

FBI Hunts Prison Gun Suspect

OAKLAND TRIBUNE

The FBI is pressing a nationwide search for Berkeley attorney Stephen M. Bingham, 29, charged yesterday with five counts of murder in the San Quentin Prison violence Aug. 21 that left six dead.

Marin County Dist. Atty. Bruce B. Bales filed the charges and a four-page affidavit outlining Bingham's asserted role in the events that bloody Saturday.

It accuses Bingham of smuggling a 9mm automatic pistol to convict George Jackson, who was awaiting trial on charges of murdering a Soledad Prison guard. Jackson was subsequently shot to death by prison tower guards.

Bales told newsmen yesterday, "There is no other way Jackson could have obtained the death gun, except by his visit with the attorney Stephen Bingham just before the killings commenced."

The district attorney said the fact that Bingham disappeared after his visit with Jackson "is not insignificant . . . I feel I have a solid and sound case against him."

But in Salem, Conn., the attorney's mother, Mrs. Alfred Bingham, said she believes her son innocent and expressed the fear that he is being held captive somewhere.

"He's not free to come forward," she said. "I have no idea who might be holding him but I have felt right along he was probably being held or

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he would have been able to get word in some way to us or to his law partners. My present hope is that he is alive."

His father had suggested that Bingham might have unwittingly carried the gun into the interview room, noting that the attorney left for a few minutes during his visit with the convict.

But Bales said that while Bingham was out, Jackson was removed too and returned when Bingham came back.

He said facts he had gathered rule out the idea that Bingham was the unknowing gun smuggler.

Bales' affidavit asserts that Bingham "filled out a request form to take a tape recorder into the A Visiting Room" and entered the room at about 1:25 p.m.

In his news conference, the district attorney would not directly confirm reports that the gun was hidden in the mechanism compartment of a tape recorder, however.

The affidavit then noted that after an hour's visit, Bingham left and while Jackson was being searched he "pulled a black wig from his head and took therefrom a 9mm automatic pistol and clips containing 9mm live cartridges and forthwith took the searching officers hostage."

Within minutes, the other convicts were in command of the cell block and the slaughter began.

Three guards and two white inmates were butchered.

Bales contends that Jackson shot one officer to death.

Presiding Municipal Court Judge Peter A. Smith issued a no-bail warrant for Bingham's arrest after Bales filed the affidavit.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed today, Allan Mancino, 27, one of the prisoners in the Adjustment Center has been removed from the San Quentin hospital. But no one will say officially where he was taken or why.

Mancino, serving a six-months-to-life sentence for first degree robbery in Los Angeles County, suffered a leg injury after the convicts in the

center were ordered outside.

While the men were lying, shackled and nude, on the courtyard ground, Mancino reportedly moved as if to get up and a guard fired a warning shot. The bullet struck the cement alongside Mancino and pieces of concrete lacerated his leg, officials said.

An administration spokesman at the prison today said, "He has been taken out of the prison. I can't say any more than that."

He confirmed that Mancino's condition was described by doctors as "all right."

Speculation on the reason for the secret transfer seemed to center on the theory that authorities hope to persuade Mancino to become a state's witness in prosecuting the killers.

One unconfirmed report said Mancino had been taken last week and is now held in the California Medical Facility at Vacaville.

Mancino, who is white, came to San Quentin in August, 1965.

The prison, in a state of extreme security for more than a week after the bloodbath, was gradually relaxing the stiff regulations and about 500 of the 2,300 inmates were allowed to return to their prison jobs yesterday.

But Marin County was bridling at the notion of another long and costly trial arising from events at the prison.

Supervisors agreed yesterday to oppose more trials arising from offenses in or involving San Quentin.

They will meet next week with Presiding Superior Court Judge Samuel W. Gardiner to discuss the possibility of having such trials moved elsewhere.

It is estimated the trial of Angela Davis will cost the county \$1.5 million.

Like Bingham, she is accused of supplying guns used in commission of a crime.

Authorities believe she gave weapons to George Jackson's brother, Jonathan, 17, who led the abortive courtroom escape

a year ago in which four persons, including Jonathan and a Superior Court judge were slain.

Under state law, an accomplice in a crime bears equal guilt with those directly involved in its commission.

Meanwhile, San Quentin Associate Warden James Park, who as acting warden worked around the clock in the wake of the prison violence, is suffering "battle fatigue" and has been on vacation.

"I've got to get away for awhile in order to wash the

fresh blood from my soul," he told a friend.

His absence gave rise to rumors that he is in trouble within the prison system for statements to the press that white liberals and other outsiders are to blame for the violence in San Quentin.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," answered Raymond J. Procunier, director of the State Department of Corrections.

"I heartily support his statements to the press," he added.
