

SIMILAR SHOOTOUTS

National Pattern Followed in Raid on Panthers Here

BY KENNETH REICH
Times Staff Writer

Police raids on the Black Panther Party here follow similar raids in other cities which have resulted in the seizure of considerable quantities of arms and the arrest of numerous Panther officials.

Many of the raids of the last two years have been marked by bloody shootouts between police and Panthers.

Last Thursday, following such a shootout in Chicago in which the party's Illinois chairman and a ranking officer of its Peoria chapter were killed and four other Panthers and two policemen wounded, an attorney for the national party organization said Congress would be asked to investigate police tactics in the crackdown.

The attorney, Charles R. Garry of San Francisco, said the Chicago shootings brought to 28 the number of Panthers killed nationwide in clashes with police since January, 1968. A number of policemen also have been killed.

Garry added that if Congress refused to act, the Panthers would attempt to bring their plight to the attention of the United Nations.

The day before Garry spoke, the party's highest officer still functioning in his position, national chief of staff David Hilliard, was arrested for allegedly threatening President Nixon's life in a Vietnam moratorium

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Police Seize Panther Fortress in 4-Hour Gunfight; Arrest 13

Three Officers and Six Suspects Wounded; Blacks Use Arsenal of Automatic Weapons, Shotguns and Grenades

BY DIAL TORGERSON
Times Staff Writer

Firing from sandbagged gun emplacements, Black Panthers fought for more than four hours Monday before surrendering to a 40-man police assault team.

The siege ended when 11 men and two women gave up. Six were wounded, two seriously. Three policemen were shot, one critically.

The battle began at dawn when four officers, with warrants to arrest suspects and search for hidden guns, battered their way into Panther headquarters at 4115 S. Central Ave.

Three were immediately shot down. Under a barrage of covering fire from officers outside, other police dragged out the wounded. A gunfight began.

Try to Dynamite Roof

Police in bullet-proof vests raked the two-story brick building with gunfire, attempted to blast through the roof with dynamite and rained tear gas canisters into it.

The Panthers, wearing gas masks, threw tear gas containers back at officers, hurled four handmade grenades at them, and returned police fire with rifles and submachine guns.

A tanklike National Guard personnel carrier was waiting nearby—for possible use in a final assault—when the Panther defenders waved a white cloth in surrender.

A priest and other community leaders were attempting to intercede between police and Panthers to

prevent more casualties when the surrender came. Police said the defenders may have given up because the filters of their gas masks saturated with fumes, no longer kept out tear gas.

In the silence following the gun battle, the 13 emerged one at a time. An officer shouted instructions on a bull horn:

"Raise your hands in the air. Walk down the sidewalk. One at a time.

The men were half-clothed, although they hadn't had time to get dressed.

Renee Moore, 19, her face bloodied, her yellow dress unzipped over a white brassiere, told newsmen, "We gave up because it not the right time. We'll fight again when the odds are more in our favor."

The raid on the Panther headquarters coincided with other

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Fred Hampton, leader of the Black Panthers' Illinois chapter, at a recent protest rally with Dr. Benjamin Spock. Mr. Hampton was killed in a Chicago police raid last week.

The Black Panther Toll Is Now 28

CHICAGO—The Black Panther party says there is a national conspiracy to wipe out their leadership and destroy their organization.

The Black Panthers are, first of all, black. Besides which, they affect black leather coats, sunglasses and posters showing their leaders carrying guns. They talk about armed self-defense against the police and the necessity of revolution. And, when they talk about the alleged conspiracy against them, they use a rhetoric sprinkled with terms like "pigs" and "dogs."

Twenty-eight Black Panthers have been killed in run-ins with the police since Jan. 1, 1968. The latest two slayings occurred here shortly after 4:40 A.M. last Thursday when policemen assigned to the State's Attorney's office raided an apartment a block away from Panther headquarters, armed with a search warrant issued on an informant's word that there was an arms cache there. The police were also armed with a submachine gun and shotguns in addition to their normal revolvers.

Dead were Fred Hampton, once an N.A.A.C.P. youth chairman, football player and honor

student, and at the time the Illinois chairman of the Black Panther party, regarded as one of the most effective Panther leaders in circulation, and Mark Clark, 22, a Panther leader in Peoria. Hampton was reported to have been killed in his bed. Four Panthers were wounded.

The police described the encounter as a ferocious gun battle which ensued after a woman opened up on the officers with a shotgun. The Panthers said the police burst into the apartment and started shooting and no one else got a chance to.

