



OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CHICAGO 60608

CRIMINAL DIVISION

2600 SOUTH CALIFORNIA AVENUE

EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
STATE'S ATTORNEY

January 26, 1970

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'or Press
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Your letter requesting information on a Black Panther incident on December 4, 1969 addressed to the Director of Public Information, Chicago Police Department, has just reached my desk for reply.

The attachments should satisfy your request. Thanks for this opportunity to be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
State's Attorney

By:

Mel Mawrence
Mel Mawrence

Director, Public Information

MM:11

EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
State's Attorney
2600 S. California
Chicago, Illinois
542-2910

On the morning of December 4, 1969, following our officer's search of the Black Panther apartment, I reported that our men had been attacked by gunfire and that two occupants had been killed.

Nothing was said publicly by any of the Black Panther occupants of that apartment.

However, at noon on December 4th, Bobby Rush and another spokesman for the Black Panthers -- who were not present at the occurrence and who had not talked with the occupants -- lied about the conduct of our officers and accused them of murdering Fred Hampton and Mark Clark. Despite Rush's obvious ignorance of the true facts, his charges were so sensational as to be "news" and his victims, the police, were expected to remain silent until the case came to court. Accordingly, the charges by Rush and other Black Panther spokesmen were promptly broadcast - without any attempt at verification of them.

No Black Panther occupant of that apartment made any statement regarding the facts.

Later on December 4 and repeatedly over the following days, Rush, other spokesmen for the Black Panthers and third persons made similar outrageous, false charges against our police officers. These charges were widely broadcast over radio and television and published in many newspapers -- even though the accusers themselves had no first hand knowledge of the facts.

Accordingly, to demonstrate their integrity and to prove their truthfulness, our officers did the extraordinary: they gave a full, public statement of what occurred in the apartment on December 4th.

Still no Black Panther occupants of the apartment made any statement of the facts.

Next, our officers again did the extraordinary and re-enacted on television what occurred in the Black Panther apartment.

Still no Black Panther occupant of the apartment made any statement of the facts. However, their spokesmen and adherents continued their false accusations. Some persons called for independent investigations and for action to be taken against me and our officers.

Then our officers again did the extraordinary by offering to take lie detector tests if the Black Panther occupants would do the same.

The Black Panthers refused and still made no statement of the facts.

Then the Department of Justice announced it would have the F.B.I. make a preliminary investigation to determine if the Black Panther occupants' civil rights had been violated.

Our officers readily agreed to be interviewed by the F.B.I. Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard personally told me that the Black Panthers refused to be interviewed -- even though their spokesmen had charged a violation of their rights!

Now the Department of Justice proposes to abandon its preliminary investigation and to seek Black Panther cooperation through a federal grand jury.

The truth is our business so we welcome any investigation by a

We believe it is outrageous the Black Panthers have frustrated the F.B.I. investigation by their refusal to tell them the facts.

We believe it is outrageous that the Black Panthers have now forced the Department of Justice to abandon its established practice and to try a new means of getting them to tell the facts.

Answers of R. J. ...
SUMMARY OF STATE ATTORNEY'S RAID ON PANTHER APT ON
Dec 4, 1970, Chicago, Illinois to confiscate illegal
Weapons Cache

Q. What prompted the investigation?

A. There was and is no "investigation". There was an attempt to serve a search warrant for illegal weapons based on reliable information. In fact, illegal weapons and ammunition was recovered.

Q. What violations of the law have the panthers committed in Chicago?

A. Sixteen panthers are under indictment for aggravated battery aggravated kidnapping and kidnapping in the torture of two individuals who lost a panther riot gun. One of these individuals under indictment was Fred Hampton.

