

Panther raid urged by FBI, probbers say

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By David Young

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation urged Chicago law enforcement agencies to raid the West Side Black Panther apartment at least a month before the fatal raid on Dec. 4, 1969, investigative sources said.

The Chicago Police Department was asked twice to raid the apartment—in October and November of 1969—but refused to do so, sources said.

After the refusal, the FBI went to investigators for former State's Atty. Edward V. Hanrahan, who ordered the predawn raid in which Panther Leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were slain.

The federal government conceded in court earlier this month that the FBI had informed state's attorney's police there was a weapons cache in the Panther apartment at 2337 W. Monroe St.

THE INFORMATION was gathered by William O'Neal, an FBI informer who had infiltrated the Black Panther organization late in 1968 and reported to FBI Agent Roy M. Mitchell, it was disclosed earlier.

Information that the FBI had made previous attempts to get the Hampton apartment raided has not been disclosed previously.

The surveillance by the FBI of the Panther operations in Chicago was part of a national FBI program to infiltrate, harass, discredit, and obtain information on the Panther party.

The operation was started in

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still secret "137 Files," The Tribune disclosed Thursday.

The Chicago "137" operation was aimed primarily at the Panthers, but the black leaders made the files when FBI informers noticed them at political, business, and social functions attended by Panthers—even if the leaders were unaware of the Panthers' presence.

U. S. Rep. Ralph Metcalfe [D., Chicago], who sources said is included in the FBI's 137 files, said he is considering filing suit against the FBI for violation of his civil rights.

"This is really a gestapo-type program," he said: "This type of thing is dangerous in America."

Sources close to the highest levels of the Chicago Police Department said that FBI agents approached the department long before the fatal raid in 1969 and attempted to get the department's Gang Intelligence Unit to raid the alleged arms cache in the apartment.

O'NEAL testified in a civil deposition Jan. 12 that the guns were moved from Panther headquarters at 2350 W. Madison St. to Hampton's Monroe Street apartment about Oct. 3. He testified he relayed the information to Mitchell, disclosing the number and types of guns.

When Chicago Police refused to reschedule the Panther raid, FBI officials approached the state's attorney's office.

At the request of the FBI, the raid was scheduled for 8 p. m. Dec. 3, sources then in the state's attorney's office said. However, they decided to reschedule it for early the next morning without telling the FBI because they feared it would be too dangerous to raid it at a time everybody was expected to be awake.

HANRAHAN and 12 of his staff members were indicted on charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice but were acquitted in a trial in Cook County Circuit Court.

1967 on orders of J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director, according to secret FBI documents made public earlier this year. The FBI's operation was known nationally as "COINTELPRO—Black Extremists."

HOWEVER, in Chicago information obtained on the Panthers and prominent black civic, business, and political leaders was included in the