

6-1-12

469 691 C

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

6-7-72

3

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All descriptive factors (if any) furnished by you match
those in our identification file unless herein quoted.

Description and Related Data:

Race: Negro
Sex: Male
Height: 6'
Weight: 185 lbs.
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Date and Place of Birth: 9-23-41; Ill

Scars and Marks: Tattoo: Line and question mark on chest
Scar: L/6

Address: Pasadena Calif in 1960

Occupation: Butcher

Since neither fingerprints nor an
identifying number which is indexed
in our files accompanied your request,
FBI cannot guarantee in any manner
that this material concerns the
individual in whom you are interested.

782 KAS

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

☐ (b)(1)

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☐ (b)(2)

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☐ (j)(2)

☐ (b)(3)

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☐ (b)(6)

☐ (k)(7)

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FBI/DOJ

X 16

Soledad Witnesses Were Bought, Juror Says of Not Guilty Verdict

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — "There was no case against them," juror John Callahan said of the Soledad Brothers. "Every body who testified against them was bought."

Callahan, an airline ticket agent, made the comment yesterday after an all-white jury returned a verdict of not guilty 28 months after white guard John Mills was killed at Soledad Prison.

Callahan's reference was to a defense contention that four main prosecution witnesses — all convicts — were promised consideration for their testimony against fellow inmates Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette.

The prosecution denied it.

Drumgo, 26, and Clutchette, 28, both blacks serving sentences for burglary, were charged with Mills' murder along with George Jackson, 33, a convicted robber.

"System" Works

After the verdict was read, Superior Court Judge S. Lee Vayns told the court: "Most of you have doubted the system."

But, you now know it really works, and if anyone can come up with a better system, I'd like to see it. The 12 jurors began to leave.

Drumgo, Clutchette and Jackson became known as the Soledad Brothers — although they are unrelated — partly because Jackson had written a book on blacks and the prison system which became an underground best seller. Their cause was taken up by critics and dissidents across the country.

James Earl Ray, the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was also in the courtroom.

plotting and providing guns in connection with the Aug. 21, 1970, shootout at the Marin County Civic Center in which four persons were killed. The state charges that five hostages taken during the shootout were intended to force release of the Soledad Brothers.

Jackson Killed

Jackson was killed Aug. 21 at San Quentin Prison while awaiting trial. Prison authorities said he was running toward a 20-foot wall in an escape attempt when he was shot by a guard. In the same incident, three white guards and two white prisoners in the maximum security unit were slain.

Drumgo is among six convicts charged with those slayings.

In the 13 weeks of testimony and evidence, the prosecution charged that Clutchette and Drumgo had helped Jackson beat up Mills and toss his body

the 4th the falling 100 feet to a concrete floor below.

Both testified they were not even at the scene. Their defense attorneys argued that Mills could have been killed by almost any convict because word had just reached the prison that a grand jury had ruled the death of three black prisoners, including Jackson, a white guard three days before was justifiable homicide.

Tolson _____
Felt _____
Rosen _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Callahan _____
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Conrad _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) A-1
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Daily World _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date MAR 28 1972

58 APR 1 1972

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 6-20-72

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: GEORGE LESTER JACKSON (DECEASED)

"SOLEDAD BROTHERS"
CRIMINAL RECORDS

Felt _____
Mohr _____
Rosen _____
Bates _____
Bishop _____
Callahan _____
Campbell _____
Casper _____
Cleveland _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Marshall _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Ponder _____
Soyars _____
Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Kinley _____
Mr. Armstrong _____
Ms. Herwig _____
Mrs. Neenan _____

Remymemo 6-13-72, setting forth the criminal backgrounds of captioned individuals. Mr. Gray requested a draft of a proposed factual letter to the editor of "The Washington Post" which he noted did not necessarily indicate that he would actually send such a letter.

draft of a
A proposed letter to possibly send to "The Washington Post" is attached.

It is noted, however, the letter is necessarily limited in scope, since information concerning the juvenile records of Jackson was furnished confidentially to the Bureau and is not suitable for public discussion by the Bureau. It is additionally noted that the timeliness of a reply is now questionable, since the editorial appeared on June 6th, and the sordid histories of captioned individuals have been previously set forth in detail in other publications. The Angela Davis trial, which prompted editorial mention of the records of captioned, is also settling down in the public mind and the wisdom of rekindling of controversy concerning it is debatable.

