

# Manhunt On for S. Q.

**Attorney**  
SF Examiner  
By Stephen Cook

A nationwide manhunt continued today for Stephen Michael Bingham, accused of five counts of murder for supplying the gun authorities say Soledad Brother George Jackson used to spark the Aug. 21 San Quentin blood-bath.

Marin County authorities yesterday issued an all-points bulletin for the young attorney who vanished after visiting Jackson only moments before the prison violence which left six dead.

Bingham, 28, scion of a powerful Connecticut political family, is formally charged with the murder of three prison guards and two inmates.

(Under California law, an accomplice in a capital crime is as guilty as the perpetrator. It is that law under which Angela Y. Davis is charged with kidnap and murder because she allegedly supplied guns used in the Aug. 7, 1970, Marin County Civic Center shootout.)

After he filed the murder charges and obtained a no-bail warrant yesterday morning, Bales held a news conference in which he answered "yes" each time he was asked if he believed

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there was a conspiracy between Jackson and Bingham; if others were involved; and if the conspirators were both inside and outside the prison.

He refused comment when asked if members of Jackson's family were involved in the alleged conspiracy.

### Second Conference

In a second news conference, he again repeated the conspiracy theory: "There is evidence that would support the existence of a conspiracy."

Bales said murder and other charges also would be sought against some of the 26 inmates in the Adjustment Center where the violence occurred but said he was not ready yet to seek any indictments from the Grand Jury.

Of the charges against Bingham, the district attorney said, "There was no other way George Jackson could have obtained the death gun except through his visit with attorney Stephen Bingham."

He said evidence obtained over the weekend — which he refused to discuss — "appears to rule out the unknowing or innocent transporting of the gun into the prison by Bingham."

### Disappearance

He also said Bingham's "sudden and complete disappearance" following the terrible and tragic events he triggered is not insignificant, especially in view of my repeated public requests for him to come in and discuss the case with me.

"I feel I have a solid and sound case against Bingham."

Because Bingham, whose grandfather was a governor and U.S. Senator from Connecticut and his father was a state senator there, may have left the state, the FBI has joined the search for him.

"We expect to locate him," Bales said, "but how soon and where is unknown." There were reports that Bingham left the Bay Area for the East Coast the night

of the violence.

Bales said he was still interested in talking to Vanita Anderson, 23, a black woman who accompanied Bingham to the prison on Aug. 21 but did not get in to visit.

No warrant has been issued for Miss Anderson who gave prison authorities as her address the address of Black Panther headquarters in Berkeley.

### Tape Records

Although Bales declined comment on prison officials' statements that the 9mm pistol Jackson used was smuggled into Quentin inside a tape recorder, an affidavit supporting the murder charges said Bingham had filled out a form asking to bring a recorder into the visiting room with him.

The complaint also said Bingham carried "a carrying case approximately 18 inches and an expanding folder envelope," but did not say whether he took them when he left.

The affidavit said Bingham and Miss Anderson arrived at the prison at 10:15 a.m. on that Saturday morning.

Bingham had visited Jackson five previous times — although he was not Jackson's attorney — but various pris-

on officials refused to grant him permission to visit the black militant.

Finally, Associate Warden James W. L. Park intervened and approved the visit, which began at 1:25 p.m. and lasted an hour.

The affidavit said Jackson was thoroughly searched before the visit and was not allowed to stay in the visiting room alone while Bingham left for a few minutes, purportedly to get cigarettes.

### No Barriers

The affidavit made it clear there were no barriers between Bingham and Jackson which would have prevented Bingham from passing to Jackson a gun and a black wig in which authorities say he concealed the gun.

After the visit, Bingham departed from the prison and

Jackson was returned to the Adjustment Center by prison guard Frank P. DeLeon. 44.

DeLeon, according to the affidavit, noticed that Jackson's hair looked "somewhat different" on the return trip and a search was started as soon as they were in the adjustment center.

Jackson then yanked off the black wig, the affidavit said, and grabbed the gun and an ammunition clip.

#### 30 Minutes

In the 30 minutes of violence that followed, Jackson was killed by a tower guard's bullet as he sprinted outside the Adjustment Center; DeLeon was killed with a slashed throat, as was guard Paul Krasenes, 52, and inmates John Lynn, 29, and Ronald L. Kane, 28; and Sgt. Jere Graham, 39, was shot to death in the back of the head. Three other guards were injured, but survived the methodic cutting of their throats.

Bales' affidavit said Jackson killed "at least one" of the guards — Graham — with the gun.

It also said the bodies of the dead guards and the inmates were stacked in Jackson's cell; that two guards died of slashed throats and that two were bound hand and foot with part of their uniforms removed, and that the pistol and clip with live ammunition were removed from the body of Jackson.

#### Black Panther

The gun in question was originally bought by Landon R. Williams, 27, the Black Panther Party's "underground field marshal," authorities said. He later turned it over to another Black Panther and its movements from then on into the hands of Jackson are not known, police said.

The last person to report

seeing Bingham was his uncle, retired University of California history professor Woodbridge Bingham. He said he visited with his nephew after the San Quentin violence but "he seemed perfectly normal."

After that Berkeley visit, young Bingham, a 1969 Boalt Hall graduate and divorced husband of Gretchen Spreckles of the wealthy socialite Spreckles family, dropped from sight.

Bingham's father has expressed fears that his son — who he said may have been an unwitting carrier of the Jackson gun — may have met with foul play or is being detained by revolutionaries involved in a plot to free Jackson and other prison militants.

#### Mother's Trust

His mother, reached by telephone at her home in Salem, Conn., said, "I don't know enough at this point to say anything. I feel I can't say anything. I have complete confidence that he's never been part of any murder plot. He could not have done it."

The youngest of four sons, Bingham was an active civil rights worker during his undergraduate days at Yale, where he served on the staff of the campus newspaper. Later, he was a Peace Corpsman in Africa and received his law degree from Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, in 1969.

He has represented a number of radical defendants, including the Red Family Commune and SDS founder Tom Hayden, as well as militants accused of disrupting a court hearing here for the Soledad Brothers. The surviving Brothers — Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — still face charges for the murder of a Soledad Prison guard in January, 1970.

Bingham's grandfather, Hiram, was governor and U.S. Senator from Connecticut, and his uncle, Jonathan, is currently a reform Democratic Congressman from the Bronx.

His father, Alfred, was former editor of the magazine Common Sense, and has been a political activist since the 1930s.