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Federal Jury Set in Deaths Of Panthers

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer
A Justice Department probe

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New Probe Set on Slain Panthers

PANTHERS, From A1

It is highly unusual for an official of his rank to be assigned a grand jury probe. Normally it is handled by the local U.S. attorney or by a special prosecutor from the Justice Department.

Others on the investigative squad are James P. Turney, deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights; K. William O'Connor, special assistant to Leonard; Jesse H. Queen, a senior trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division's criminal section; Milton C. Branch, assistant U.S. attorney in Colorado; Robert J. Breakstone, assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago; and Maceo Hubbard, acting chief of the criminal section of the Civil Rights Division.

According to a Justice Department source, the preliminary investigation produced no results because Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan refused to permit his police to be questioned unless a member of his staff was present. The police who staged the raid were members of a 100-man squad of Chicago officers assigned to Hanrahan.

Hanrahan insisted yesterday that only the Panthers—and not his men—refused to cooperate with the preliminary investigation.

He said it was "outrageous" for the Justice Department to abandon its "established practices" because the Panthers had not cooperated.

The Chicago Panthers reportedly refused to cooperate because they distrust FBI agents.

It was understood that the Justice Department team would look for evidence the police may have violated the 1968 civil rights law or an old Reconstruction Era statute preventing anyone acting "under the color of law" from interfering with a person's civil rights.

Big balls up a "grain" ...

Leonard, who is assistant attorney general in charge of civil rights, will head an investigatory team down three cities.

Black Panther Official Forfeits \$25,000 Bail

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (AP)—The 27-year-old deputy minister of information of the Black Panther Party, who is charged with conspiracy in an alleged bomb plot, has forfeited \$25,000 bail.

Fred Richardson, the Black Panther, failed to appear Thursday before State Supreme Court Justice John M. Murtagh for a pre-trial hearing.

Murtagh declared the bail forfeited and issued a warrant for Richardson's arrest.

Richardson was arrested Nov. 18 and accused of conspiring with 21 other Black Panthers to blow up department stores, police stations, railroad tracks and the Bronx Botanical Gardens.

Accord Seeks to Bar Clash With Panthers

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19 (AP) — A citizens' committee representing Negroes reached an agreement with police aimed at preventing confrontations between police and Black Panthers in San Francisco.

Police Chief Thomas Cahill agreed Thursday that police will tell attorney Charles Garry when a warrant is issued for a member of the Black Panther party, which Garry represents, Garry promised to then arrange for the wanted Panther to report to police.

Committee members headed by a black Methodist pastor and a white Catholic priest, agreed to act as liaison agents in black neighborhoods in behalf of the police, concerning minor complaints such as noise.