Hostile press elements are undoubtedly seeking opportunities to depict Mr. Gray as "anti-press" and the Post could be characteristically expected to balloon any response in instant matter out of all proper proportion in an attempt to discredit and smear Mr. Gray and the Bureau. It would thus appear advantageous for the Bureau to conserve our ammunition for a more worthy contest, such as a direct attack on the FBI.

It is therefore respectfully suggested that the attached letter not be sent to "The Washington Post" for the reasons cited above.

RECOMMENDATION:

A letter not be sent to "The Washington Post," taking issue with their misleading comments in their June 6th editorial.

Enclosure ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure

1 - Mr. Kinley - Enclosure

JRH:djm (7)

1 - Mr. E. S. Miller - Enclosure

1 - Mr. M. A. Jones - Enclosure

51 JUL 12 1972

F446

DRAFT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

(Draft of Proposed Letter)

[REDACTED] b7C
The Washington Post
1515 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

[REDACTED] b7C
I wish to take exception to the misleading impressions concerning the criminal character of George Jackson [REDACTED] as set forth in the editorial "Justice and the Angela Davis Verdict," which appeared in "The Washington Post" on June 6th. b7C

Since editorial expressions often strongly influence reader viewpoints, I am sure you will agree that fairness and objectivity should be prime considerations. These essentials, in my opinion, were missing when it was stated that "George Jackson was in the twelfth year of an 'up to life sentence' for a \$70 armed robbery," and that [REDACTED] "is serving a life sentence 'without the possibility of parole' for an offense involving the transfer of \$10 worth of marijuana." A reasonable man, I feel, would conclude that these individuals were overly penalized for the offenses mentioned, out of all proportion to the severity of the crimes involved. Logically, it would appear they were both victims of gross injustice. b7C

A closer examination, however, of the criminal histories of Jackson [REDACTED] might result in a far different conclusion, and it is interesting to note that other publications of widespread readership assumed the responsibility of fully informing their readers of the true nature of the criminal histories of Jackson [REDACTED] Jackson, for example, received his indeterminate sentence of one year to life after admitting participation in an armed robbery, wherein the robbery victim was threatened with death, and this sentence was affixed as a result of two previous commitments as a juvenile offender. [REDACTED] described in b7C

ENCLOSURE

44-50522-4

b7c [REDACTED]

your editorial as assessed a life sentence for an offense involving the transfer of \$10 worth of marijuana, was convicted of an armed robbery and kidnapping of a California man and was armed with a fully loaded gun when arrested. His sentence was assessed in consideration of a prior felony conviction when he was a juvenile.

Other representatives of the press, with access to the same facts available to your editorial writers, additionally noted, in presenting an objective picture of these individuals, Jackson's prison record which reflected, during a nine-year period from 1961 to 1970, 45 prison rule infractions which included assaulting fellow inmates and guards, one of these assaults resulting in the death of a prison guard. Indeed, Jackson's death occurred during an attempted escape from prison.

b7c [REDACTED]

As a staunch believer in the American system of justice, and as a firm advocate of responsible journalism, I appreciate the opportunity to make known my viewpoint.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

DO-7

FROM

OFFICE OF ACTING DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

MR. FELT _____ ()
MR. MOHR _____ ()
MR. ROSEN _____ ()
MR. BATES _____ ()
MR. BISHOP _____ ()
MR. CALLAHAN _____ ()
MR. CAMPBELL _____ ()
MR. CASPER _____ ()
MR. CLEVELAND _____ ()
MR. CONRAD _____ ()
MR. DALBEY _____ ()
MR. MILLER, E.S. _____ ()
MR. PONDER _____ ()
MR. SOYARS _____ ()
MR. WALKART _____ ()
MR. WALTERS _____ ()
MRS. NEENAN _____ ()

SEE ME _____ ()
NOTE AND RETURN _____ ()
PREPARE REPLY _____ ()
SEND MEMO TO ATTORNEY GENERAL _____ ()
FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATION _____ ()
WHAT ARE THE FACTS? _____ ()
HOLD _____ ()

