PANTHERS SNUB CHICAGO PROBE

3 Leave After Lawyer Advises Silence

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By DEBORAH RANKIN

CHICAGO (AP) — Three Black Panther party members walked out of a coroner's inquest Tuesday after their lawyers told them not to answer questions about the fatal shooting of two party leaders in a police raid, Dec. 4.

Lawyers for Harold Bell, 23, of Rockford; Louis Trueluck, 39, and Ronald Satchel, 19, both of Chicago, told their clients to state only their names at the inquest, which is the first open investigation of the incident.

The three men are among seven Panther members who survived the raid on the West Side apartment in which Panther leaders Fred Hampton, 21, and Mark Clark, 22, were killed.

The seven are charged with attempted murder and other charges in connection with the incident.

Attorneys for the three Panthers said that if their clients answered questions about the raid it would violate their constitutional rights under the First Amendment to a single trial.

REPRESENTS PAIR

James D. Montgomery, attorney representing Bell and Trueluck, said he did not want his clients placed "in a position of riducule and contempt and forced to sit mute" in the face of continued questions.

He asked Martin S. Gerber, specially appointed deputy coroner named to conduct the inquest, to keep the interrogation as brief as possible.

After the witnesses refused to give their addresses or occupations, Gerber advised them of their constitutional right to remain silent. Montgomery indicated the men would exercise this right and Gerber ended his questions.

Gerber asked if the four remaining Panthers who witnessed the raid would also refuse to answer questions. Montgomery said he would confer with his clients and announce their decision Wednesday.

Earlier, Gerber pleaded with the lawyer representing Satchel to permit him to answer questions.

LIMPS TO STAND

Satchel, whose leg was wounded in the raid, limped to the stand. Attorney Kermit Coleman told Gerber he would advise his client not to answer questions because of a forthcoming criminal trial.

"I do not have to answer," Satchel replied when Gerber asked whether he told newsmen about the raid. He gave the same reply to questions about who was in the apartment the morning of the shooting.

Philip Corboy, one of six men on the jury of leading Chicago residents, suggested that Satchel be replaced by another witness. Gerber refused, saying: We'll run into the same problem with another witness."

Gerber resumed the questioning but Coleman led his client out of the hearing room. Many spectators followed, and Gerber declared a brief recess.

Detective Elwood Egan, first witness at the inquest, said that when he arrived at the shooting scene at 5:10 a.m., shortly after the raid ended, the police told him they "were met by gunfire and gunfire ensued."