5/14/71 NY Times P. 20

Panther Case Adds Up To City's Most Costly

By LINDA CHARLTON

The egiht-month trial of 13 Black Panthers that ended yesterday was one of the costliest in the state's history, as well as the longest. Even at a rough estimate, the costs exceeded $750,000.

This figure includes the salaries of those involved—from the judge's annual pay of $41,000 to the $12-a-day payments to each of the 16 jurors and alternates. In addition there were the salaries of the 50 policemen of the special events squad who were assigned to the courthouse and the 18 policemen a week who stood guard at Justice John M. Murtagh's home.

An estimate by Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Weinstein, one of the prosecutors, placed the total cost for the 15-month period since pretrial hearings began in February, 1970, at $1.2-million.

'Most Expensive' Trial Here

Even this figure does not take into account the less visible costs—courtroom maintenance, depreciation of buildings and vehicles, the number of pencils worn down, the lined yellow pads used.

Mr. Weinstein said he believed the 15-month proceeding to be "certainly the most expensive prosecution ever brought in New York," with a "grand total," including the intangibles, of "well over $2-million."

The 9½-month trial of Charles Manson in Los Angeles, according to Los Angeles County officials, was estimated to have cost almost $1-million.

One point that was stressed by the Police Department in releasing the number of men on special, trial-related duty could be applied to almost every other expense: All of the men involved were simply shuffled around from other commands. So it "didn't cost the city anything extra," a department spokesman said.

Justice Murtagh and his staff—a $22,450-a-year secretary and a confidential assistant paid $11,500 a year—would have been at work on another or several other trials during this same period, as would all of the courtroom personnel.

Court Costs Are Many

They include 30 senior court officers, who are paid an average annual salary of $11,[illegible] each; the three court reporters, at $[illegible],000 each; the supervising court officer, who is paid approximately $16,000, and his $11,800-a-year assistant.

According to Thomas [illegible], general clerk to the First Department of the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court (composed of New York and Bronx Counties), the jurors in this especially long and wearing trial are likely to be paid on a five-day-a-week basis, although they actually worked only four days. The weekly bill for their service, then, will be $960.

Beyond the courtroom, the burden shifts to the city's Correction and Police Departments. It costs $11.92 a day to maintain each prisoner in the system, a [illegible] the Correction Department [illegible].

To transport the defendants to and from the courtroom each day required [illegible] correction officers, and [illegible] with them [illegible] seven at about [illegible]