REMARKS:

*Prepare finally detailed
fact sheet for my briefing book.
Do not send letter.
Include copy of editorial
with fact sheet in briefing book.*

*Done 6/28/72
J. Edgar Hoover*

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 6-15-72

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: GEORGE LESTER JACKSON (DECEASED)

"SOLEDAD BROTHERS"
CRIMINAL RECORDS

Felt _____
Mohr _____
Rosen _____
Bates _____
Bishop _____
Callahan _____
Campbell _____
Casper _____
Cleveland _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Marshall _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Ponder _____
Soyars _____
Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Kinley _____
Mr. Armstrong _____
Ms. Herwig _____
Mrs. Neenan _____

Remymemo 6-13-72, which set forth the available criminal records of captioned individuals.

The San Francisco Office has subsequently forwarded copies of articles concerning Jackson which appeared in the "National Review" and "The San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle" which included additional details concerning Jackson's criminal activities. These articles are attached and it is interesting to note a quotation attributed to Jackson in the "Examiner-Chronicle" article wherein he reportedly stated in August, 1970, "They have clear cut political prisoners here at San Quentin, and I consider persons convicted of burglaries and robberies and crimes of passion and economic crimes, where money and survival are material, as political prisoners." This statement appears to summarize the philosophy of Jackson and his supporters who have shrieked so often and so loudly "Free the Political Prisoners!"

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Kinley
- 1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
- 1 - M. A. Jones

JRH:dmc (6)

REC-22

EX-112

44-50522

JUN 20 1972

CRIME RESEARCH

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

JUL 11 1972
JUL 14 1972

Count Brown

NATIONAL REVIEW 10/15/71

Col. Oran K. Henderson, Medina's brigade commander, will be charged for dereliction of duty for not investigating what happened at the Vietnamese hamlet.

■ THE UN'S ECONOMIC BOYCOTT of Rhodesia has succeeded in 1) making the UN appear silly and ineffectual, and 2) forcing the United States to import most of its chrome ore from the Soviet Union (which has tripled the price over the past three years). Now the Senate has passed a measure under which the President may not prohibit importation of strategic materials from any country if the same material is being imported from a Communist country. A "slap at the

UN," fumed the *NY Times*. Which is just what it takes, sometimes, to bring people to their senses.

■ JOZSEF CARDINAL MINDSZENTY finally succumbed to pleas from Washington and the Vatican to leave the American Embassy in Budapest and come to the West. Their concern was no doubt partly for his health and safety, but also for the effect his symbolic presence in the Embassy had on attempts at rapprochement. He had always said that he would not leave Hungary until his conviction of treason was officially repudiated by the government. He did not win that full victory, but Hungary referred to him as "Cardinal" when announc-

ON THE LEFT

For a "political prisoner" George Jackson had quite a criminal background—as dug up by the *L.A. Times* and published in a Buckley column last week:

On January 5, 1957, fifteen-year-old George Jackson was arrested for stealing a motorcycle. He was released in the custody of his parents. . . . On January 22 police arrested Jackson again, on suspicion of burglarizing a motorcycle shop. While being frisked he turned on one of the officers and attempted to drive his back into a desk spike. As a result of this incident he was detained briefly as a juvenile offender but later released on probation. . . . During the month of February he rested. . . . On March 5 Jackson was arrested for burglarizing a Los Angeles furniture store. This being his third arrest, the authorities sent him to reform school. . . . On August 20, 1958 Jackson was again arrested. This time he had a disagreement with his boss and slashed the seats of a bus his boss owned. He spent ten days in jail. . . . On September 24 Jackson, with some help, robbed \$105 from a gas station. He was arrested, escaped and was arrested again, escaped again and was rearrested. He was paroled in June 1960.

Then, on September 19, 1960, came the famous gas station robbery, the one that netted only 71 bucks. February 1, 1961 Jackson was sentenced to one year to life, depending on his behavior. With good behavior he would have been out in a year; if he didn't behave he would be in jail for life. As we know, Jackson was in jail for the rest of his life.

