

More readers' views on

The following letters have been received in reaction to the full page of letters printed in The Sun-Times Wednesday, commenting adversely on the killing of two Black Panther Party leaders by state's attorney's police.

Anarchy, not police state

As I read the letters in The Sun-Times Wednesday about the recent killing of two Black Panthers, I am moved to wonder what kind of a society we have become, and whether we have the courage and common sense to endure.

To see and hear some portion of our people eulogizing vicious criminals like the Black Panthers is enough to give anyone pause. What masochists we have become! How twisted are our present values, that we can no longer differentiate between good and evil!

It seems to some of us that we are at present not so much in danger of becoming a police state as of becoming an anarchy. I, too, know what Nazi Germany was like. Although we are not Jews, I too lost members of my family to the Germans.

Contrary to what some of these writers say, it is not the lawful element in society — people like us — who are like Nazis. It is, so it seems to some of us, the Black Panthers, the SDS, the street gangs, the Mafia, the radicals of extreme hue of both left and right, who can be equated with Nazis and with the Gestapo.

All of those are dangerous criminals and anarchists who are devoted to the ideal, if one can use such a word in this context, of crushing us, of denying free speech and action to everyone but themselves and their ilk, and who now demand protection from the same laws they are dedicated to overthrow, for everyone but themselves.

Have we no sense of self-preservation left? Are we no longer on the side of God and good? Have we sold out to evil and the Devil? It seems that we have.

In years to come, if these violent dissident elements come into power, let us remember, if we are still alive, how a strong nation abrogated its responsibilities and blindly rushed into the arms of Satan. Then, when it is too late, we will understand who were Nazis and who were not.

Some of us understand that now. May God help those who do not, and who take the rest of us down into hell with them.

Name withheld by request

Let Panthers state platform

John Dillinger was shot down in front of a

^{Keep} Panther deaths

theater in Chicago because he pulled a gun and threatened the lives of all those around him.

Bonnie and Clyde met a like fate. Hundreds of others who had illegal guns and were ready and able to use them have also been shot down, and no one condemned the police. The police were not required to walk into a murderous fire of bullets merely because those they were trying to arrest were around.

The argument here is that the Black Panthers is a political party, and that an effort is being made to eradicate them.

Let them put their principles and party planks before the people whose support they want like our other political parties do. Let them stop their illegal practice of hoarding guns and ammunition. Let them stop shooting at the police every time they are confronted by them. In short, let them stop acting like gangsters, and they will stop being treated as such.

Whatever happened to the principles of the great Martin Luther King Jr., who won great victories for his people, and who also won the respect of the world. He was respected by his friends and his enemies. I see the same type of respect for men like the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who are blacks fighting for the welfare of their people.

Men like those are fighters, too; only they are fighting with the brains and guts that God gave them. If those men pulled guns and offered to shoot every time they were arrested,

they would be dead and their names long forgotten.

A gunman is a dangerous animal regardless of his color or creed. Let us not honor them and eulogize them.

I don't know that much about the Black Panther Party. I have heard them called everything from Marxists to humanitarians; but whatever they are, if they are a political party, let's hear what they have to say without their guns.

Instead of buying a machinegun, buy a radio spot or hire a hall and let us hear you talk. It might not be a bad idea to hear a few debates between whites and blacks. But don't point a gun at another man be he white or black because he will go and get a gun, too. Let's all try to be what we are beneath the pigment of our skins — human beings.

The Black Panthers are organized. Let them set about changing their image. Respect is stronger than guns. Don't fight law, change it.

John Strathopoulos

Some questions, alternatives

I do not believe in a human possessing the innate desire to take the life of another human being. But I do believe in self preservation.

Black Panther leader Fred Hampton was killed. Police who took part in the raid are being blamed and harassed for killing him. Let us look at this in a logical manner.

(1) Fred Hampton — leader of Black Panther Party, only occupation. Question: How did he earn a living?

(2) Police — Informed that illegal weapons are being stored in his apartment.

Alternatives: Police should ignore information. It's none of their business anyway.

Police should investigate and act on information.

Police should inform occupants of the building of the raid so that they can be prepared.

(3) Police choose second alternative. Arrive at Hampton's place. Announce that they have a search warrant. Police are greeted with a warm shower of gunfire.

Alternatives: Oh, I think I'll just stand here and let them shoot me.

Draw and fire.

(4) Those sympathetic towards Hampton's death: "The police killed him in cold blood."

(5) Thinking public: Police found an artillery of ammunition in Hampton's apartment. What thinking individual can honestly say to himself that Hampton and his friends were above using weapons — illegal weapons that they shouldn't have had in the first place.

I question Hampton and his associates' actual motives for keeping a room loaded with ammunition. Was it just decorative or did they plan to use it?

I question those who are immortalizing Hampton as a martyr for all black people. Why, how and on what basis?

Lastly, I am grateful to State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan and the police force for saving my life and that of many others.

Michele Del Genio

Finds something missing

It is tragic that at this time I have to preface my remarks by saying that I deplore shooting, killing and violence, by anyone or any group and against anyone or any group. I also believe in freedom of speech and I noted with interest the full page of outraged responses against the police from readers.

It is because of this that I find something missing in the aftermath of the raid and shooting of the Black Panthers last week. Among all the responses and charges, I didn't hear anything about the related murders of policemen in recent weeks. If one event is horrifying, then so are the others.

