

Gun Experts Called by S.U. Panel

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BATON ROUGE — Atty. Gen. William Guste's commission of inquiry today plans to call ballistics experts for testimony on shotgun pellets that killed two students at Southern University here before it recesses for several days.

Guste, who is leading the 13-member commission, said he is satisfied with progress made by the group probing the Southern tragedy.

The commission heard testimony from administration officials and from Baton Rouge Coroner Dr. Hordell Landry. It already has viewed films and heard testimony from television cameramen who shot them.

THERE HAVE been indications that the fatal shot may have been fired by a deputy sheriff during a melee between students who had occupied the administration building and police.

Guste said the coroner told the com-

mission—which includes himself, six whites and six blacks—that the victims were struck 19 times by pellets.

He said only 10 pellets were recovered from the bodies of the students, Denver Smith of New Roads and Leonard Brown of Gilbert, both 20.

Landry reported that two other students were injured and treated at Baton Rouge hospitals, Guste said. He identified them as James Jackson, hit by a shotgun pellet, and Leonard Jackson, hit by a tear-gas canister.

THE COMMISSION is meeting behind closed doors, taking testimony which might be submitted to a grand jury. The group has not yet reached the stage of questioning police at the scene and has been having some difficulty lining up black student witnesses.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Jack Yelverton, in charge of the staff investigation, briefed the commission on its findings.

Witnesses scheduled for today included Dr. G. Leon Netterville, Southern

president, whose ouster is sought by militant students. Other staff members and security officials were scheduled to appear.

Meanwhile, Gov. Edwin Edwards has assured an investigation being conducted by blacks that police officers will be prosecuted if it is found that they deliberately shot and killed the students.

BUT, THE governor has emphasized that student "troublemakers" are primarily to blame for the Nov. 16 confrontation.

"These were troublemakers. They didn't want to have peace and quiet," he said.

Guste's committee spent its first day hearing the coroner and viewing television films of the incident.

Earlier in the day, Edwards was booed and jeered on the steps of the state Capitol as he addressed a

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group of protestors gathered to commemorate the deaths of the students.

"It's the student leaders who are responsible," Edwards said above the angry shouts of some 200 young blacks and whites.

Officers called to Southern's Baton Rouge campus to remove students from the administration building have said they fired only tear-gas cartridges from their shotguns.

BUT EDWARDS told the black committee an officer might have loaded and fired buckshot accidentally in the confusion, thinking it was tear gas. The two types of cartridges are similar in appearance.

The main campus at Baton Rouge, scene of the two deaths, is closed for the rest of the calendar year.

In his testimony before the 12-man black committee, Edwards said the students had been intimidating campus police and fellow students alike for three weeks. He said protestors should have obeyed officers who asked them to leave the administration building peacefully.

"There's no justification, reason or excuse whatsoever for them standing there defying the law," Edwards said.

BUT CHARLENE Hardnett, a protest leader, said the students never engaged in violence and never did anything to justify the presence of riot troops on campus.

"We were extremely orderly, extremely peaceful and extremely non-violent," she said.