

# Talks Go On at

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## 2 SUNO Students Join Probe

Two students from Southern University in New Orleans have been named by Atty. Gen. William Guste to the special commission of inquiry that will investigate the shooting deaths of two blacks in a police-student confrontation last week at Southern's Baton Rouge campus.

Selected today to the 13-member commission, which is headed by Guste, were Wanda Butler, vice president of the junior class, and Cornelius Bass, a sophomore majoring in psychology. Miss Butler, a member of the student body senate, is majoring in mathematics and physics, while Bass is a Vietnam veteran who is studying the clinical aspects of drug addiction.

"THESE STUDENTS have the respect of their peers and were selected by a consensus of the student leadership at SUNO," said Guste. The appointments complete the commission membership of six whites and six blacks, with Guste as chairman.

The attorney general said the student representatives were picked with the help of State Reps. Johnny Jackson and Louis Charbonnet of New Orleans.

The committee is scheduled to begin a secret investigation Monday into the causes of the violence, to find ways to prevent recurrences.

Guste said he is confident the students named to the group "will bring to the commission a viewpoint of students and their concern for establishing the truth, in a responsible and dedicated manner."

MEANWHILE, Jackson held a press conference at the Desire Community Center, saying he does not feel Guste's probe will produce a "whitewash." But Jackson added that many blacks do not have confidence in that investiga-

## 'Secret' Site

tion and therefore called for a re-instatement of the blue-ribbon panel which was studying student grievances before the violence.

Jackson said most of the student demands could be implemented immediately. "I call upon the administration of SUNO to implement them, and particularly the Southern University at Baton Rouge administrators to stop resisting the legitimate demands," said Jackson. He said the firing of some faculty members on the Baton Rouge campus was a "vindictive act."

A black civil rights leader, during a

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memorial service for the two slain students in Baton Rouge, called for indictments of "those murderers" and threatened trouble at the New Orleans campus if the school is re-opened Monday as scheduled.

Meanwhile, state Sen. Claude Duval of Houma today called for prosecution of students who disrupted classes at the Baton Rouge campus, destroyed public property and occupied the president's office.

"I cannot, for the life of me, understand how we can permit a small, radical, militant, and revolutionary minority to disrupt the right to an education of the majority in our schools and universities."

While Duval was labeling as "absurd" the demands of students to administer universities and decide what they should be taught, Joseph Hammond, field general of the Southern Christian Leadership conference called for different action.

"WE WANT the governor and the rest of those who decided they want to close Southern at Baton Rouge (to know) they forgot to close SUNO, and come Monday, there'll be some hell down there," Hammond said.

SUNO, the scene of turmoil and a

general student boycott for nearly a month, had been ordered closed through the Thanksgiving holidays, along with Southern's main campus at Baton Rouge, following the deaths of the two students.

This week, the state board of Education decided to keep Southern-Baton Rouge closed until Jan. 3, but SUNO is still scheduled to reopen Monday.

"There's going to be stuff going on all over this country until they indict those murderers," Hammond said. "Whatever we do, we don't forget they murdered our brothers."

State Atty. Gen. William Guste is heading an official investigation into the violence, but a group of prominent blacks is conducting a separate investigation.

**THE DEATHS** of the two students in a confrontation with police climaxed three weeks of student demands for a majority voice in administrative affairs, including the hiring and firing of faculty members.

The announcement of the black peo-

ple's probe into the matter came from Etta Kay Hearn, a Baton Rouge attorney.

Miss Hearn said a 14-member panel would report its findings to "appropriate state, federal, and university officials as well as to the public at large."

Included on the panel are Georgia state Rep. Julian Bond, and La. state Reps. Johnny Jackson and Dorothy Mae Taylor, both of New Orleans.

Hammond spoke at a memorial service for the slain students, held on the steps of the State Capitol. The service was attended by about 200 blacks, members of Concerned Parents of Baton Rouge.

Earlier, he spoke at the funeral of one of the students — Denver Allen Smith—held at nearby Lettsworth.

Hammond represented Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, the leader of SCLC, who could not attend.

Hammond urged blacks at the funeral "to keep that struggle going" at Southern.

"OUR main struggle right now is to see to it that none of the black brothers died in vain at Southern," Hammond said. "Let's keep the struggle going."

About 600 persons crowded into the St. Mary Baptist Church in the little community to eulogize Smith, a 20-year-old junior who had been majoring in computer science.

He died of buckshot wounds during last week's campus violence.

The second victim, Leonard Brown, 20, was buried in his hometown of Gilbert Wednesday.

Gov. Edwin Edwards ordered the Baton Rouge campus closed at the request of university officials.

Fred Prejean, who heads the protesting student organization, told mourners that American blacks have no reason to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day.

"WE HAVE allowed persons to come to our own black university and senselessly murder our people," he said. "Brothers and sisters, we have nothing to give thanks for, except that we can rise up from our tables and give thanks for finally standing up and denying that monster that suffocates us.

"The Lord has said, 'Vengeance is mine,' and I have every confidence that He is going to take care of what has happened to us."