Nor did I hear any shock registered about the immediate response from the group when they said that they would just have to get more guns and shoot more pigs. I assume that the Panthers' gun collection was not being used in their many acts of charity and the clergy, aldermen and other public figures should stop speaking as if the Panthers had

been interrupted in the middle of serving children breakfast.

If the police are failing in their duty as the protective arm of the law, that is a tragedy that must be corrected, but let's remember that killing and threats are not the ways to progress.

Ann Graff

Evanston

Panthers are caged or killed

It seems strange that Negro leaders don't try harder to teach their promising young men the dangers incurred when they join such subversive organizations as the Black Panthers. And why would a group choose such a name? Panthers are always hunted and either caged or killed.

If straying dogs can be picked up humanely and put in a safe place, so can straying youths and young men, and in daylight hours. The Black Panther Party and the Communist Party should be outlawed in our seething country and should have been long ago. America's policemen have brought ill-will upon themselves, but two wrongs don't make things right and whoever tries that tactic is in trouble.

First class, compulsory all-year government boarding schools for the idle and intelligent, and compulsory homes and work shops for the idle and dull could solve a lot of our problems. Surely it has been plainly proven that parents have lost control.

Citizen

'Disgusted and bored'

I, along with most of the white community, am becoming increasingly disgusted and bored with the leftist blacks in Chicago constantly demonstrating and chanting their "protests" about the police.

If two white policemen would have been killed in the Black Panther shootout, then *a priori*, the raid would have been legitimate from the black viewpoint. The fact that the police were entirely justified in seizing an

illegal cache of weapons doesn't mean a thing. In other words, don't confuse some blacks with facts and logic.

Let's face it, some blacks are just as racially prejudiced and intolerant as they say whites are, and their cry for an investigation is based on a vitriolic hatred of whites in general. Their thinking runs thusly: "It is all right for blacks to shoot at whites and white policemen, but it's repression when whites shoot back."

The sad thing is that many high government officials are beginning to accept that idiotic black logic.

P. J. Parks

Haile Hanrahan and police

Thank God for our State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan and our wonderful Chicago policemen.

Our policemen are sons, husbands and fathers. They are only human and should protect themselves.

We can well do without Fred Hampton and his illegal firearms. But we cannot do without our policemen. Mrs. Dale Powers
Evergreen Park

This reader is 'appalled'

I am appalled by your newspaper's vicious, bigoted and decidedly one-sided accounting of the Panther deaths. Not only have the deaths and wakes of those men been overly publicized, but your extra page spread of the readers' opinions was ridiculously one-sided. At the office today and among friends, the subject was brought up; and the opinions here are quite contrary to your accounting.

Are not these so-called martyrs to be held accountable for the former actions: Are not the recent dead policemen reason enough for the so called "arsenal" that the policemen employed? Should our policemen enter a potential and notorious firing range with red dots over their hearts so that their opponents can see better?

I am sick of hearing and reading about your bigoted and news-catching version of police brutality, police mobs, police assassins, etc.

Your job is to report the news, objectively. That means an accounting of what happened, when, where and by whom or whomever. No opinions, please. You are now playing the decisive roles of judge, jury and persecutors, and to my memory the judiciary still has that job.

Linda A. Czajkowski

'Thanks for job well done'

In the recent shootout between our police and the so-called Black Panther gang, which is Communist-motivated, all I can say is thanks for a job well done by our police.

If those bums want to have guns and ammunition, let's send them to Vietnam and they can have all they want.

George Ruvareich

'What are the guns for?'

Letter to the Black Panthers:

The community services you are doing are great, such as breakfast programs, child care centers, cleaning up empty lots, etc. Community services are also provided for by the Salvation Army, churches, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA and many other organizations.

The differences seems to be that those organizations do the good services without the guns, rifles and ammunition.

Please tell me what are those rifles, guns and ammunition for? How do they help in providing the community services?

P. Martin

Park Forest

'The color is crimson'

It is utterly disgusting to watch a bunch of supposedly intelligent responsible citizens make the wild statements and accusations they do about the killing of Communist Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party.

Remember, they have done nothing in the past or present to indicate any respect for truth. Hampton's apartment was loaded with unregistered firearms. (I suppose the liberals will tell you he used them to hunt pigs.)

The Panthers openly advocate revolution with the assassinations of police. I believe birds of a feather flock together and the color is crimson, bright crimson.

Edward F. Lewis

Tinley Park

Revulsed by hue and cry

I am revulsed by the hue and cry contained in the letters condemning the police for doing their duty in getting the arsenal of the Black Panthers.

Where do the Panthers get their arsenals? Who supplies them with money to rabble rouse, not work and how do they get so much help in their plan to overthrow the government?

The police may come to my home at any time to question me or search my home and I will gladly co-operate with them, because they are my protection.

The police are part of my government and I am proud of them. Lord help us if we lost their protection, or if we ever fall into the hands of these so-called "civil disobedience people."

American

'Panthers must be destroyed'

Why all the tender solicitude for Fred Hampton and the rest of the Black Panthers? Their literature openly urges the murder of policemen and white people. All who belong to the organization automatically subscribe to such ideas.

By teaching the murder of others, the Black Panthers have placed themselves outside the protection of the laws which they themselves are trying to tear down. That applies also to the SDS radicals because they advocate a revolution (which is also murder, the murder of the most productive part of the population).

Therefore the Panthers and SDS must be destroyed before they destroy others. We decent members of society demand this of our law enforcement officers.

Dudley D. Nichol

Skokie