannehill of Pineville.

"It looks like Louisiana is well qualified to take care of its own business," Tannehill said in special reference to the black inquiry. "We don't need a group of professional

agitators to investigate this thing."

Tannehill said it's up to a special board committee, named three weeks ago, to look into the violence.

"The only official inquiry of any substance would have to be handled by the state Board of Education," he said.