

Panther Trial In N.J. Told Of Plot

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JERSEY CITY, N.J., March 24 (UPI)—An alleged accomplice of three Black Panthers charged with machine-gunning a Jersey City police station in November, 1968, testified Monday that he heard the defendants plot the shooting.

John W. Maxwell, who admitted under cross-examination that there is a charge of assault and battery pending against him, opened the prosecution's case against Charles Hicks, 35, Isaiah Rowley, 25, and Victor Perez, 20.

Maxwell said he was in Rowley's home three hours before the station was shot up.

"Isaiah said he needed me in a machine-gunning he wanted to do," Maxwell told the jury.

Maxwell said he was one of a number of men who were given guns and directed to hide behind bushes about two blocks from the precinct "to keep them from getting picked up" in case of immediate pursuit.

The defendants were arrested a short time after the shooting Nov. 29, 1968, which caused no injuries. The three have been in jail since then, awaiting trial.

Maxwell said the men hiding in the bushes heard the shots but did not do any shooting themselves. Under cross-examination, Maxwell admitted he didn't actually see the station fired upon.

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