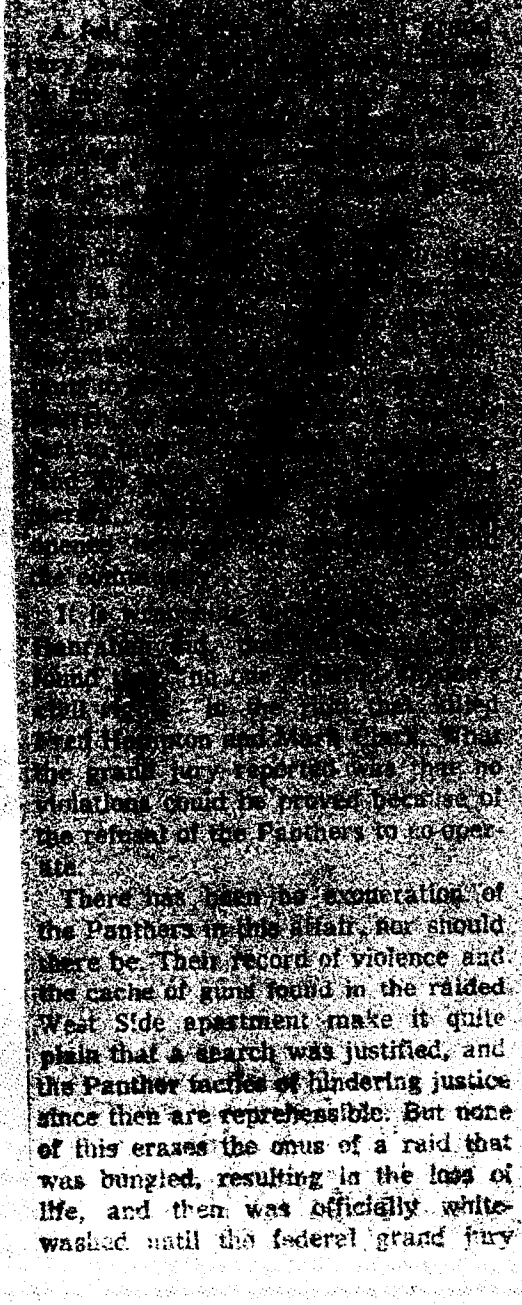
Winner of 14 Pulitzer Prizes for Meritorious Public Service and Excellence

Editorial Page Staff: Fred B. Parnell, Chief Editorial Writer; Gary Rutherford, Hoke Norris, Marvel Scarbrough, John Pennell, Sydney J. Harris

The Daily News

Hanrahan's lost trust



A Jury ... [illegible] ... Panthers ... [illegible] ... Hampton and Mark Clark. What the grand jury reported was that no violations could be proved because of the refusal of the Panthers to co-operate.

There has been no exoneration of the Panthers in this affair, nor should there be. Their record of violence and the cache of guns found in the raided West Side apartment make it quite plain that a search was justified, and the Panther tactics of hindering justice since then are reprehensible. But none of this erases the onus of a raid that was bungled, resulting in the loss of life, and then was officially whitewashed until the federal grand jury ... stripped away the cover.

... is quite credible that Hanrahan ... knew so little about this raid, or ... trusted it entirely to underlings, ... was quick enough to tell the story a... for the cameras in a "re-enact... ment" on television—yet the story tha... now emerges is quite different fro... he told then.

... with the most generous inter... position of Hanrahan's maneuve... upon the impression persists that h... officer dedicated to upholding law an... order. He has contributed to a breac... of law and order.

... two of the most responsible organ... zations in the black community, th... NAACP and the Urban League, hav... now joined in the demands for furth... action. The Urban League called ... Hanrahan to resign, and warned th... "an already critical situation can ou... deteriorate further" unless there a... rapid moves to rectify it. Such war... ings from groups that are working f... reform within the system, in contra... to the Panthers' revolutionary hy... teria, should be heeded.

A more positive response from Ha... rahan might have eased this situatio... It didn't come. It is hard, now, to s... how he can restore any degree of t... trust he must have to carry out t... responsibilities of the state's attorne... But unless he can find a way to do ... we see no alternative to his steppi... aside for a replacement who can co... mand public confidence.