

Police, D.C. Sued Over Panther Raid

By Ivan C. Brandon
Washington Post Staff Writer

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The Washington branch of the American Civil Liberties Union Fund yesterday filed suit on behalf of the Black Panther Party, asking for more than \$1 million from the police department and the District government for damages suffered during a raid on their community center.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, charges that policemen violated the Panthers' civil rights when they raided the center at 1932 17th St. NW on July 4. The suit also charges the police with assault and battery, false arrest and imprisonment and trespass.

Police said the community center was raided and 10 Panther Party members arrested after a disorderly crowd in front of the building refused to disperse and began throwing bricks and bottles at them.

Police said that the crowd retreated into the center after one policeman was hit in the face with a brick and that they followed in an attempt to assist the person who had thrown the brick.

The Panthers claim that the incident was provoked by police who stopped them while they were singing and loading bundles of newspapers on a truck. They claim that two policemen watched them for a while and then failed to assist before moving to and ordering the crowd to move on.

The suit also asks for a permanent injunction against police harassment of the Panthers. Ralph Temple, legal director for the ACLU Fund here, said, "We will show that this is a part of an unfortunate pattern of harassment all across the country."

Temple said the suit is being handled by the firm of Hogan and Hartson. A total of \$1,362,000 in damages is being sought by 10 persons.

A second suit was filed yes-

terday in the name of Paul A. Pumphrey who claims that he was beaten by policemen when he went to second district headquarters to obtain the release of a woman who was arrested during the raid. Pumphrey is asking for \$300,000 damages from the police department and the District government.

Pumphrey is also named as a plaintiff in the first suit.