

SP
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Father of Bingham Has Mixed Feelings

Salem, Conn.

Alfred Bingham was both happy and sad Sunday.

He learned for the first time that his son, Stephen W. Bingham, a lawyer charged with murder and under indictment in California was definitely alive and well somewhere in Canada.

He was sad because his son said he would probably never see his family again.

"But we have not given up hope," said Bingham, 69, a former Connecticut state senator and retired lawyer.

Bingham and his wife Sylvia said they last saw their son in January 1971.

Alfred Bingham said he was in "total disagreement" with his son's political views that were stated in the interview.

"I am distressed to learn

from the interview that his isolation during this period seems to have prevented his developing more mature ideas and an understanding of political realities."

Bingham said if his son ever came to trial, "We would have too strong a defense. He would never be convicted of murder. The charges against him are entirely based on the fact he visited (George) Jackson in prison shortly before the shooting."

"I'm surprised he would seek to give an interview. It was clear he was using this as a method of communicating with family and friends," said Alfred Bingham.

"I'm still his father, and his mother and I love him and believe in him," said Bingham.

Associated Press