

# Tear Gas Canister Touched Off Southern University Incident

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — A tear gas canister tossed by a state policeman into a crowd of blacks sitting outside Southern University's administration building touched off the wild melee Nov. 16 that left two students dead, an all-black committee of inquiry was told Tuesday.

"The first that I noticed, the state police came closer to the administration building, and they were seven to five feet from the first of the students that were

sitting down. "One of the state police officers took a tear gas canister and he lobbed it underhanded into the crowd of brothers that was sitting there. I grabbed it and I flung it out away from the students."

Within seconds, Hershell Harris told the panel, the choking, blinding gas had scattered the students.

Harris, who said he was outside the building when the vio-

lence exploded, delivered his eyewitness account as the Black People's Committee of Inquiry examined witnesses for the second day. The panel met at a downtown labor hall.

Across town, Southern's 65-year-old president, Dr. G. Leon Netterville, went behind closed doors to testify before a biracial investigating committee set up by Louisiana Atty. Gen. William Guste.

Netterville has been invited to

testify before the all-black committee, but leaders said they had received no reply.

Guste's grand jury-style investigation, the only state-sponsored inquiry with any legal force, was also meeting for the second day.

Focal point for the investigations is the half-hour-long clash which climaxed three weeks of student protests at the nation's largest black university.

Denver A. Smith, 20, of New

Roads, La., and Leonard Douglas Brown, 20, of Gilbert, La., were sprayed with buckshot and died of head wounds.

At Southern's smaller New Orleans branch, all was quiet. The school was reopened Monday after a 10-day break, but the class boycott which had plagued the school for weeks appeared effective.

Harris' description of the initial clash conflicts with evidence Gov. Edwin Edwards and other

high-ranking officials claim they have. Edwards has contended films show the first tear gas came from the students.

Harris identified himself as leader of Students United, the group behind the demands for more of a voice in the administration of the school and for Netterville's ouster.

Another Students United leader, Nathan Howard, delivered testimony which likewise conflicted with official accounts.

## Jet Crashes Over Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — A Japan Air Lines jet lifting into the wintry sky over Moscow's international airport crashed in a ball of fire Tuesday night. Japanese officials said 63 of the 76 persons aboard were believed killed.

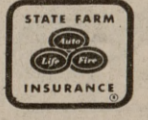
An American Embassy officer said two Americans were among the 13 persons believed to have survived the fiery plunge into the snow. The two were receiving emergency treatment at Moscow's Botkin hospital, he said, but their identities were not immediately available.

About 300 rescue workers sped to the crash site. The survivors were pulled free and sent to nearby Botkin hospital.

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