

PANTHER RAID PLAN CONFIRMED BY U.S.

NY 2/10/70
WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP)

—The Internal Revenue Service confirmed today that its agents wanted to raid a Black Panther headquarters in Seattle last month but changed its plans at the request of the city's police.

The I.R.S. Commissioner, Randolph W. Thrower, in effect confirmed what Seattle Mayor Wesley C. Uhlman said last week. Without naming the agency, Mayor Uhlman said that a federal law enforcement agency had asked his administration to help in a raid on Panther headquarters. The Mayor said that he had replied that he did not want to make martyrs of the Black Panthers.

Mr. Thrower denied Mayor Uhlman's statement that the raid was for the purpose of gathering information.

"Contrary to news reports," Mr. Thrower said, "the I.R.S. at no time planned either an 'information gathering' raid or nighttime service of the warrant."

His statement said that I.R.S. investigators received evidence early in January "indicating probable cause of criminal violations of the federal gun laws by certain persons in Seattle who were believed to be members of the Black Panthers."

The commissioner continued: "This evidence was received by the office of the United States Attorney in Seattle and it was agreed that there was prob-