Placed first in Soledad, his infractions were minor. As time passed they became more serious: April 1965, Jackson stabbed a Chicano inmate in the back; September 1966, a prisoner accused Jackson of ripping open his head; January 1967, Jackson was accused of assault with a two-foot long pipe; April 1967, he was accused of beating the head of a Chicano inmate; June 1967, he refused to obey an order, then assaulted the guard who gave it; October 1969, a simulated gun was found in Jackson's possession; January 1970, Jackson, along with

John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, was charged with killing a guard at Soledad. His last prison violation was August 21, 1971, when he was killed trying to escape from prison.

BRIEFS. Eldridge Cleaver left Algeria and has turned up in the Congo, and, it seems, the Congo is everything he ever wanted: "We find here in the Congo a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist state, party, and a People's Army built along the lines of a true People's Republic to deal with safeguarding construction of a socialist society from both internal and external enemies." Fellow Black Panther Huey Newton is also traveling. He's visiting the People's Republic of China. Back home in Oakland, black attorney Joseph Simmons said some unkind things about Newton. Simmons accused him of "downgrading black lawyers" and said that Newton had given the firm of very white attorney Charles Garry \$500,000 over the years. Commented Simmons: "I am worried that Newton has become a twentieth-century Uncle Tom." . . . Also on the move is the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He went on a week-long lecture tour of the Soviet Union. Another SCLC leader, Rev. Hosea Williams, is visiting China on a "goodwill brotherhood" trip. Mao should really enjoy this visit. Williams has a letter from Abernathy to Mao and a film on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.

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The Many Faces of George Jackson

By Mary Crawford

George Jackson was a man of many faces.

"Don't let him fool you with the many faces he is capable of showing," his father, Lester, warned a prison official six years ago, long before his son became celebrated as one of the so-called "Soledad Brothers."

To his father, a postal employee, George Jackson was everything a boy should be growing up in Chicago: An altar boy, an honor student, a fierce competitor in sports.

But by the time he was 14, his father got a transfer to Los Angeles to get the youth away from the company he was keeping.

To his younger brother, Jonathan, George was a hero. A year ago Jonathan was slain in the Marin County Civic Center shootout that killed four in what police called a vain attempt to swap his hostages, including Superior Judge Harold Haley, for his brother in San Quentin.

To Angela Davis, awaiting trial in San Rafael on charges of providing Jonathan with the gun that killed Judge Haley, the death of George Jackson when he tried to escape from San Quentin last Aug. 21 meant the "loss of an irretrievable love." Three guards and three prisoners were killed on that bloody Saturday afternoon.

Martyr

To Jackson's followers, he became a martyr.

To Jackson, himself, he was a "political prisoner," who said last April that he hoped to escape.

To prison officials, he was a troublemaker, with 45 "pink sheets," or disciplinary infractions.

But his file began long before, and when George Jackson was interviewed in 1970 by The Examiner he wouldn't deny some of the charges. Others he would explain or excuse. And some he would deny or attribute to "frameups."

For example, his first California arrest took place Jan. 8, 1957, when he was 15. Los Angeles police accused him of "suspicion of joyriding" on somebody else's motorbike, and he was released to his parents.

Jackson explained, "I bought a motorcycle from a guy who gave me a fake pink slip, and the police accused me of stealing it."

Los Angeles police records show that Jackson produced a bill of sale that had been



Smiling, prayerful, talkative, pensive George Jackson in prison photos

Examiner Photo

signed by a "Roy Ward." No "Roy Ward" could be found at the address indicated, and police saw strong similarities between the bill's handwriting and Jackson's.

Two weeks later, he was arrested on suspicion of burglarizing a motorcycle shop in Los Angeles. Police said he admitted the thefts of a crash helmet and other items, but when an officer began to search him, Jackson began to struggle.

Juvenile Hall

Jackson's version: "In the police station, a juvenile officer (Russell M. Traphagen) slapped me, and we fought, so they sent me to Juvenile Hall."

Traphagen has said that Jackson "knocked me off balance, kicked another juvenile officer, bent me over a desk toward a filing spike."

Conflicting versions of what happened occur throughout Jackson's three-volume arrest and prison record. Here are the items that follow:

- Jan. 5, 1957, arrested in Los Angeles for suspicion of stealing a motorcycle.

