

FBI Joins the Hunt for Quentin Case Attorney

By Paul Avery

FBI agents in a dozen cities yesterday joined in the nationwide manhunt for Stephen Mitchell Bingham, the radical attorney accused of smuggling the gun that touched off the bloody breakout try at San Quentin Prison.

A federal fugitive warrant was issued by U.S. Magistrate Owen E. Woodruff Jr. after the FBI said it believes Bingham has fled California.

Bingham disappeared the evening of August 21, several hours after his visit with convict George Jackson. This immediately preceded the attempted escape that cost the lives of six persons.

BELIEF

Relatives and friends of the 29-year-old lawyer believe

Bingham has met with foul play.

"Steve unquestionably should be classified as a 'radical,' but more in a philosophical sense than, say, as an activist," one of Bingham's friends told The Chronicle. "In no way would it be accurate to describe him as a 'revolutionary.'"

"He most certainly was not a member of any revolutionary group," said the friend, himself an attorney, "and that is one reason all of us close to him are concerned as to his well-being."

"It somehow he was involved in the (San Quentin) incident — and it's damned improbable he'd willingly take part in such a stupid episode — and he then panicked and ran, he surely would have tried to contact his family or those of his friends closest to him."

MOTHER

In Salem Conn., Mrs. Alfred Bingham said she still believes her son is innocent of any knowing involvement in the smuggling of the 9-mm. pistol to Jackson.

Bingham, Tuesday, was charged with five counts of murder.

A warrant for Bingham's arrest was obtained by District Attorney Bruce Bales of Marin county. Bales said his investigation of the August 21 happenings had determined "there is no way George Jackson could have obtained the gun other than from Bingham."

WIG

Bales said Bingham smuggled the weapon into the vis-

iting room, along with an Afro-style wig, and that Jackson donned the wig, with the gun in it, and returned to the Adjustment Center where troublesome convicts are celled.

The district attorney said Jackson then pulled out the automatic pistol and took command of the ground floor tier of the center, freeing 26 other convicts.

Jackson and some of the other convicts, thus far unidentified, then killed three guards and two inmates who refused to take part in the escape attempt, Bales said.

SHOT

Jackson himself was shot dead by a tower guard when he fled the center toward a 20-foot high inner wall of the prison.

One of the convicts involved in the incident has been transferred from San Quentin to the California Medical Facility at Vacaville.

Prison officials would not comment on why, or when, inmate Allan Mancino was moved, or confirm he had been shifted to Vacaville.

The transfer, The Chronicle learned, took place late last week.

And although officials would not discuss the move, the primary reason was to insure Mancino's safety from other convicts. Rumors going the rounds of the prison grapevine are that Mancino has been talking to authorities about what appened inside the Adjustment Center and may be willing to testify.