

12/16/69

Panther Slayings: 'Curfew' and Probe

Whites Warned

From News Dispatches

CHICAGO, Dec. 15—An organization of Negro groups declared today an immediate 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. "curfew" for whites in black neighborhoods in response to the police slaying of two Black Panther leaders.

Mayor Richard J. Daley, saying "no one has the authority to take the law into his own hands," promised that all citizens will be protected by the Chicago Police Department. He called on all citizens, organizations and news media to "stop and think calmly."

There was no immediate indication how successful the curfew was. No incidents were reported in the first hour this evening.

At least four Negro aldermen promptly came out in opposition to the curfew proposal. Jay A. Miller, president of the Chicago chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, called it "completely irresponsible" and "contrary to our policy of supporting the right of free movement."

The curfew was announced at a news conference by the United Front of Black Community Organizations.

See CHICAGO, A3, Col. 2

Citizens Act

By William Greider

Washington Post Staff Writer

An extraordinary citizens' "commission of inquiry" to investigate the violent clashes between police and Black Panthers was announced yesterday by 28 prominent civil rights leaders, legal figures and church officials, including former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg.

The citizens' group intends to direct "a searching inquiry" into incidents in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Detroit and other cities where local police and the militant black organization have battled in recent months.

Goldberg and Roy Wilkins, executive director of the NAACP, told a New York press conference that the 28 "conveners" of the inquiry "are profoundly disturbed" by the events. The most recent clashes in Chicago and Los Angeles, their statement said, "have raised grave questions over the whole range of civil rights and civil liberties as applied to the Black Panthers."

The Black Panthers contend that 28 of their leaders have been slain in what they charge is a systematic series of raids on Panther headquarters in various cities staged by local police with help from federal officials.

The Justice Department has denied any role in the shoot-outs and has initiated a preliminary investigation under its Civil Rights Division. The local police departments involved have all contended that the Black Panthers started the shooting during legal searches of the Panther quarters.

As a citizens' group, the "commission of inquiry" will have no legal standing and no power of subpoena to gather evidence on the cases, but it will be supported by funds from civil rights organizations and the services of some prominent lawyers.

Jack Greenberg, director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the group will meet Saturday to decide on its procedures.

See PANTHERS, A3, Col. 4

Chicago Blacks Order Night Curfew for Whites

CHICAGO, From A1

The United Front said it was speaking for about 100 groups that had been meeting since Friday. Spokesmen declined to answer questions about how the curfew would be enforced or what boundaries were included.

The Rev. C. T. Vivian, a leader of the Coalition for United Community action, said the death of Black Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in a Dec. 4 police raid had united the city's black community against what he called "a campaign to oppress, suppress and repress black people."

"Effective immediately, a 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew is established for all whites in the black community," a statement read by Vivian at a news conference said.

"No whites will be permitted to enter the black community for any reason during

those hours and all whites inside the black community must leave by the 6 p.m. deadline."

Vivian labeled the "curfew" a "black curtain." He said it was as much a "matter of trying to protect white people" as anything else. He repeatedly refused to answer questions about the "curfew."

The statement also said a black tribunal will be "convened to try Negro judges, policemen, politicians and any other individuals who have been and who are presently cooperating with the forces of power in this city to the detriment of black people." He refused to answer questions about a tribunal.

Vivian also announced there would be a black investigation of the "murders" of Hampton and Clark and that policemen operating in black neighborhoods will be watched by community residents.

Citizens' Unit To Probe Panther Case

PANTHERS, From A1

The probe may include public hearings and field investigations. Norman Amaker, first assistant counsel of the Defense Fund, will serve as staff director. All 28 signers are available to serve on the commission, but a smaller number will probably be chosen, Greenberg said.

In addition to Goldberg, Wilkins, Clark and Greenberg, the signers include Clifford Alexander, former chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Richard G. Hatcher, mayor of Gary, Ind.; Louis Pollak, law dean at Yale University; Cynthia Wedel, president of the National Council of Churches; Sam Brown, coordinator of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee; Phillip Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee; Georgia State Rep. Julian Bond; A. Philip Randolph, vice president of the AFL-CIO; John Pemberton, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Whitney Young Jr., executive director of the Urban League.

Both Greenberg and Goldberg avoided any suggestion that the inquiry has been initiated out of a fear that the federal authorities or local law enforcement officials would not make a thorough investigation.

"There is room for a citizens' inquiry to satisfy everybody that there isn't any question that the rules of law are being observed," Goldberg said in a telephone interview. "This would be a reassurance to people on all sides."

Alexander, now an attorney in Washington, said the Justice Department has had the Black Panther organization under surveillance and "they're looking at it from a different viewpoint obviously than this group might."