

Panther Raiders Allege Chicago Grand Jury Bias

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By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

CHICAGO, April 29—The Chicago policemen who raided a Black Panthers' apartment, leaving two persons dead, moved today to abolish the grand jury that is investigating them.

The officers appeared in Cook County Criminal Court to assert through their lawyer that the grand jury should be discharged because its members have been biased by leaked news reports. Those reports had indicated someone connected with the raid would be indicted.

In addition, three assistant state attorneys—including one who had intimate knowledge of the raid's planning—made a similar motion to have the grand jury discharged.

The two petitions constituted the broadest and most elaborate assault yet on the grand jury's existence. The jury's future could be determined Friday when Chief Judge Joseph A. Power hears the oral arguments in open

court. He could order the grand jury disbanded.

The 12 Chicago policemen, all of whom were assigned to the State's Attorney's office, were among the 14 who made the raid in December, 1969, in which Illinois Panther Chairman Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, a Peoria organizer for the Panthers were killed.

Three official investigations have been undertaken, none resulting in any action against the police. A federal grand jury found that the Panthers had fired only one shot, while the raiders may have fired as many as 99.

Efforts have been underway all week by policemen involved to get the current special county grand jury disbanded. The moves began after reliable reports circulated that indictments had been voted against State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan and other top officials.

Judge Power, long a member of Mayor Richard J. Daley's political organization, has indicated he will disband the

panel if it is proved that their deliberations have been prejudiced by published news reports.

The policemen's petition filed today asserted that widespread reports of alleged indictments had "tainted, biased and influenced the grand jurors, either consciously or unconsciously."

It urged Judge Power to interview each juror privately to determine whether he is prejudiced. If the judge uncovers bias, he should dismiss the jury, the petition said.

It also cited a Chicago Trib-

une article which reported that the special prosecutor, Barnabas F. Sears, had exhorted a reluctant grand jury to vote indictments at one point.

There was no explanation why two of the 14 raiding officers had not joined in the new legal move. All 12 said they had been informed by Sears that they were subjects of inquiry in the investigation. Two of them already have waived immunity from prosecution and testified before the grand jury.