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Group, letters to ask testimony by inmates



STEPHEN EDWARDS

A Houston member of the Black Panther Party said he will be among a delegation which will carry 10,000 letters Tuesday to Atty. Gen. John Hill urging that inmates be allowed to testify before a joint legislative committee investigating prison reform.

Stephen Edwards, information officer for the Houston party chapter, said Monday his group joined the letter campaign begun by Mrs. Billie Walker and that he will accompany Mrs. Walker and others to Austin Tuesday.

The form letters urge that

inmates be transported to Austin and allowed to testify on abuses within Texas prisons. TDC officials earlier refused to transport the inmates unless released from responsibility by Hill for possible prisoner acts.

The letters, which Edwards claims were circulated "statewide," maintain that such transportation regularly is provided prisoners for athletic and other events. The letters also claim that legislators will get "only one side of the total picture" if inmates cannot testify.

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