

Book Examines Orangeburg Killings

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FBI Agents Accused of Deception

FBI agents misled their Justice Department superiors during an investigation of the 1968 Highway Patrol gunfire that killed three Negro students and wounded 27 others at Orangeburg, S.C., according to a book by two newsmen who covered the story.

Jack Nelson, of the Los Angeles Times, and Jack Bass, Columbia bureau chief for the Charlotte Observer, write that three agents witnessed the incident but the Justice Department did not learn of this until three months later.

The FBI had no comment on the allegations.

The book—"The Orangeburg Massacre", to be published Sept. 25 by World Publishing—quotes former Deputy Assistant Attorney General D. Robert Owen as saying he specifically asked two of the agents—Charles DeFord and Bill Danielson—if they had seen the shootings and "they told me they were in Orangeburg, but weren't on the scene."

DeFord, who was agent in

charge of the Columbia GBI office at the time, was quoted as saying he didn't want to get into an argument with the Civil Rights Division.

Danielson is quoted as saying, "nobody asked me if I was on the scene."

The book charges that the FBI's duplicity hampered the investigation.