

GHETTO 'AMBUSH' CLAIMED

8-2-70

Houston Rally to Protest Death of Black Leader

By JIM BARLOW

HOUSTON (AP) — One week ago police bullets ended the life of the leader of a minor black militant Houston group, setting off turmoil which has rocked this city.

Carl Hampton, 21, died in a confrontation with police undercover agents near the storefront headquarters of the People's Party II group which he headed.

Five police intelligence agents, parked atop a Negro Baptist church fired down, fatally wounding Hampton and wounding four others, including a white former member of the Students for a Democratic Society.

Both sides claim the other shot first.

Since then, 16 firebombs have splashed against businesses. One of them caused \$15,000 damage to a grocery and another \$7,500 damage to a bank.

A hastily-formed Black Coalition demanded the ouster of Police Chief Herman Short and the establishment of a civilian police review board. The coalition ranges from militants to old-line Negro organizations such as the Harris County Council of Organizations.

But other blacks, led by the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the NAACP, have opposed the boycott.

A radical coalition including People's Party II, the Mexican-American Youth Organization (MAYO) and others have scheduled an afternoon rally Sunday near where Hampton died to protest what they call "a well-planned ambush" to kill Hampton.

MORE TROUBLE FORESEEN

The shooting occurred on Dowling Street, in the heart of a ghetto area and where police say the majority of vice in the city is located.

Members of People's Party II, a group which has the same platform as the Black Panther party, had been patrolling the streets in front of their headquarters for a week and a half, armed with shotguns and rifles. When questioned, they said they were protecting the area.

On July 17, a dispute over the selling of the Black Panther newspaper in the street wound up with police and party members facing each other with drawn guns before police withdrew.

Last Sunday, a rally was held after two party members were arrested earlier for carrying weapons. This time, police undercover agents were spotted on top of St. Johns Baptist Church, shots were exchanged, and Hampton died. No police officers were wounded.

Even before the shooting occurred, about 250 riot-armed police were sweeping into the area. There was no more shooting, but police swept repeatedly through the area, arresting persons who

refused to get off the street. In all, 52 persons were jailed, mostly for loitering.

Friday, James Aaron of People's Party II told reporters that this group had reorganized, but refused to name the new leaders. He said the death of Hampton would increase the position of the group in the black community.

He expects more trouble.

"We're going to always have more harassment from the police. That's because they're trying to keep the status quo, and we're trying to change things," he said.

But Sgt. Charles O. Ford of the police intelligence division believes otherwise. "The situation as it was prior to Sunday night no longer exists," he said. "We don't expect armed violence."

But Sgt. Ford refused to say if there might be firebombing or isolated sniping incidents. "How do you predict the weather for next week?" he said. "There is certainly a distinct possibility of isolated cases."

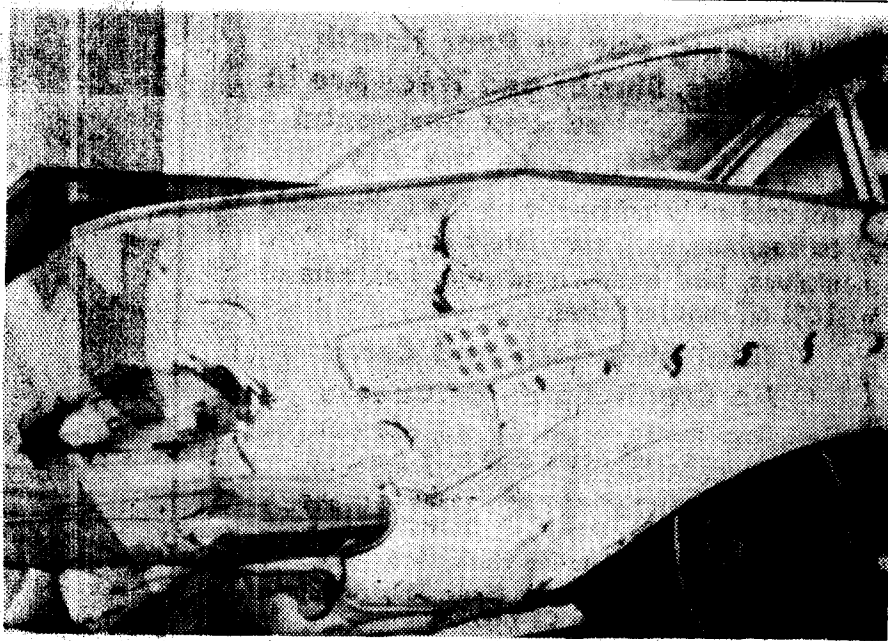
Meanwhile, the split in black organizations in Houston was widened. The Black Coalition, composed of 22 organizations, called for a "selective buying campaign" to keep blacks out of the downtown area to force demands for changes in the police organization.

Last Wednesday, the Rev. C. Anderson Davis, field director for the local NAACP, appeared before the city council and also castigated police action.

He asked the city council to set up a commission composed of strong and just-minded citizens, to formulate solutions which can be put into action in order to bring forth equal justice under the law.

The council said they could do nothing until Mayor Louie Welch, now vacationing in Europe, returns to the city.

But after Davis said he was opposed to the proposed boycott of downtown Houston, the Black Coalition met Thursday night and declared Davis a social outcast in the black community. In a



—Associated Press Wirephoto

AUTO BANDAGE — A simulated plastic bandage strip provides emergency "repair" for this car parked outside the Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno. Presumably a pixie student nurse was responsible.

statement, the coalition said Davis "is not to be granted the privilege of participating in any black organization representing black people and any statements made by the Rev. Davis are not worthy of further comment."

OUTCAST ROLE SPURNED

At a Friday press conference, Davis, flanked by other black ministers, angrily said, "Nobody has been elected by society to declare anybody an outcast. I'm still a Negro, still active and still will be speaking out as director of the NAACP."

The national policy of the NAACP opposes boycotts "unless we have some control over it and unless we made some efforts around the conference table. When these means fail, then we will go into a boycott," he said.

"The NAACP has been in the forefront in asking for the resignation of Chief Short and a review board," he said.

Davis and the other black ministers disclosed a letter they said was sent to all black ministers which said in part, "It is also our feeling that this is not the time nor cause for an economic boycott. Please urge your people to follow your leadership in these matters."

Davis said he was still hopeful that Welch would work with what he termed moderate black leaders.

But last April, Welch denounced as "incoherent babblings" demands for Short's ouster. He also said, "As long as I am mayor, there will never be an ineffective, phony Board of Review in this city."

Meanwhile, members of the Black Coalition have started passing out handbills in Negro areas asking residents to stay out of the downtown area.

And radical groups will meet Sunday in their rally. Capt. C. J. Lofland, of the police patrol division, said, "We will be keeping close surveillance on the rally. But we have no plans to mobilize the police department at this time."