

Bingham's Parents Say He Is Opposed To Violent Actions

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SALEM, Conn., Aug. 23 (AP) —Stephen M. Bingham, sought for questioning in connection with the San Quentin Prison shootout that left six dead, was described by his mother today as "wholly committed to nonviolence." His father agreed.

Mrs. Alfred M. Bingham added, "It is completely out of character for our son to be involved in anything such as this."

Stephen Bingham, 29 years old, of Oakland, Calif., is the grandson of Hiram Bingham, a former United States Senator, and the nephew of Representative Jonathan B. Bingham of the Bronx.

Prison officials said Stephen Bingham visited George Jackson just before Jackson drew a pistol. Mr. Bingham is not charged with any wrongdoing.

Mrs. Bingham said she knew nothing about Stephen's whereabouts except what newsmen told her and what she heard on the radio. "It's a trying time for us," she said. "I probably know less about my son than you do."

Mrs. Bingham and her husband, a Salem attorney, agreed that their son was an activist for causes he considered worthy.

Alfred Bingham said his son was arrested in 1963 in Mississippi for civil rights activity and spent another summer organizing Chicano grape pickers.

He characterized his son as a believer in nonviolence, but he said Stephen often took an "overly romantic approach to political problems."

Young Bingham had been interested in the case of the Soledad Brothers for some time, his father said.