

'LEISURELY' AND 'NORMAL' LA TIMES
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Father Says He Saw Hunted Lawyer After Visit to Prison

BY DARYL LEMBKE

Times Staff Writer

BERKELEY—Stephen Bingham, 29-year-old attorney who is wanted for questioning in the bloody attempted escape at San Quentin Prison, was seen at two different locations in Berkeley hours after the attempted breakout.

His father, Alfred, 66, a distinguished gray-haired probate judge from Salem, Conn., told a press conference Wednesday night that Stephen appeared "leisurely and normal" on both occasions.

The father said that around 4 p.m. last Saturday, about an hour after the uprising that took six lives at the prison, Stephen drove up on a motorcycle to the Berkeley home of Woodbridge Bingham, the judge's brother.

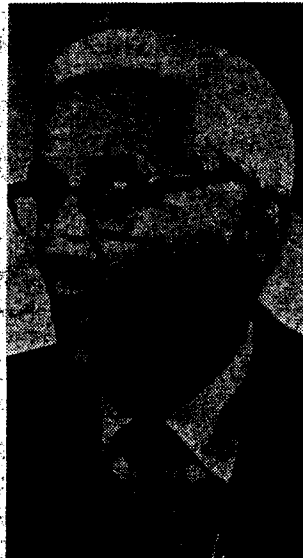
Woodbridge Bingham, who is now on vacation, released a statement saying that Stephen telephoned a little after noon Saturday and said that he had been detained in trying to see a prisoner at San Quentin and would be late arriving at the Berkeley home for lunch with his aunt and uncle.

The uncle said that when Stephen arrived at 4 p.m., they had a "pleasant, relaxed conversation" and that Stephen ate lunch.

Stephen's father said that afterward the young attorney went to a house in Oakland which he shared with several friends, chatted with them briefly and left about 6 p.m.

No one has seen or heard from him since, according to his father.

Prison authorities state that black militant George Jackson, who was killed in the escape attempt, had a gun in his possession when he was returned to the prison adjustment center after a visit from Stephen Bingham.



Alfred M. Bingham

(AP Wirephoto)

Stephen's father said he met for an hour Wednesday with Marin County Dist. Atty. Bruce Bales.

"The district attorney told me there is hardly any doubt in his mind that Stephen was the instrument by which the gun was delivered to George Jackson," Stephen's father said.

"I don't know if that is true but I had it in my mind that Steve could have been victimized or used as an instrument inadvertently."

"Dist. Atty. Bales said it was perfectly possible that Steve could have been involved in bringing the pistol to George Jackson without knowing it."

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