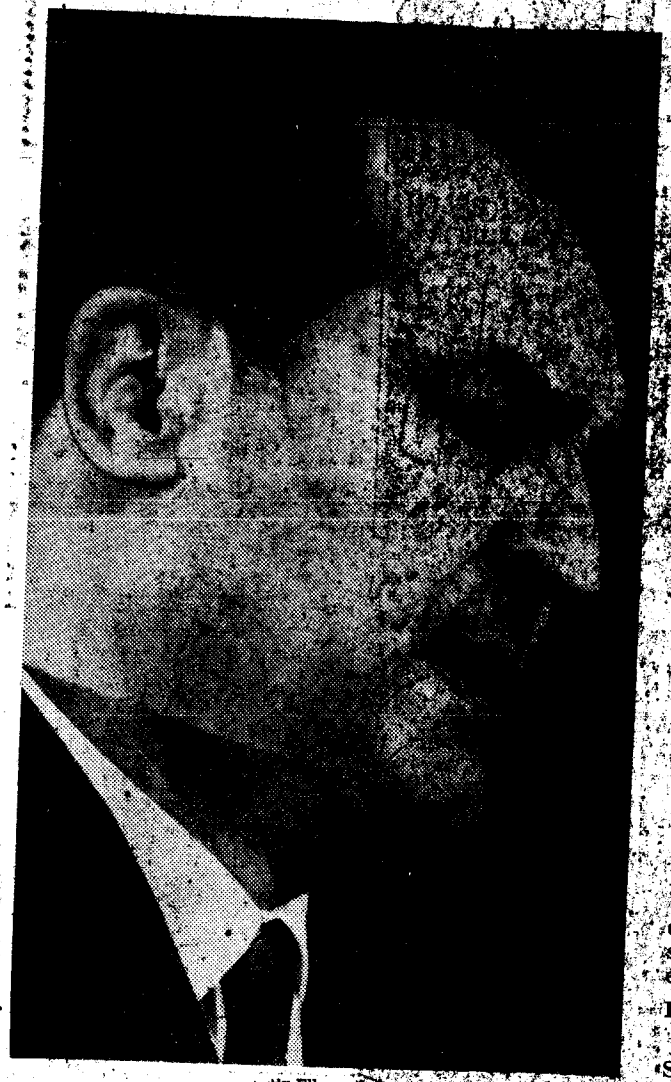
Panther Book Shows Dead Police 'Pigs'



By Ellsworth Davis—The Washington Post

San Francisco Police Inspector Ben Lashkoff tells a Senate subcommittee about Panther coloring book.

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The drawings are for black children and the police are depicted as saber-toothed pigs.

The booklet is called "The Black Panther Coloring Book" and it has been handed out in schools and churches—at least in the San Francisco area—as part of the Panthers' "hot breakfast" program for ghetto youngsters, a Senate subcommittee was told yesterday.

Sen. Karl Mundt (R.S.D.) called it the most devilish dialogue I can think of. He said he was "appalled" that church authorities and school officials should countenance it.

A priest at the Catholic church where some copies were distributed accused police later in the day, however, of circulating far more of the coloring books than the Panthers did. And a Panther spokesman accused a renegade member of printing them up without permission.

"It was not geared to our party line because it was racist and nationalistic," Black Panther "chief of staff" David Hilliard told The Washington Post. He blamed the booklets on Larry C. Powell, who strongly criticized the Panthers in his testimony last week.

Intelligence Squad

The Rev. Eugene J. Boyle of San Francisco's Sacred Heart Church told United Press International: "It's obvious that the San Francisco police intelligence squad does not understand the black man if they are making such a big thing out of this."

Copies of the 23-page coloring book were turned over to the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee by San Francisco Police Inspector Ben Lashkoff.

One drawing captioned "The Only Good Pig is a Dead Pig" showed a black youth stabbing a police officer in the back. Another showed a gun-wilding child holding one officer at bay with a second "pig" lying at his feet.

The book concludes with a uniformed "pig" quaking with fear and beneath it a line from Red China's Mao Tse-tung: "Power Comes Through the Barrel of a Gun."

Booklets with Breakfast

Lashkoff said the coloring books were being distributed along with free breakfasts in at least three locations: the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, South Ridge Methodist Church, and the Jedediah Smith Elementary School.

At the school, he told Subcommittee, youngsters were led out by Black Panther members after breakfast for "close-order drill" around the school grounds.

The police inspector said there were no local or state laws that would prohibit distribution of the coloring books. Nor, he said, was it against the law to hold paramilitary drills on school property.

"Here it is," Mundt said, "Color him dead. This is a blueprint for the murder of policemen in the hands of children . . . When you teach murder in the basement of our churches, you begin to see where some of the fault lies."

Father Boyle, who gave the go-ahead for the breakfast program, told United Press International in San Francisco that he put a stop to distribution of the coloring books as soon as he learned of it.

"As far as I know, it was handed out only at one particular time and in very small numbers," he said. "I am sure that more copies were reproduced and distributed by the police."

Medicaid Boycott Claimed at 60%

NEW YORK, June 24 (UPI) — A representative of druggists boycotting Medicaid claimed Monday that 60 per cent of pharmacies in New York City and downstate counties were refusing to fill prescriptions under the program.

A random check of city pharmacies by the New York City Health Department found that slightly less than half of druggists questioned said they were boycotting the program.

The pharmacists began the boycott Monday to protest a state cutback in drug prices they can charge Medicaid recipients.