

Inquest Rules 2 Police Murdered

CHICAGO, Dec. 24 (UPI) — A coroner's jury today returned a verdict of murder in the death of two policemen killed in a shootout with Black Panther party members and ruled the death of a Panther in the same gun battle was justifiable homicide.

The policemen, John Gilhooly and Frank Rappaport, were killed and eight other officers were wounded Nov. 13 in a battle with snipers at an

abandoned hotel on the South Side. Jake Winters, 19, identified as a Panther, was killed in the gunbattle.

The jury recommended that a second youth allegedly involved in the shootout, Lance Bell, be held for indictment by a Cook County grand jury.

The gun battle will be investigated by the same federal grand jury called to investigate the slayings in a police raid on a west side apartment

Dec. 4 of Illinois Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, another Panther leader.

An attorney has asked for the dismissal of kidnaping indictments against 15 Panthers on the grounds that police had slain Hampton. He said Hampton would have been a star defense witness.

Attorney Frank Oliver argued Tuesday that Hampton, 21, would have been able

to clear the defendants of kidnaping conspiracy charges.

The motion by Oliver was filed before the presiding judge in the case, Robert Collins, the same judge who issued the search warrant for the raid on the apartment in which Hampton and Clark were killed.

Collins, who called the motion "ingenious," continued the hearing until Jan. 14.