

# Biracial Panel Set to Probe Blacks' Death

By Austin Scott  
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BATON ROUGE, La., Nov. 20—Declaring that the "image and self respect" of Louisiana was at stake, state Attorney General William Guste today named a half white, half black commission of inquiry to probe last week's murders of two black Southern University students during a campus protest.

The attorney general urged students who had been part of more than a month of protests and boycotts to return to their classes when the school's three campuses reopen next Monday. "We wish to assure them that the commission will investigate in depth," he said.

As he spoke, however, student protest leaders meeting miles away in a black section of town called for a nationwide boycott of college classes by all students until indictments for the two deaths are handed down.

Baton Rouge Parish (county) Sheriff Al Amiss joined Gov. Edwin W. Edwards Sunday in admitting his men might have fired the buckshot that killed the students, even though he had claimed until then that they used nothing but tear gas.

"I'm not going to say one of my men didn't shoot them," Amiss said. "I feel like they did not, but maybe we will never know."

The Louisiana attorney general, who will chair his 12-member, all-male commission, said he wanted to insure an investigation "that will be above politics and above bias."

The probe will be behind

closed doors because criminal charges might grow out of it, he said.

"We will receive testimony from all participants in the tragedy and the event that preceded it — the sheriff and his deputies, state and city police officers, the mayor of Baton Rouge, students, university administrators, newsmen, members of the state board of education, state department of education personnel . . . and the governor."

Over the weekend, Dr. G. Leon Netterville, the 67-year-old Southern University president whose resignation was one of the student demands, fired two professors sympathetic to the students.

Guste asked Netterville "and other public officials" to "take no precipitous action that could in any way inflame the situation." He refused to say whether that was intended to include the firing of more professors.

Members of the commission include Turner Catledge, former executive editor of The New York Times now living in New Orleans; Revius Ortique, a black attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Campus Un-

rest; along with two state legislators, two Southern University students, two law enforcement officers, a criminal court judge and several college faculty members and administrators.

Guste named two attorneys to head the investigation—42-year-old Kendall Vic, who is white, and 24-year-old Henry Julien Jr., who is black. The commission will have subpoena powers and witnesses will be under oath, Guste said. Evidence that points to criminal charges will be presented to the East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury.

Spokesmen for Students United, whose demands led to a fall semester of partial boycotts, rallies, class disruptions and the repeated calling of riot-equipped sheriff's deputies onto campus, said they have not yet decided what further protests might be arranged when school reopens.

"We know we are not going to be in class," said Fred Prejean. "They can say the school is open all they want. We are calling for a nationwide boycott of all college classes until indictments are handed down."

Gov. Edwards has promised that when classes resume order will be maintained "by whatever means are necessary" including troops on campus if needed.

Dr. Joseph Johnson, chairman of the physics department before he and engineering professor George Baker Jr. were fired over the weekend, said he intends to fight his dismissal.

The letter Johnson received from President Netterville accused him of failing to show up to teach his classes. "In fact I did meet classes and it's well known that I did," he said.