Q. Have they as an organization carried out violence in Chicago?

Several attacks on Chicago police officers have been made by the Black Panthers within the past several months. Six panthers are under indictment for these offenses. Fred Hampton himself was convicted of robbery which conviction was affirmed last week(?) by the Illinois Supreme Court. He was scheduled to start serving his term in approximately two weeks. Gunfire has emanated on ~~Monroe~~ ^{MADISON} Street in the City of Chicago ^{FROM} on numerous occasions injuring various police officers. ^{PANTHER HEADQUARTERS}

Q. Do you regard them as subversive in the sense of being affiliated with a foreign power:

A. Recent speeches by Hampton and other top leaders of the Panther Party espouse the teachings of Mao Tse Tung, Fidel Castro and other communist revolutionaries. In the search of the premises

which occurred on December 4, 1969, many communist and revolutionist pamphlets and booklets were recovered.

Q. How many raids has our office conducted on panther headquarters and homes this year? How many arrests and convictions?

A. Two-one in conjunction with the GIU unit of the Chicago Police Department and the other pertaining to the aggravated kidnapping referred to previously. *Numerous arrests. all persons arrested are awaiting trial.*

Q. How could our office not have known that Hampton would be there considering that we have had him under investigation?

A. As mentioned previously, Hampton was not under "investigation." Hampton was not under personal surveillance by the State's Attorneys police or any other agency as far as State's Attorneys office knows. Hampton resided in Maywood and Chicago. The Supreme Court of Illinois had released Hampton on bond some time prior to the occurrence based upon Hampton's affidavit that he wanted to conduct a speaking tour in Canada. At that time, he was out on two appeal bonds and a normal bond.

Q. Is the chronology of the Tribune account correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Was the outer door kicked in immediately after a voice inside said, "Just a minute?"

A. No. There ~~was~~ ^{were several} ~~two more~~ knocks by Sgt. Groth advising the people on the inside that it was the police at the door and that they had a search warrant for the premises.

Q. Does our office have the deer slug fired through the second

door and could I examine it?

- A. No. The deer slug went through the living room door and the impact point is unknown at this point. It is surmised that it passed two police officers and went outside, *through the outer door.*

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the Illinois State's Attorney's Association has always supported to the utmost the fair administration of justice and the inviolate system of hearings which encourages a full and complete hearing before conclusions are reached, and

WHEREAS, the State's Attorney's Office of Cook County has been subjected to an unprecedented mass of accusations regarding the Hampton search incident, and

WHEREAS, the groups who have made such accusations have done so with no factual knowledge or investigation of any kind prior to the incident reaching the proper hearing tribunal which will ultimately determine the true facts, and

WHEREAS, it is obviously the duty of all community leaders, groups and persons who may influence public opinion in these troubled times to exercise the utmost restraint in being positive that opinions expressed are based upon real facts as distinguished from conclusions, speculation or prejudice,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State's Attorney's Association does heartily commend Edward V. Hanrahan and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for the remarkable restraint, fairness and forbearance which both he and such office have displayed in the face of the tactics employed by uninformed persons and groups of persons in the Fred H. Hampton case, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such Association deplores

foundation, in fact, without investigation and most deplorable of all, without the benefit of a proper legal proceeding to determine the true facts in the said incident.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such irresponsible accusations as made constitute an affront to each and every State's Attorney and other law enforcement agencies and a serious disruption of the orderly process of justice which demand a full and complete factual hearing prior to the reaching of conclusions.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE ILLINOIS STATE'S ATTORNEY ASSOCIATION ON THIS 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1969.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Robert E. Richardson
CHAIRMAN

James E. Boyle
Max B. Stewart

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 11, 1969

FROM: EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
STATE'S ATTORNEY
2600 S. CALIFORNIA
CHICAGO, ILL. 60608

STATE'S ATTORNEY HANRAHAN REPORTS RESULTS
ON BLACK PANTHER'S APARTMENT RAID

One Chicago paper has headlined that Superintendent Conlisk has ordered a "probe" of the events which occurred at 2337 West Monroe Street on December 4. I called Superintendent Conlisk yesterday and asked him to do this.

Yesterday we made public the events which occurred at 2337 West Monroe Street on December 4, 1969 when our officers sought to enter those premises with a search warrant. Any reading of that account clearly shows that the State's Attorneys' police did, in fact, carry out their duties with courage, restraint and professional discipline.