- Jan. 22, 1957, arrested on suspicion of burglarizing a motorcycle shop in Los Angeles. Sent to juvenile hall after almost running a spike through a policeman.

- March 5, 1957, arrested for suspicion of burglarizing a Los Angeles furniture store. Sentenced to the California Youth Authority.

- Aug. 20, 1958, arrested in Bakersfield for threatening his boss and slashing the seats of his boss' bus.

- Sept. 24, 1958, arrested with two other youths for a \$105 Bakersfield service station robbery.

- Oct. 21, 1958, escape from jail in Bakersfield.

- Dec. 3, 1958, returned to Bakersfield from Harrisburg, Ill., where he had spent boyhood summers with his mother's family.

- Dec. 30, 1958, escaped from Bakersfield authorities.

- Feb. 25, 1959, back in CYA as an escapee, parole violator and robber.

- Sept. 18, 1960, arrested for robbing a service station attendant of \$71 in Los Angeles with a friend paroled also from CYA.

Evaluation

- Feb. 1, 1961, sentenced to prison for one to life for this robbery, never to be free again.

- On March 9, 1961, Jackson's psychiatric evaluation at the California Training Facility at Soledad read: "Jackson is an egocentric individual who states he is satisfied with himself and sees no need for any change within himself. He rationalized at great length that his anti-social behavior was justified and that it is his intention to continue with his anti-social acts 'until he accumulates a sufficiently large sum of money that would satisfy him.'"

- May 21, 1962, Jackson was transferred to San Quentin Prison for refusing to disperse during an unauthorized inmate gathering at Soledad. But San Quentin refused to keep him because of his youth. He was transferred to Deuel Vocational Institution at Tracy.

- Nov. 28, 1962, Jackson created "a disturbance" and was sent back to San Quentin as a "management problem."

- April 4, 1963, he assaulted a Chicano inmate, stabbing him in the back in a fight over \$10.

Father's Letter

- May 25, 1961, Jackson's father wrote to a San Quentin official:

"We love our son dearly and we have spent more than our share of time with him, and money on him.

"I hope you have had more luck in reaching him than we have.

... He may not be released in his present state of mind. If you are able to get near him, I will be surprised. He can be reached if he sees you as a way out.

"So, don't let him fool you with the many faces he is capable of showing.

"He lived under strict house rules while under our guidance and always slipped past his mother when he wanted to break those rules.

- Sept. 17, 1966, George Jackson accused of ripping open the head of a black inmate.

- Jan. 17, 1967, Jackson accused of an assault with a two-foot long pipe.

- April 25, 1967, Jackson accused of beating the head of a Chicano inmate who was lying on the floor.

- Feb. 17, 1969, a simulated gun made from a wire hanger and tape, found in Jackson's cell.

Soledad Brothers

A year later Jackson went back to Soledad.

- Jan. 16, 1970, it is charged that Jackson and two other Soledad inmates, Fleeta Drumgo, now 26, and John Clutchette, now 28, beat

from tomorrow, barring more delays.

This trio became world famous as the "Soledad Brothers." They considered themselves soul brothers and political prisoners.

"They have clear cut political prisoners here at Soledad," Jackson told The Examiner in August 1970.

"And I consider persons convicted of burglaries or robberies and crimes of passion and economic crime where money and survival are material, as political prisoners," he said.

He saw no way of getting out of prison legitimately. Last April he said for publication:

"The whole truth is that would hope to escape." He tried to fulfill his hope. He died trying.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

on George Jackson

The Rev. Larry Jones' column (12/26) indicated that there was a lack of factual information available to the public concerning the death of George Jackson during the attempted San Quentin prison break of Aug. 21, 1971.

Quite contrary to the position expressed by Mr. Jones, all of the facts surrounding the abortive Jackson prison escape are and have been readily available. The truth is however, that the "liberal" press and other media, the National Lawyers Guild, "liberal" clergymen, and Maoists—yes, Maoists—have been pouring out incendiary rhetoric in their anxious efforts to attack the American penal system for being unkind to criminals.

