

Featherstone Funeral Draws Crowd of 300

By Philip D. Carter
Washington Post Staff Writer

Some 300 or more black friends and supporters of Ralph Edward Featherstone, one of two men who died in a car explosion near Bel Air, Md., early Monday morning, attended his funeral here yesterday.

Among those present at the closed ceremony for the black militant leader were Georgia state legislator Julian Bond, a former associate of Featherstone's in the Student National (formerly Nonviolent) Coordinating Committee (SNCC); the Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, former vice chairman of the Washington City Council, and New York black activist James Forman.

Those who crowded into the Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Benning Rd. NE, for the services, heard the 30-year-old Featherstone eulogized as a man who brought a "religious" dedication to his work for black activist causes. A choral group sang selections that included an African chant.

Only one white man, who was unidentified, was allowed to attend the funeral. White reporters and photographers were told that Featherstone's family had requested that white newsmen be excluded. Black newsmen were admitted on the understanding that they take no pictures and write no accounts of the funeral.

Jean Elizabeth Wiley, owner of the car in which Featherstone and his companion, 26-year-old William H. Payne, died, explained the family's wishes to black newsmen. "If you come in as a brother of Ralph Featherstone, fine, but



WILLIAM M. KUNTZLER
... brief appearance

leave your notebooks and your cameras behind," she said.

Both black and white photographers standing outside the funeral home were instructed not to take, or to stop taking, pictures. They complied.

One white reporter stationed nearby had his notebook grabbed from his hand by an unidentified Negro male who told him to leave.

William Kuntzler, lawyer for Featherstone's friend, H. Rap Brown, in the Bel Air court case originally scheduled for the day of the car explosion, was briefly present at the funeral home. He was warmly greeted outside by funeral guests, including Miss Wiley. Kuntzler talked with reporters briefly and then left to return, he said, to New York, from where he had flown earlier in the day.

Guards Last Saw Rap Brown At N.Y. Apartment March 6

By David W. Hardy

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NEW YORK, March 14—H. Rap Brown, who has not appeared in public for at least a week, was last seen at his Harlem cooperative apartment on Friday, March 6, private guards at the 28-story building said today.

Law enforcement officials said yesterday that, according to their information, Brown is now living in his apartment. The officials said that information they had received indicated that Brown had spent the night of Sunday, March 8, at a motel in the Bel Air, Md., area and had returned to his New York home sometime afterward.

Preliminary arguments in Brown's trial, stemming from a racial disturbance in Cambridge, Md., in July, 1967, began in Bel Air Monday.

Security guards at the Esplanade Gardens, a middle-class cooperative overlooking the Harlem River, said they last saw Brown on the afternoon of March 6 when he and two other men loaded luggage into a black automobile bearing Mississippi tags.

Brown and his wife drove off in a green Mustang, the

guards said, with the other car following. One of the men was a frequent visitor to Brown's apartment, the guards said, but they could not say who he was.

Brown's wife, the former Lynne Doswell, returned to the building some time afterward and was last seen Thursday, when she left with another woman. The two women carried no luggage, the guards said.

The guards doubted that Brown could have reentered the building without being seen. The building's normal 24-hour security force has been reinforced since the Maryland bombings by the addition of three non-uniformed private guards. The three additional guards were requested by a committee of residents after newsmen swarmed through the building earlier in the week.

The building's main door, they pointed out, is watched 24 hours a day by a uniformed private guard. The only other door—a service entrance—is clearly visible to the guard at the main door.

In addition, Brown's building, one of six in the Esplan-

ade Gardens complex, faces a common courtyard. A 24-hour guard is maintained in a booth there.

A New York City police car with three uniformed officers has been outside the building all day today.

The Browns were described by maintenance workers, porters and security men as a quiet couple. Brown, they said, is liked for his readiness to tip for service and his politeness to employees.

Building workers said Brown moved into the building at 2541 Seventh Ave. about two years ago.

A resident of the building said purchase of an apartment requires a \$2,000 down payment. The monthly charges are about \$200. Persons whose yearly income is less than \$9,000 are not accepted.

The six-building apartment house complex is in a quiet Harlem residential area far from the strident militancy of West 125th Street, where street-corner rallies are frequent.

The Esplanade Gardens' neighborhood is generally deteriorating. The apartments, however, stand out as a middle-class exception. Late-model cars fill the parking lot, the residents are well dressed and the buildings themselves, unlike others nearby, are well maintained.