

Kin Saw Lawyer After He Had Visited Jackson

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The elder Bingham indicated that the district attorney has grounds for thinking that Vanetia Anderson, a black woman investigator for an East Bay law firm had a briefcase containing a tape recorder in her possession when she and Stephen Bingham came to visit Jackson.

Prison authorities would not allow her into the visitors' cubicle where Stephen Bingham visited with Jackson, and the elder Bingham indicated she may have turned over the briefcase and tape recorder to his son at this point.

The judge was told by the district attorney that Miss Anderson was not allowed in to see Jackson because she had already visited him earlier last week and prison rules allow only one visit a week to an inmate by any one individual.

Prison officials believe the gun was concealed in the tape recorder.

Judge Bingham said the district attorney told him Stephen may have left Jackson briefly during the visit to get the inmate some cigarettes. The implication was that Jackson may have taken the gun from the tape recorder

without Bingham's knowledge.

"Steve's reason for getting involved in a situation as dangerous as this proved to be — visiting Jackson when an escape plot was brewing—is to his credit," Judge Bingham said.

"It rises from his commitment to civil rights as shown by his activity in Mississippi in 1963 and his highly developed conscience as regards the plight of nonwhites."

He said his son has also been dedicated to nonviolence, not only for moral reasons but out of common sense.

"The idea of engaging in a plot as silly as this unless he had an aberration, which there is no sign that he did, indicates he was not a willing participant," Judge Bingham said.

The judge speculated that his son is staying in hiding because he believes the case against him now seems to be so damning that he must wait until he can clear himself before showing up for questioning.

Miss Anderson also is missing.

Judge Bingham flew here Monday "to do what I could for Steve, to stand behind him whatever he

had done but hopefully to clear him as it seemed impossible he could have done what he seemed to have done."

San Quentin prison officials said Wednesday they would relax visitor restrictions imposed after the bloody escape attempt.

Associate Warden James Park said attorneys, barred from the prison since the Saturday rampage, would be allowed to visit their clients again starting today.

He said lawyers with active criminal cases would be given first priority, then those with civil cases. All will be thoroughly searched, he said, and "no tape recorders will be allowed, of course."

The Angela Davis Defense Committee rallied a half-mile from the prison's main gates Wednesday. Speakers demanded that lawyers and doctors be let into the prison and that officials be forced to rescind new get-tough policies imposed in the wake of the killings.

While police and sheriff's deputies who had been called out to make sure the demonstration was peaceful looked on, a group of about 30 of the demonstrators chanted, "Three dead pigs is not enough."