Only moments following lawyer Steve Bingham's visit to Jackson at San Quentin, brother George pulled a pistol and the break attempt had begun. Approximately 20 minutes later three white guards and two white convicts were dead, their throats slashed. A fourth officer, although stabbed in the throat, managed to survive. All available evidence to date indicates that the two white inmates were killed because they refused to take part in the break. Jackson himself was shot from the prison tower as he raced for a prison wall, leaving behind five corpses.

Of interest is the fact that with lawyer Bingham, during his visit to San Quentin to see Jackson, was a woman. The home address she gave to San Quentin officials is the same as the Berkeley, Calif., Black Panther Party headquarters, the Angela Davis Defense Committee, and the Bobby Seale Clinic. But then, lawyer Bingham himself is not exactly one who could be referred to as a patriot. Bingham is associated with the National Lawyers Guild.

To gain a better understanding of George Jackson himself, one need only read Jackson's own writings appearing in the underground press and in his book, "Soledad Brother—The Prison Letters of George Jackson." In advising young people about school, brother George has said, "Burn it, all the fascist literature, burn that too. Then equip yourself with the Little Red Book" (reference is to Chairman Mao's quotations). Of himself he said, "I can't be satisfied with myself until I am Communist man, revolutionary man."

The [redacted] and all but [redacted] and the [redacted] person was cold-blooded [redacted] by the prison administration. The only people who can defend George Jackson are those who would destroy this society's system of justice.

ROBERT V. NICOL

61 FEB 24 1972

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Dalbey	_____
Mr. Cleveland	_____
Mr. Ponder	_____
Mr. Bates	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Rm.	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

HONOLULU ADVERTISER
HONOLULU, HAWAII

A-19

Date: 1-5-72

Edition: FINAL

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 100-6805

Submitting Office HONOLULU

☐ Being Investigated

REC-30

44-50522-1

NOT RECORDED

18 FEB 23 1972

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 Dep. AD Adm. _____
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 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director Sec'y _____

073A

BINGHAM 9-23

SALEM, CONN. (UPI) -- THE PARENTS OF JAMES M. BINGHAM, A LAWYER INDICTED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ATTEMPTED PRISON BREAK IN 1971 DURING WHICH SIX MEN DIED, SAY A STORY IN SUNDAY'S NEW YORK TIMES WAS THE FIRST PROOF THEY HAVE THAT THEIR SON IS ALIVE.

THE TIMES PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH BINGHAM, THE YOUNG SCION OF A WEALTHY CONNECTICUT FAMILY, WHICH THE NEWSPAPER SAID WAS CONDUCTED RECENTLY IN AN UNIDENTIFIED CANADIAN CITY.

"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO KNOW HE'S ALIVE AND REASONABLY HEALTHY," SAID BINGHAM'S MOTHER SYLVIA. "WE HAVE NOT KNOWN WHERE HE WAS OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HIM."

BINGHAM, WHO IS THE GRANDSON OF A FORMER U.S. SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT, HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING A GUN IN 1971 TO GEORGE JACKSON, AN INMATE IN SAN QUENTIN PRISON IN CALIFORNIA AND ONE OF THE THREE "SOLEDAD BROTHERS" ACCUSED OF MURDERING A SOLEDAD PRISON GUARD IN 1970.

JACKSON AND FIVE OTHER MEN, INCLUDING THREE PRISON GUARDS, WERE KILLED IN THE SAN QUENTIN ESCAPE ATTEMPT.

FOLLOWING JACKSON'S DEATH, THE OTHER TWO "SOLEDAD BROTHERS" WERE ACQUITTED OF CHARGES IN THE 1970 KILLING.

BINGHAM'S FATHER ALFRED, A FORMER STATE SENATOR, SAID THEY LAST HEARD FROM BINGHAM A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.

HE SAID THEY WOULD NOT TRY TO FIND HIS SON BECAUSE IT MIGHT ENDANGER BINGHAM'S LIFE, BUT THEN ADDED THAT HE HOPES TO SEE HIM.

BINGHAM TOLD THE TIMES HE WILL NOT SURRENDER TO AUTHORITIES BECAUSE HE FEARS PRISON GUARDS WHO BELIEVE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THEIR FELLOW GUARDS WOULD KILL HIM.

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