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## 12 Panthers Acquitted in Detroit Death

DETROIT, June 30 (UPI)—

A jury today found 12 Black Panthers innocent of the major charges in the shooting death of a Detroit patrolman, but found three defendants guilty of felonious assault.

The jury of 10 blacks and two whites was cheered by a crowd of Panther supporters who crowded into the Recorder's Court room to hear the verdict.

The jury found all 12 defendants, six men and six women, innocent of first-degree murder and conspiracy to murder and of assault with intent to murder.

However felonious assault verdicts were returned against Ernie D. Saussur, Benjamin Fondrun and David Johnson.

The weary jury came in with the verdicts after 4½ days of deliberations. A woman juror broke down and cried after the findings were read.

Fifteen persons were arrested Oct. 2 following the siege of the Black Panther Party's headquarters on Detroit's west side.

The siege, which touched off the shooting of patrolman Glenn E. Smith, began when police and Panthers scuffled on the street over the distribution of Black Panther literature and some of the Panther newspaper salesmen ran into the party's headquarters.

Recorder's (criminal) Court Judge John R. Murphy said the three Panthers found guilty of felonious assault would be sentenced July 21. The others were freed.

Defense attorneys, confident the prosecution had not presented a winning case, surprised the court by resting the defense case without calling a single witness.