

PM 4/29/70

Scientist Will Give Award to Panthers

BOSTON, April 28 (UPI) —Dr. Jonathan R. Beckwith, a Harvard microbiologist who won the 1970 Eli Lilly Award for isolating a pure gene, says he will turn the \$1000 honorarium over to the Black Panther Party because their health programs could be models for the rest of society.

Beckwith, 34, who accepted the award Monday night, said he was giving the money to the Black Panthers to help "an organization which I believe is making some important contributions to changing society so that it serves the people."

The Panthers are "not only helping their own people to lose their feeling of powerlessness, but are also setting up free health clinics and free breakfast programs in their communities which could be models for the type of society we would like to see," he said.

"They also recognize that

it is the system of capitalist exploitation which is an essential component of the way in which our society oppresses people," he added.

"Since last November, when a group of us made a rather awkward attempt to make a political statement surrounding our isolation of pure Lac Operan DNA, my concern about the misuse of science in this country has increased and my feeling of the necessity for scientists to take clear positions has increased," Beckwith said.

The scientist said he will give one-half the prize money to the Boston Panther free health clinic and the other half to the Panther defense fund in New York, where 13 party members are charged with conspiracy to bomb public places.

The award was made by the American Society for Microbiology.