

# Panthers Dispute Charges by Police

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By Ivan C. Brandon  
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Local Black Panthers held an open house yesterday at their community center, 1932 17th St. NW, to display damaged furniture and personal belongings they said were damaged by police during arrests there Saturday night.

Maurice Lawrence, information officer for the local chapter, said furnishings were damaged when police rushed into the house, arrested 20 Panthers and charged them with disorderly conduct. A police spokesman said later he had "no reports about broken furniture."

Police said the arrests followed the throwing of rocks and bottles in which two policemen were injured. The incident began, police said, when they attempted to disperse a "disorderly crowd" in front of the Panthers' building.

Lt. Robert Keahon of the Third District said the policemen entered the building after one policeman was hit in the face with a brick. The officer, John D. Robinson, was admitted to the Washington Hospital Center with head and facial injuries.

Lawrence said he did not know who threw the brick.

He said the Panthers and relatives were singing in front of the house when the police arrived at 10:30 p.m. and told them to stop.

"The people were stimulated by the songs, so they sang louder," Lawrence said. "Then the pigs moved in and we went into the house. Then they kicked the door in and started beating everybody." Lawrence said police hit

men and women they took from the house during the incident. Six women were arrested and three small children were taken into custody. A police official said yesterday there was "some struggling" as arrests were made.

Lawrence also said that between \$800 and \$900 was missing from the house after the arrests. The money was to be used for free breakfast and clothing programs run by the Panthers, Lawrence said. Police said they knew nothing about the money.

Lt. Keahon said three rifles, a shotgun and a pistol were confiscated during the arrests. Lawrence said the Panthers had a right to keep the guns.

All the Panthers posted \$10 collateral and were released from jail by yesterday morning. One Panther, Mano, was treated at Freedman's Hospital after his release for a scalp cut.



Maurice Lawrence surveys damage he blames on police assault on Panthers center.

By John Humble—The Washington Post