## Leader of Raid on Panthers Alters Testimony on 1st Shot 1/13/70

By William Chapman Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO, Jan, 12-The Chicago police sergeant who led a raid on a Black Panther apartment last month today changed his version of who he thinks fired the opening shot.

Sgt. Daniel R. Groth testified that he now believes the first shot was fired by Mark Clark, a Panther organizer from Peoria, Ill., who was killed in the pre-dawn raid on Dec. 4.

Brenda Harris, began the shooting with a shotgun blast as several officers came crashing into a hallway outside the apartment where she was lying on a bed.

Police contend the shotgun blast came through a door from inside the apartment. opening an extended "shootout."

Groth said he changed his mind after viewing a newspaper photograph of a purported shotgun hole in the hallway and after consulting with another member of the raiding party.

The new version has the eflect of bringing the police account more in line with the location of Clark's body and of Miss Harris in the apartment. Had Miss Harris fired the

shot, it presumably would have traveled almost directly into a wall opposite the door. There are no marks of gunfire there.

There is one mark, possibly a bullet hole, high up on a section of the wall near the rear of the hallway.

Groth said today he now thinks that mark was made by a deer slug from Clark's shotgun fired from a position near the front of the apartment. **Body Behind Door** 

Clark, in the police version. was killed by two shots fired by a policeman who burst into the apartment. Clark's body was found slumped almost directly behind the door.

Groth's testimony came during his fourth day on the witness stand at a special inquest in the fatal shooting of Clark and Fred Hampton, who was chairman of the Illinois Black Panther party.

Widespread doubts about the police version and public pressure from the black community prompted the inquest. One major cause of doubt was

the inability of police to prove the neighborhood and anyone a shot had been fired from in-living in the apartment. side the apartment.

Groth also sought to explain why he led the raid at 4:45 only a half-block away at 8 a.m. when the apartment was p.m. on the night of Dec. 3. occupied by nine sleeping persons

he once considered staging it cal meeting of Panthers might at 8 p.m. the previous evening, be alerted to the raid if staged when he knew the occupants the previous evening, Groth would be at a Black Panther answered, "Yes sir." political meeting. He had a search warrant authorizing ument was introduced to show seizure of illegal weapons.

Earlier police accounts, in special inquest that he was at a time when occupants cluding Groth's, have concorned most about the would be sleeping or just wak-

He explained that he knew Panthers would be meeting

Asked by special Deputy Coroner Martin S. Gerber if He has acknowledged that he was worried that the politi-

Later, a police training docthat department regulations Groth testified today at a recommend staging such raids