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Protesters, Police Clash At Southern

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Special to The Washington Post

BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 16—Three weeks of student unrest at Southern University here exploded in violence today as two black demonstrators were killed during a confrontation between sheriff's deputies and protesters who had taken over the school's administration building.

Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards subsequently declared a state of emergency that extended to the entire parish (county) of East Baton Rouge. He also called in 500 National Guardsmen to cordon off the



Associated Press

... in Baton Rouge, La., is in foreground as another wounded youth is put on stretcher.

8,400 - student predominantly black university campus, where the day of trouble was marked by a fire in the registration office and the explosion of at least one bomb.

It was not immediately known how the two male students died. Baton Rouge Sheriff Al Amias said his men fired only tear gas canisters and did not fire their pistols, rifles or shotguns when they swept into a milling crowd of 2,000 massed in front of the administration building.

Police had ordered the massed students to move and according to officials a tear gas grenade was fired from the crowd at the officers. Then students started throwing things and police responded with tear gas.

"We didn't use anything but tear gas," Amias assured Gov. Edwards, who had rushed to the campus.

After the building had been cleared, Amias said, "We heard two pistol shots, shots from a pistol that came from the crowd." He said the victims "looked like they were trampled. Their faces were all swollen."

Parish Coroner Hypolite Landry said the two students died of head wounds inflicted by fragments from what could have been either buckshot or a grenade-type bomb. One of the students was identified as Denver Smith, 20, of New Roads, La. Identifying the other could not be established, officials said.

The governor said at a press conference later in the day that a television film of the incident showed that students hurled the first missile at police.

Edwards also reported that he was advised a "band of 10 students" planned to assassinate him, but he added it was probably just dormitory talk. Nevertheless, Edwards was kept under heavy guard.

The governor also said that Baton Rouge Mayor Woodrow W. Dumas had advised him that there was a run on the sale of ammunition and guns in local stores. The state of emergency permits the closing

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of bars, banning of weapons and ammunition sales and imposition of a curfew by local authorities. Edwards said he would recommend a curfew.

After the 10-minute battle between deputies and protesters, Mayor Dumas said, "Two men have been shot and there may be more if necessary. We've sent the dogs in to get them out of the building. We're going to take back over the administration building at any cost."

After the administration building area was cleared trouble continued with groups of students throwing missiles at police and newsmen and setting fire to the registrar's office, causing some \$200,000 worth of damage, according to education department officials.

While Edwards talked with newsmen, a bomb exploded in another building on campus, but caused no injuries.

Edwards said the campus was being cordoned off to all except students and officials. He said the Baton Rouge campus would be closed until after the Thanksgiving holidays and only out-of-state and foreign students would be permitted in their dormitories.

Militant students at both the Baton Rouge campus and the 2,700-student New Orleans campus had boycotted classes for two weeks seeking more control over student life and the resignation of the chief administrator of the two campuses, Dr. Leon G. Netterville. **Dean Resigns**

Students had occupied the administration building of the New Orleans campus for four days last week before giving it up following the resignation of Dr. Emmett Bashful, dean

of the New Orleans campus.

So far today, the New Orleans campus was quiet.

Today's outburst on the Baton Rouge campus occurred as Gov. Edwards was appearing before the State Board of Education to urge the board to refuse the resignation of Dean Bashful.

Edwards had taken a personal hand in the negotiations to bring about a peaceful settlement of the dispute at New Orleans, and his comments to the board came as a surprise. Edwards told the board if students didn't settle down and return to classes at once, he would seek another meeting of the board after the first of the year "to discuss the future use of buildings on the two campuses.

"I'm awfully sorry," Edwards told the board, "but I can truthfully say I bent over backwards. It appears the students are not ready to discuss this."

Edwards also advised the board he was dissolving a special 23-member committee he had created to look into the situation at both campuses. As Edwards spoke, there were reports from the Baton Rouge sheriff's office that deputies were moving onto the Baton Rouge campus.

"We've established that the two men were killed with weapons or shrapnel," the governor said. "The preliminary reports we have are that it looked like No. 3 buckshot. This is very strange because the officers were armed with No. 2 buckshot."

Edwards said he would make no more efforts to solve student problems "if they do not have enough confidence in me to go back to classes peacefully and give me time to solve their problems."

Shortly before the students were routed from the administration building, one girl spoke to a reporter by telephone from the president's office.

"I'm going to give you the accurate situation," she said. "We came up here to talk to President Leon Netterville this morning about the students being arrested. Dr. Netterville said he had a meeting at the state board of education at 10 a.m. We stated we would wait here until he returned and he agreed . . . we have not taken over the building. We had no idea that the National Guard would be out there accusing us of taking over the building. Now they are out there shooting tear gas." Her reference to the National Guard apparently was to state troopers and sheriff's deputies.

Newsmen who tried to talk further to students were rebuffed throughout the afternoon and telephone lines to dormitories were cut off after the campus was closed.