

AT PANTHER HEARING

9/12/72

'No-Knock' Clause in Raids Ruled Illegal

2 Articles

A Superior Court judge ruled Wednesday that the "no-knock" provision of a search warrant used to raid three Black Panther buildings last December was illegal as it applied to two of the establishments.

Judge Alfred J. McCourtney said that fortification at the Central Ave. headquarters was sufficient reason to believe in advance that an announced entry into the building would be dangerous.

Confident of Release

The prosecution must now prove that the circumstances at the Exposition Blvd. building and the residence at 334 W. 55th St. merited an unannounced entry.

Defense attorney Leo Branton Jr. said he is confident that the four persons arrested at the Exposition Blvd. office where three bombs were

allegedly found will be released.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Ronald H. Carroll said even without the advance permission of the judge who signed the warrant the officers had sufficient reason to believe entry into the two buildings would be dangerous.

Other Points Upheld

The warrant came under attack at the pretrial hearing of the 18 men and women who are being tried on a variety of charges including conspiracy to murder policemen.

Judge McCourtney upheld the rest of the warrant which gave police permission to search for weapons believed in possession of the Panthers.

The defense also intends to argue that there was not probable cause for issuance of the warrant and that officers illegally seized party records during the raids.