"There must have been six or seven of them firing," police Sgt. Daniel Groth told a news conference after the raid. "The firing must have gone on 10 or 12 minutes. If 200 shots were exchanged, that was nothing." One policeman was grazed on the left leg by a shotgun pellet; another was cut by a piece of glass.

An inspection of the five-room first floor apartment did not seem to square with the police accounts of a torrid gun battle. Most of the walls were not scarred with the bullet and shotgun marks one would expect of a shoot-out. There were no bullet

marks around the two doors through which the police said they entered. There were no bullet marks in the kitchen and dining room. There were a lot of bullet marks where the Panthers were shot.

The slaying came against a background of a series of raids and arrests at Panther offices all over the country which have decimated the party's leadership. Locally it came after a series of incidents in which police have killed black youths in controversial circumstances and black people have shot at policemen.

Most of Chicago's white community accepted the police version of the affair. Some whites, and many blacks, including hundreds who toured the wrecked apartment, did not believe the police.

State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan, however, issued a statement which said: "We wholeheartedly commend the police officers for their bravery, their remarkable restraint and their discipline in the face of this vicious Black Panther attack and we expect every decent citizen of our community to do likewise."

—JOHN KIFNER

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Chicago's black police charge:

Killing of Panthers 'assassination'

CHICAGO, Dec. 8 (UPI) — The Afro-American Patrolmen's League, an organization of black Chicago policeman, has begun an investigation of the slaying of two Black Panther party leaders.

Fred Hampton, the party's Illinois chairman, was killed Thursday in a predawn raid by police. Mark Clark, a Peoria, Ill., Panther leader also was killed in the raid.

The mayor of suburban Maywood and several village officials and residents say they will seek murder indictments against the Chicago police who shot Hampton and Clark.

An independent autopsy performed on Hampton alleged he was shot from close range while asleep, disputing the findings of the Cook County coroner.

The vice president of the black policemen's group, Howard Safford, said he visited the scene of the shootout and concluded the deaths were "an obvious political assassination."

Safford and Renault Robinson, league president, said they have access to evidence collected by police but not yet released and would issue their own report on the slayings.

The Communist Party of Illinois termed the killings an "act of extermination to wipe out political opposition and dissent" and called for a wide

fightback campaign. Detailed story on Page 11.

Maywood Mayor Leonard Chabala, who is white, three village trustees and several citizens Sunday issued a statement calling the shootings a "blatant act of legitimized murder."

Maywood mayor blasts 'atrocities'

They said they will ask Illinois Attorney General William Scott for murder indictments and for an investigation of Cook County State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan's "role in directing this atrocity."

As the tumult surrounding the incident continued:

— Dr. Charles G. Hurst Jr., head of the Malcolm X campus of the Chicago City College, said Saturday, "The time for investigations is over... we must be willing to do anything to free the oppressed people." He proclaimed today a memorial day for Hampton at the campus.

— The Rev. Curtis Burrell, director of a South Side community organization said the death of Hampton was part of a "police repression program."

— Obed Lopez of the Latin-American Defense Organization said the killing "has brought the Latin community much closer to the black community and the Black Panther Party."

— Illinois Panther leader Bobby Rush, considered Hampton's likely successor, was arrested Saturday at a meeting of Operation Breadbasket. He was charged with failure to register a firearm, and was released on \$1,500 bond.



Mourners pass the bier of slain Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, the party's Illinois deputy chairman.

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A time to cool it

The circumstances of the death of Illinois Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton and a friend in an exchange of gunfire with state's attorney's police will dependably come to light in the trials of those arrested at the time.

Meanwhile we urge restraint on both sides of the dispute that has broken out — perhaps inevitably — in the wake of the incident. State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan, for example, quite properly stood behind his men, two of whom were wounded in the fight, but his remark about the "vicious Black Panther attack" prejudged the whole matter and his remark about expecting "every decent citizen of our community" to side with him could scarcely have been seriously intended to apply to the South Side.

By the same token the South Side residents could be far better served than by the Black Panthers' deputy minister of defense, Bobby Rush, who charged: "The pigs undertook a search-and-destroy mission this morning in their relentless plan to destroy the Black Panther Party." This was a totally unwarranted leap to a conclusion and a deliberate effort to incite further friction between the races. We think and hope the time is past when contempt for law can be a major qualification for leadership in Chicago's black community.

