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Hoover Holds Panthers' Hatred Causes Clashes With the Police

WASHINGTON, May 8 (AP)—J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, says law enforcement agencies were not to blame for confrontations between the Black Panther party and the police.

Testimony released today by a House appropriations subcommittee quoted Mr. Hoover as saying that the police in several cities had been "wrongly accused of harassment by many well-intentioned but uninformed voices echoing outright lies generated" by the Panthers.

"A free society is in trouble when blatant propaganda so overshadows the truth that the rule of law is jeopardized," Mr. Hoover said in his testimony March 5.

Individuals Assailed

Although he strongly defended the police in each instance, a special Federal investigation is still under way in connection with the fatal shootings of two Black Panthers last December by the Chicago police.

Mr. Hoover attributed Panther clashes with the police in both Chicago and Los Angeles to the militant black organization's "intense hatred of and vindictive hysteria against local police."

He described the Panthers as a "black extremist organization" consisting mostly of "hoodlum-type revolutionaries," who stockpile weapons, espouse Marxist-Leninist doctrines and terrorize black communities.

While condemning the Panthers, Mr. Hoover also assailed "prominent individuals" who, he said, have made "substantial contributions" to legal defense

funds for party members accused of crimes.

Specifically, he named Leonard Bernstein, the conductor; Otto Preminger, the film director; Dick Gregory, the comedian, and the wives of Peter Duchin, the orchestra leader, and Sidney Lumet, the film director.

"Let us clear away the rhetoric and confusion purposely generated to shroud the Black Panther issue and get it back into proper perspective," Mr. Hoover said. "An organization which stockpiles illegal weapons, trains in guerrilla warfare and seeks confrontation with enforcement officers for the expressed purpose of killing them is certainly in violation of the law."

"Yet," he added, "when lawful process is applied to bring the Black Panthers under control, their cries of genocide and harassment are seemingly accepted without question."

The F.B.I. director also criticized judges in Detroit, Washington, Philadelphia and St. Louis, contending that they had given light sentences to hardened criminals.

"The law-abiding majority," he said, "is rapidly losing patience with those whose flagrant abuse of the humanitarian principles of parole and probation makes a mockery of justice."

"They are properly questioning the reasoning, wisdom, motivation and capabilities of some jurists and parole and probation authorities who appear more concerned with finding excuses and evasions for un-rehabilitated repeating offenders than maintaining the welfare of the general public."