

# Weathermen Accused of 'Shakedown'

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By Aaron Latham

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Vietnam Moratorium leaders said yesterday that the Weathermen, a militant radical group, asked for a donation of \$20,000 in exchange for a promise to refrain from violent behavior during the weekend peace march.

Stephen Cohen, one of six Moratorium leaders present at the meeting here Friday, described the Weathermen offer as a "shakedown." His account of the session was corroborated by other members of the Moratorium group.

"They came in and said they wanted \$20,000," said Cohen. "They tried to shake us down. They wanted protection money. We told them to get lost."

Weatherman leader William Ayers acknowledged that he and several associates asked the Moratorium for help in meeting legal expenses growing out of disturbances in Chicago. But Ayers asserted no threats were made or implied.

The Weathermen, a faction of Students for a Democratic Society that preaches violent revolution, led destructive demonstrations in Chicago at the opening of the trial of the Chicago Eight and have piled up legal expenses in excess of \$50,000.

"They did not say we have come here to blackmail you," Cohen said, "but it was clear that what they were saying to us was that if you give us \$20,000 we will not commit acts of violence."

Cohen says that the Weathermen put their proposition this way: "We've come to ask you for money for legal defense. After we leave here, we're going to be deciding whether to commit acts of violence. Our decision will be affected if we know there is help forthcoming from you."

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## SDS, From A1

Ayers said he told the Moratorium leaders that they should contribute to his group "because we are all that stands between the Justice Department and the Moratorium."

The meeting between the Moratorium and the Weathermen came about suddenly Friday. The Weathermen simply called the Moratorium, according to Cohen, and announced they were coming over to discuss "repression in America."

The prospect of unbidden Weathermen precipitously bursting into Moratorium headquarters made the leadership nervous, so they stationed William Chickering, a former Special Forces captain, and William Briggs, a former Washington Redskin, in a back conference room to watch over the meeting, Cohen said.

When the Weathermen arrived at 1029 Vermont Ave. NW, they were ushered into the back room, he said.

Cohen said the Weathermen opened the meeting by saying "they understood we were very rich." He said they then

made their offer to march peacefully for a fee.

"We held them in contempt," Cohen says. "We were not about to give \$20,000 as protection money to a gang of hoodlums. Sam Brown told them, 'Sorry, we're not going to do anything.'" Brown declined to comment on the incident.

Ayers said the Moratorium leaders told him they could not do anything as an organization, but he said that some individuals agreed to help find lawyers and to pay for them. He would not give the names of the individuals.

Cohen said that at one point in the negotiating the Moratorium's Geoffrey Cowan asked Ayers what the Weathermen really wanted in America, and he related this exchange:

Ayers: "To kill all rich people."

Cowan: "Aren't your parents extremely rich?"

Ayers: "You know what Abbie Hoffman says, 'Bring the war home. Kill your parents.'"

Cohen says that the Weathermen told the Moratorium leaders they could give no positive assurances of nonvio-

lence but said, "We have good discipline in our ranks."

When the Weathermen were finally convinced that the Moratorium was going to make no contribution, they were escorted to the door. By then it was dark outside.

Later that evening, there was a rash of window-breaking and other vandalism near Dupont Circle after a march on the South Vietnam Embassy. Saturday, an evening rally at the Justice Department was marred by rock-throwing and more window-breaking.

The Weathermen supported these acts of vandalism, according to Ayers, but they did not sponsor them. He says the outbreaks were "spontaneous."

"We didn't try to stop it," he says. "We thought the demonstrations were most productive when they were most militant. We were there Friday night and at Justice. But we didn't lead one single action. Only two Weathermen were arrested."

The Moratorium and the New Mobilization have both disavowed the violence.

Explaining his request for

funds, Ayers says, "Clearly SDSers have no money. We have to get it from those who have it."

## Panthers Face New Charges in N.Y. Bomb Case

NEW YORK, Nov. 17 (AP)—Additional bomb conspiracy charges were filed today against 21 Black Panthers, and a 22nd defendant was added to the list.

The new charges were revealed when 14 of the defendants, who have been in jail for over seven months in lieu of bail ranging up to \$100,000 each, appeared for trial in Manhattan Supreme Court.

A new 30-count indictment was read to them, adding charges that they conspired to blow up subway switching control rooms and that they illegally possessed weapons.

The original 18-count indictment alleged conspiracies to bomb five Manhattan department stores, commuter railroad tracks and a Bronx police station.