

HW

In a much earlier mailing dated Sept. 24 you put a question to which we neglected to respond. You asked if we thought anything has happened to Bingham, the attorney who visited George Jackson the day of the incident, Aug. 21..

Yes, we do. If he's in hiding somewhere, either here or abroad, it is difficult to think he could not have been located somewhere if they are as interested in him as they profess to be.

Bingham had a date for lunch that day with his uncle, Woodbridge Bingham, a retired UC professor of Chinese history in Berkeley, whom he had not seen in some time, according to the uncle. The uncle says Stephen called him ~~from~~ from San Quentin shortly after noon saying he had been held up by delays there and would miss the lunch, but agreed to come around later for tea, which he did.

He arrived on his motorbike, had tea with the family, and then left, appearing perfectly normal, said the uncle. He was never seen again, although his motorbike was found at the place where he had been living.

Also missing is the young black girl, an employe of a Berkeley law firm, who had gone to the prison with him but who did not go in with Bingham to see Jackson, but who allegedly passed the tape recorder to Bingham which allegedly contained the smuggled gun. No one ever mentions this girl or where she might be. She may be perfectly okay, but we've seen absolutely nothing on her and it is strange to say the least why the officials aren't just as interested in her as in Bingham.

If something happened to him, presumably it would have been done either by sympathetic blacks who theoretically could be keeping him out of sight, or by the opposition.

We have been unable to find any substantial motive apparent for the blacks keeping him under wraps, doing him in, or otherwise adding to the mystery, which is all against their interests.

On the other hand we find it much more plausible to think that interests related to the guards could be responsible for killing him and disposing of his body without a trace left. But even this is hard to imagine as a practical matter.

The shooting took place around 2:30 p.m. and Bingham was at his uncle's for tea by about 5:30 p.m. As I recall the stories without digging them up he stayed only an hour or so, then disappeared.

The total is not very long, but if one presupposes a reasonably well-organized coup to get rid of Jackson, it is not illogical to presuppose also confederates in the East Bay who could be notified in a hurry that a last-visitor witness was at large and to get rid of him fast.

This is pure speculation, but everything we've seen thus far has led us in this direction, not in any other.

jdw21oct71