The integrity and character of our officers is further demonstrated by their request that they be permitted to take lie detector tests. However, we have no doubt at all about the truth of their account of those events or of the legality of their actions. We have denied their request for fear that granting it would suggest some doubt on our part. We challenge the occupants of that apartment to be as forthright as our police officers. If they will take a lie detector test we will then grant our officers request that they be permitted to do so.

We take this extraordinary step, even though it is established practice that neither the prosecution nor the defense can use such results in court. Because of that legal restriction, acceptance of our challenge cannot jeopardize the defendants constitutional rights.

December 4, 1969

This morning, pursuant to a search warrant, State's Attorney's Police attempted to search the first floor apartment at 2337 W. Monroe Street to seize sawed-off shot guns and other illegal weapons stored there. Our office had reliable information that this location was a depot for such illegal weapons gathered by members of the Black Panther Party.

As soon as Sgt. Daniel Groth and Officer James Davis, leading our men, announced their office, occupants of the apartment attacked them with shotgun fire. The officers immediately took cover. The occupants continued firing at our policemen from several rooms within the apartment.

Thereafter, three times Sgt. Groth ordered all his men to cease firing and told the occupants to come out with their hands up. Each time, one of the occupants replied, "Shoot it out," and they continued firing at the police officers. Finally, the occupants threw down their guns and were arrested.

The immediate, violent criminal reaction of the occupants in shooting at announced police officers emphasizes the extreme viciousness of the Black Panther Party. So does ^{their} ~~them~~ refusal to cease firing at the police officers when urged to do so several times.

Fortunately only one police officer was wounded. We wholeheartedly commend the police officers for their bravery, their remarkable restraint and their discipline in the face of this Black Panther attack -- as should every decent citizen in our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 1969

EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
State's Attorney
2600 S. California
Chicago, Illinois

A MESSAGE FROM STATE'S ATTORNEY EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
REGARDING RECENT RAID OF APARTMENT OCCUPIED
BY BLACK PANTHER PARTY MEMBERS

Last week, December 4, a 14-member team of our State's Attorney's Police, including five black police officers, sought to search an apartment occupied by members of the Black Panther Party. In the process, our police officers were fired upon by some or all of the nine occupants of the apartment. In an ensuing exchange of gun fire, two of the occupants were killed and one of our police officers was shot. The seven other occupants were arrested and charged with attempt murder and aggravated battery. We are preparing to present this matter to the Grand Jury.

Immediately after the occurrence, we reviewed all its details with the assigned officers. We then issued a statement of the facts.

We were then convinced and are still convinced that our officers used good judgment, considerable restraint and professional discipline.

At this time, legal restrictions against pre-trial publicity prevent our office from fully answering false charges made by others in connection with the incident. However, some basic facts which

ADD 1:

2. The search warrant was based upon reliable information that the apartment was being utilized as a depot for illegal arms.

3. Twelve rifles and shotguns (including one sawed-off shotgun and one shotgun stolen from the Chicago Police Department); 7 pistols (including one .45 calibre automatic); and 1, 154 rounds of rifle, shotgun and pistol ammunition were found on the premises.

4. Our officers knocked on the front door several times and announced their office and purpose several times before seeking entry.

5. No attempt was made by any of our police officers to use any weapon until after the occupants resisted our officers' legal entry and fired upon them.

6. Our officers ceased firing three times, each time urging the occupants to do likewise. Each time one of the nine occupants replied, "Shoot it out."

7. After the shooting ceased and seven occupants were arrested, our officers followed standard investigative techniques for the gathering and preserving of evidence.

Inflammatory statements and false charges against our office have been made by spokesmen for the Black Panther Party and others. Unfortunately, such remarks have been given widespread publicity by many newspapers and radio and television stations -- despite the fact that the speakers had no reliable knowledge about the occurrence.

Because of the constitutional rights of those occupants against