

Book Tells of Power Struggle Among Black Panther Leaders

By HENRY RAYMONT

Earl Anthony, a former deputy minister of information of the Black Panther party, has bitterly described in a book the organization's internal power struggles and its rivalries with other black militant groups.

The book, "Pick Up the Gun," by Dial Press, despite efforts by the Black Panthers to discredit the work and its 28-year-old author.

The 160-page account, covering a period of more than a year in which Mr. Anthony was closely associated with Eldridge Cleaver and other Panther leaders, concludes that recent ideological purges and factional disputes "are like a malignant cancer eating away at the body of the black liberation movement."

For some months now, Mr. Anthony has been sharply criticized in The Black Panther, the party's weekly newspaper, in language reminiscent of the attacks on Soviet dissidents at the height of the Stalinist era. He was denounced as "a classical careerist," "opportunist" and "renegade," and an appeal for information about his whereabouts was printed over the signature of David Hilliard, chief of staff of the Panthers.

Suppression Is Urged
A spokesman for Dial Press said that the publishing house had received numerous telephone calls, including at least one from Bobby Seale, a Panther leader, strongly urging that the book be suppressed.

Mr. Anthony, a former California law student who now sports a trimmed beard, said in an interview that he attributed the party's anger to his refusal "to turn the book into an ideological tract approved by the central committee."

"I read about my expulsion from the party last March," he said, "Curiously that happened after I made clear that I



Earl Anthony
The New York Times

wanted to write a candid, objective book about the dynamics of the struggle, which is the best way I know to help the black liberation movement."

"For a while I was somewhat apprehensive about what might happen," he added, "but I'd been leaned on for so long by the F.B.I. that I've kind of gotten used to all sorts of threats and pressures."

Complaint Voiced

Mr. Anthony, who wrote much of his book in Sweden, said that despite his disenchantment with the Black Panther leadership he still believes in black separatism and in the right of the black communities to engage in armed self-defense against the police.

"What gripes me is the stress of the Panthers on class struggle as a major premise of the black liberation movement," he went on, "I felt all along that the racial problem should have priority but because they made a coalition with white radical

groups — who are using the movement for their own ends —they are alienating much of the black urban masses"

In his book, Mr. Anthony details the violent rivalry between the Panthers and Ron Karenga's U.S. Cultural Organization and of Huey P. Newton's efforts to integrate the

movement with the predominantly white radical in California. He wrote:

"As soon as this coalition was entered into, the internal bickering and fratricide between the party and other organizations in the black liberation movement heightened

—almost in direct ratio to the involvement of radical Whites."

Mr. Anthony is presently completing two plays. "The Misjudgment," the story of a black police informer killed by black militants, and "Charley Still Can't Win the Wars on the Ground," a satire on the moon landing.