Panther Conference Opens After Court Victories

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PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5 — A series of court victories, including a restraining order against Police Commissioner Frank L. Rizzo and his officers, permitted a Black Panther conference to open on scheduled here today amid black and white militant amity.

In quick order last night, a Federal judge ordered the Philadelphia police department not to violate the constitutional rights of the Black Panther party while two Common Pleas Court judges freed 14 party members, arrested in raids last Monday, after reducing their bond.

Another Common Pleas Court judge dismissed a request for an injunction against the convention, which was called by the party to rewrite the United States Constitution in a manner core favorable to people it considers oppressed.

Finally, Temple University officials approved the use of McGonical Hall for the convention.

A Calming Effect

The victories appeared to have had a calming effect on the Panthers and members of women's and Gay Liberation movements who are also meeting here. The young participants, numbering about 6,000, appeared to pay little attention to the steady patrol of police cars and the line of slowly moving cars of sightseers that drove by the convention site on North Broad Street.

Judge John P. Fullam of Federal District Court, declaring that his order was precautionary and not intended to tie the hands of the police, prohibited policemen from entering homes without warrants and from harassing or arresting the plaintiffs in violation of their rights. The plaintiffs also included members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Young Lords, an organization of Puerto Rican youths.

Commissioner Rizzo said he was pleased by the order and maintained that it restated policies of the department that have been in existence since he has been in charge.

Intimidation Charged

The suit, which was filed Thursday, demanded that the commissioner, the police department and the city be restrained from what it described as "a pattern of conduct consisting of violation, intimidation and humiliation" because of race, Judge Fullam dismissed charges against Mayor James H. J. Tate and other city officials.

The suit also requested the court to appoint a receiver to run the police department until it could be reorganized to protect lives and property without regard to race. Judge Fullam set a hearing on that part of the suit for next Thursday.

The judge said that nobody could justify shooting policemen, and added, "But a madman out of control shooting policemen is not much more dangerous to the community than a policeman who loses control and goes shooting up people's houses and raiding."

He was alluding to the raid Monday night on the Panther headquarters and two other places in which the 14 persons whose bonds were reduced last night were arrested. The arrests followed a weekend in which one policeman was killed and three others wounded in unrelated incidents.

Bonds Reduced

Two Common Pleas Court judges reduced the bonds of the 14 Panthers from $100,000 to amounts ranging from $100 to $2,500 for Richard R. Schell, the party leader.

Today was a picture from the Nineteen-sixties of black and white unity in the civil rights movement.

The crowd in front of McGonicle Hall spilled over on to the sidewalk. Most of the participants were in their 20's and were about evenly divided between black and white.

They talked, sometimes in mixed groups but mostly in separate groups. But there was no air of hostility noticeable at other militant gatherings in the last few years.

22 Seized in Convoy

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 5 (UPI) — Twenty-two persons from East St. Louis, Ill., were arrested today and charged with firearms violations while traveling in a three-vehicle convoy to a Black Panther-sponsored convention here.

According to the police, among those arrested were an Army deserter, a teacher at Southern Illinois University and three juveniles. The police said a search of the three vehicles produced three pistols with ammunition and a bandoleer of 50 cartridges for a .30 caliber rifle.