Since the killing of two Chicago policemen last month in a Black Panther shootout, a rumor has gained new currency in the black community that the word is out to "get" the Panthers and that the Thursday raid that resulted in the death of Hampton and Mark Clark was part of that plan.

The conclusion flies in the face of contrary evidence: The state's attorney's policemen who raided Hampton's apartment were not under the direction of the Chicago Police Department. They held a valid search warrant from a Criminal Court judge, based on a sworn statement by a police sergeant that he had information of a cache of illegal weapons. A large cache of such weapons was found. This evidence strongly supports the contention that the police mission was legitimate and lawful.

The nature and order of events inside the apartment remains to be determined, and that determination should be made as objectively as the community and its agencies can get that important job done.

Meanwhile let all Chicagoans bear in mind that neither this nor any other city can long survive under a system that "settles" differences by armed confrontation. There can be only one law for all; that law must be applied even-handedly for all, and respected by all.



Fred Hampton ... slain in shootout

Hampton's Brother Tells Audience, 'Maintain Peace'

By FAITH C. CHRISTMAS

The voice of Bobby Rush, Black Panther deputy minister of defense trembled as he stood before some 3,000 persons crowded into attend a rally in honor of slain Panther Party Chairman Fred Hampton.

He was talking now about the critical condition of the party's 19-year-old deputy minister of health, Ronald Satchel, who had been wounded by police in a predawn raid Thursday on Hampton's apartment, which claimed the lives of Hampton and another Panther, Mark Clark of Peoria.

Rush appeared at the rally only some two or three hours after being released from police custody on \$1,500 bond on a charge of failing to register a gun.

He had opened his remarks with a call for

mobilization of the masses of poor and oppressed people to counter a "terrorist move by the pig power structure to enslave the world."

He exhorted blacks to "wake up and see the handwriting on the wall with your lives being threatened and murders at your door step."

Rush also issued a challenge to the same 300 whites present, in the audience to "answer some hard and serious questions about endorsing the black liberation struggle if you're going to be our allies."

Pausing toward the end of his message, Rush looked at a note handed to him and said:

"We just got word from the hospital that brother Ronald is fighting for his life." Audible gasps came from the overflow crowd of blacks, whites, and Latin Americans as they sat, kneeled and stood in every section of the large Church of the Epiphany at 201 S. Ashland ave. Thousands of others had to be turned away from the doors.

"If he dies," Rush continued, "this beautiful brother. . ." His voice broke off and "Chaka" Walls the Party's deputy minister of information and Jewel Cook, the Panthers' deputy field secretary rushed to his side.

Rush quickly composed himself and continued: "Brother Ron was a former medical student, 19 years old. He was getting ready to open the Panthers' free medical center before he was gunned down.

"And now he's fighting for his life." More sighs were heard from the audience, who had listened in the early part of the rally to a succession of speakers pay homage to Hampton and Clark and the Black Panther Party.

They had also heard angry and bitter denunciation of the "pig power structure that has murdered our dear brothers" from an assortment of speakers including city officials, a college president, Black Panthers, Latin American youth representatives, ministers, a communist party official and the brother of Fred Hampton.

And they responded with foot stomping, handclapping and loud shouts of "All Power to the People" and "Right On," when several speakers urged the crowd to "get you some guns and defend yourselves against the pigs."

Many of the speakers exhorted persons not to "shed tears over our brothers' assassinations" but to intensify the struggle so that their deaths will not have been in vain. Some referred to "pigs in disguise" in the audience, possibly because of the conspicuous absence of marked police cars outside the church.

Publisher Slain: See Race Issue

JACKSON, Mich. — Charles Cade, publisher of the Negro weekly newspaper "The Jackson Blazer," was found dead in his blood-spattered apartment late Friday.

His apparent murder followed a week of terror in the southern Michigan town which saw bullets ripping into the police department, a fire department substation, a tavern and the headquarters of the Black Berets, a local black militant group.

Jackson County prosecutor Bruce A. Barton, however denied any connection between the publisher's killing and the week of terror which culminated in Cade's editor, James L. Murphy telegraphing the Detroit office of United Press International (UPI) news bureau for immediate assistance for what he described as "a reign of terror."

According to Barton, Cade's body "was dragged around in his apartment and things were arranged to make it look like a racial killing and cover up the real motive."

The black community of Jackson contends the motive is racial and related to the previous attacks on militants in the town of 50,000 inhabitants.