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AT FUNERAL OF BLACK NATIONALIST: Marlon Brando, the actor, and Henry Denmon of the Black Panthers in Berkeley, Calif. They attended rite for Bobby James Hutton, shot by policeman Saturday. Group members are at rear.

Black Panthers Denounce Policemen

By LAWRENCE E. DAVIES
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OAKLAND, Calif., April 12—White racism and the Oakland Police Department were bitterly denounced today at funeral and memorial services for Bobby James Hutton, a slain 17-year-old officer of the militant Black Panther party.

The youth was shot fatally last Saturday night by Oakland policemen in what speakers charged was "a political assassination."

Black Panthers led by Bobby George Seale, 31, the organization's chairman, said that Hutton had been killed when, at police orders, he walked out of a house in Oakland and headed for a police squad car with his hands over his head.

Police Chief Charles R. Gain has insisted that shots were fired from the house after a gunfight between policemen and persons in or back of a parked automobile in front of the dwelling. Two policemen and Eldridge Cleaver, the Black Panthers' minister of information, were wounded and eight were arrested.

Cleaver, shot in the foot, was removed first to San Quentin prison and then to the state

medical facility, a prison at Vacaville. With the slogan "Free Cleaver," hundreds of Negroes and white sympathizers had planned to travel by bus and car to Vacaville, about 50 miles northwest of here, to seek the wounded man's release.

Seale, however, called off the procession during a speech at a memorial service at Merritt Park following the funeral service for young Hutton. He told a crowd estimated at 1,500, including scores of whites, that Black Panthers would not go where they could not defend themselves.

The Panthers were organized last year as a defense group assertedly to protect the Negro community from intimidation.

Seale was convicted yesterday by Superior Court Judge Redmond G. Staats of carrying

a loaded shotgun outside the city jail at the Oakland Hall of Justice. He was arrested last May 23 under a little-known state law forbidding the bearing of firearms within or near a jail. He is free on \$500 bail awaiting sentence.

During the two-hour funeral service today, about 100 Black Panthers stood in two lines outside the Ephesian Church of God in Christ, in Berkeley.

Many of the organization's members wore black leather jackets. They had red and black lapel buttons bearing the inscription "Free Huey."

The reference was to Huey P. Newton, the Black Panthers' minister of defense, who is awaiting trial on charges of killing a white policeman. He is a candidate for Congress on the new Peace and Freedom party slate and Seale is a candidate for the State Assembly on the same ticket.

During the service, for which perhaps 800 persons crowded into the church in Berkeley, the Rev. E. E. Cleveland, the pastor, peeled off his coat and, amid applause, called for "a switch in the hearts of men."

'Ashamed' of Congress

Mr. Cleveland called down "shame" upon statesmen, members of Congress, lawyers and others for what he implied were feeble efforts toward improving the lot of the black man.

Looking at the lines of Black Panthers he shouted:

"I'm ashamed that men mess around and let a bunch of kids like this do a tremendous job. The young men ought to be in school and old men ought to be doing this work."

He went on:

"We need to know that America is on the threshold of destruction. We need to know that she is destroying herself from the inside. We need to know that God is not pleased . . . the white man has never communicated with the Negro. If we can't get him to communicate we can't get him to cooperate."

Marlon Brando, the actor,

who had attended the funeral service, also appeared at the subsequent memorial service and remarked ruefully: "You've been listening 400 years to white people and they haven't done a thing . . . I'm going to begin right now informing white people what they don't know. The reverend said you can't cool it if you ain't dug it. I've got a lot to learn."

Chairman Seale told the Lake Merritt crowd that "the black man wants nonviolence."

"We want the power structure to be nonviolent," he said. "Every time he attacks us we are going to attack back. We want the racist power structure to withdraw troops from Vietnam and we want our own black police force living in the black community. A black policeman won't commit brutality because he'd have to come home to live at night."

The Oakland police contend they were fired upon first in last week's fight. However, the Black Panthers have won the support of a group of faculty members of San Francisco and San Jose Colleges, the University of San Francisco and the University of California.

The faculty members asked for an investigation of the Police Department by the United States Civil Service Commission. Further, they supported the Panthers in asking for the immediate release of Cleaver, Newton and other jailed members of the Panther organization.

The Panthers charged that their cars were being searched without warrants and that the police had set out to eliminate their group. Speaker after speaker charged that "if Bobby Hutton had not been a Panther he'd be alive today."

Ron Dollums, a Negro City Councilman of Berkeley, told the memorial service crowd that America was "going 1,000 miles an hour toward militarism and Fascism," with attribution of "all the ills of the country to a scapegoat—black people."