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Mrs. Chisholm Joins Campaign To Collect Bail for Joan Bird

By RUDY JOHNSON

Representative Shirley Chisholm joined members of a women's liberation organization yesterday in announcing a drive to raise $100,000 bail money for Joan Bird, one of the Black Panthers on trial on charges of attempted murder and conspiracy to bomb public places.

The campaign was made public at a news conference, which was held in the Overseas Press Club, 54 West 40th Street, and which was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bird, the parents of the 21-year-old defendant.

"The thing that really concerns me is this whole question of the excessive bail," Mrs. Chisholm said.

"But if you take the incarceration of this young woman in terms of what's happening in our society—when we should be incarcerating those who are bringing narcotics into this country—and the big organized gamblers and criminals who are being protected in different ways—I think we have to ask whether or not this truly is justice."

Miss Bird was arrested in January, 1969, and held in bail for a time on charges of conspiring to commit murder following an alleged exchange of gunfire with the police. She was arrested again three months later along with the others currently standing trial on the present charges, and held in $100,000 bail.

Only two of the 13 presently on trial here—Richard Moore and Mrs. Afeni Shakur—have been able to post bail after the money was raised for them.

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Mrs. Shirley Chisholm announcing her action here.

The sponsors of the bail-raising campaign, a group called the Women's Union, said that their committee, the Women's Committee to Free Joan Bird, would try to get $1 from each of 100,000 women, as well as donations from men.

"Women will not be free until Joan, the Panther 21, Black, Brown, the Vietnamese — all people—are free," one of their spokesmen said.