

Raiding the Panthers

Chicago Daily News reporter L. F. Palmer, Jr., describes as “typical” a raid carried out earlier this year:

“The FBI went in on a fugitive-arrest warrant, failed to find the fugitive, and wrecked the office in the process. Eight Panthers were arrested and charged with harboring a fugitive. Sixteen days later, the charges were dropped. George Sams, the fugitive sought by the FBI, was later revealed to be an informer for the FBI and police.”

The practice of arrest, high bail and dropped charges is a familiar one to the black community. Meanwhile, if there is no plot to “get” the Panthers, why was Bobby Seale, another national Panther leader, indicted for conspiring with seven men—none of whom he knew—to incite to riot at the 1968 Democratic convention disorders—disorders marked by lack of participation by blacks, Panthers or otherwise?

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