

# Panther 'death tour' <sup>12/6-7/69 keep</sup> Blacks launch probe

C.D.W.  
P.1

By Betty Washington  
and Henry De Zutter

The Afro-American Patrolmen's League, which represents hundreds of black Chicago policemen, Saturday began its own inquiry into the death of Fred Hampton and another Black Panther leader.

Howard Saffold, vice president of the black policemen's group, said he concluded during a macabre tour of the apartment where the Panthers died that the shootings were "an obvious political assassination."

Saffold and Renault

Robinson, league president, said the organization has access to evidence collected by police but not released. They promised to issue their own report soon.

THE BLACK policemen Friday inspected the shabby

Turn to Page 8, Column 5

Continued from Page 1

apartment at 2337 W. Monroe. Female Panther guides led hundreds of visitors on a tour of the death scene, a practice followed by Panthers' several times in other cities.

Among the visitors were two state senators, well-dressed and middle-aged whites, many schoolchildren and some family groups. About 40 uniformed mail carriers trooped through the apartment.

The guides pointed to bullet holes and bloodstains in an effort to prove their contention that police did not fire in self-defense but rather ambushed Hampton, 21, and Mark Clark, 22, a Downstate Panther leader.

"WE FOUND no evidence that anyone had fired from inside the apartment," Robinson said. "The fact that the door wasn't broken down indicated that somebody let them in.

"If a two-way gun battle is in progress, there is no way possible that policemen wouldn't have been shot (and killed)," he added.

"It just doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to figure that out.

"Anybody engaged in a gun battle would not do it from the bed — and it appears that he (Hampton) died in the bed."

Robinson said the men were killed "for no reason" in a



Chew, Newhouse inspect death bed: "If Panthers fired, I can't see how they missed."  
(Photo by John H. White)

deliberate police "setup."

SAFFOLD questioned why the police raiding party did not use tear gas to flush the apartment's occupants.

"When the police went in after Frank Kulak (who allegedly killed two officers with bombs during a shoot-out earlier this year), they used gas to bring him out," Saffold said.

Asked who ordered the

"assassination," Saffold said, "I don't know. Who was there? Who does the state's attorney's office get its orders from?"

**THE POLICE** account of the shooting says that state's attorney's police were attacked by shotgun fire after they broke into the apartment with a search warrant to look for illegal weapons.

State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan said the officers were fired on from several rooms and three times ceased fire in an attempt to end the battle. "Shoot it out," one of the occupants was heard to say.

**CHARLES CHEW** and **RICHARD NEWHOUSE**, two black state senators who toured the flat Friday, also contend that

the police account is inaccurate.

Newhouse said he would report his findings to a committee of 18 black Illinois legislators who are investigating police treatment of blacks.

He agreed with the Panther report that police raided the room where Hampton was sleeping by placing a ladder against the side of the building and breaking the window from the outside.

**CHEW** and **Newhouse** were surprised to find no bullet scars on the walls facing the front door where police said they drew shotgun fire as they entered.

They also saw a straight line of bullet holes, resembling a Hollywood rendering of sub-machinegun fire, that tore through the living room's back wall into a bedroom about one foot above the beds.

A Daily News reporter who made the tour noted that the only hole in the front door left splinters on the inside of the door. The senators reasoned that this shot killed Clark, who police said hid behind the door. A large bloodstain is on the floor.

The pool of blood on Hampton's bullet-riddled mattress is only four feet from the broken window, the reporter also noted.

"**IF SOMEONE** in the apartment fired the first shots at the police entering the living room," said Chew, "I can't possibly see how they missed.

"And since the police say they missed, where are the

marks on the walls alongside of and behind this entrance-way?"

Newhouse said little about his conclusions, but did observe:

"It appears to me that they came here with a diagram of this place, and it appears they knew what they wanted to do. How else explain the ladder (there were two of them below on the ground) and broken window in Hampton's bedroom? They must have known that was where to find him."

Defense lawyers already have charted and measured every bullet hole in the apartment and a team of three pathologists has been asked to conduct separate "autopsies" on Hampton and Clark.

**MEANWHILE**, **Deborah Johnson**, 19, who gave her address as the apartment, was released on \$2,500 cash bond. She was charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery.

**James D. Montgomery**, her attorney, said she was "not guilty as charged" and that he has instructed her not to discuss the case with anyone.

**Montgomery** is a member of the Illinois Pardon and Parole Board and a former assistant U.S. attorney.

**THE DEATH** of Hampton, who had gained national prestige among the Panthers, drew widespread reaction across the city.

**Charles Hurst**, president of **Malcolm X College**, which Hampton attended, called it

"an atrocity that ought to shock every freedom-loving person in this country.

"His work in helping make **Malcom X** a school in which all people can take pride was one of the indispensable factors leading to the school's survival and present status as an outstanding educational institution," he said.

The main conference room of the school was renamed for Hampton by Hurst.

**TEN** Northwestern University and **Kendall College** students were arrested late Friday during an Evanston march to protest Hampton's death. About 150 joined a rally in downtown Evanston.

Hanrahan's office released a report Friday that said **Ald. A. A. (Sammy) Rayner** (6th), whose funeral home received Hampton's body, pays part of the lease on Panther headquarters at 2352 W. Madison.

**IN ANOTHER** development, **Robinson** charged that police apparently planted criminal evidence in his car Wednesday as he attended a meeting of a board to set up training for police community aides under the Model Cities program.

**Robinson** said two persons overheard **Capt. B. T. Rochford**, a member of the police planning division, telephoning the Grand Crossing District and telling police that "I was to be arrested on the next day."

He said he did not report the incident to police because "telling the police department would be like asking Hitler to scold the SS."