

7 Panthers Will Refuse To Testify

part 5/13/70
CHICAGO, May 12 (UPI)—
Seven Black Panthers arrested
after a raid in which two of
their leaders were shot to
death will refuse to testify be-
fore a federal grand jury, Illi-
nois Panther Party Chairman
Bobby Rush says.

“Our people will appear but
they will refuse to testify be-
fore the grand jury because it
is not composed of our peers.”
Rush told a news conference
Monday.

He said the “political deci-
sion” was made during a party
conference.

The seven were arrested by
state’s attorney’s police in a
predawn raid Dec. 4, 1969,
when Illinois Party Chairman
Fred Hampton and organizer
Mark Clark were shot to
death.

The seven survivors were
charged with attempted mur-
der when the raiding party
said guns were fired at them.
The charges were dropped Fri-
day at the request of Cook
County State’s Attorney Ed-
ward V. Hanrahan.

The grand jury is investigat-
ing possible violations of fed-
eral civil rights statutes in
connection with the raid.