

# Newsweek Researcher Faces Contempt Charge at Black Panther Hearing

By EDITH EVANS ASBURY

A young woman who is a researcher for Newsweek magazine was summoned to the bench at the trial of 13 Black Panthers here yesterday to face contempt-of-court charges. She was said to have joined in spectator applause of defendants who denounced the court and called the trial a farce.

The 24-year-old researcher, Sheila Younge of 433 West 24th Street, was paroled in her own custody until 10:15 A.M. today after she told Supreme Court Justice John M. Murtagh that she wanted to get a lawyer.

Before leaving the court room, Miss Younge called out to one of the two women defendants, "Ateni, I'll see you later."

Miss Younge had sat at one of four tables in the reserved press section at the front of the courtroom all day, and she said she was there as a reporter representing Newsweek.

## Magazine Issues Statement

However, a spokesman for the magazine, in a statement issued last night, said that Miss Younge "attended today's session of the Panther trial on her own time and at her own initiative."

"She herself has deplored her own conduct as 'unprofessional,' and Newsweek under-

stands she intends to express her regrets and apologize to the judge tomorrow," the statement said.

In the press room after the trial adjourned, Miss Younge, a tall, slender young woman with an Afro haircut, admitted that she had clapped "very loudly."

"It was an unprofessional thing to do, but I am black and I can't help feeling that what he [the defendant] said was right: The trial was a farce. We are very emotional people, period."

The outburst that provoked the applause was by several defendants, who had previously punctuated with loud "oinks" an objection made by Assistant District Attorney Joseph A. Phillips to questions being asked of a witness by a defense lawyer.

The defendants have been indicted for plotting to bomb department stores, the Bronx Botanical Garden, a district school office in Queens, police stations, railroad sites and subway switching stations.

## Defendant Calls Out

"If you keep it up," Richard Moore, one of the defendants, cried yesterday, "we are going to get up and walk out." Mr. Moore and all of the other defendants, except Mrs. Atenal

Shakur, have been in jail in bail ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 since last April. Mrs. Shakur was released three days before the trial began last week, after money raised by clergywomen was posted. She, too, had been held in bail of \$100,000.

Another defendant called out to Justice Murtagh yesterday, "Which ring in this three-ring circus do you belong to?" And Mr. Moore shouted: "This trial is a racist farce." Then applause broke out among friends and relatives of the defendants in the spectators benches.

Miss Younge was conspicuous because she sat at the press table in front of the spectator section, just behind a rail setting off the section in which the trial participants sat.

On other days of the trial, the seat occupied by Miss Younge had been occupied by a Newsweek reporter. He was not present yesterday.

Another woman has already been cited for contempt and sentenced to 30 days in prison for rising to denounce the trial, thereby provoking a disturbance that resulted in violence against a defendant. She is 31-year-old Mrs. Maryann Weisman, national coordinator of Youth Against War and

Youth Against War and Fascism.

Several times, as defendants have shouted so loudly that recesses have had to be called, Justice Murtagh has warned their six defense lawyers that they are responsible for helping him maintain order.

Implicit in his warnings has been the threat of contempt-of-court punishment or bar as a sanction action, and, according to one of the attorneys, the possibility of asking for an Appellate Court "overseer" of the defense lawyers' conduct has been discussed in chambers.

During the morning and most of the afternoon, the hearing had proceeded with a calm that was unusual compared with previous sessions.

Three policemen had been questioned concerning a pre-dawn raid at the home of Michael Tabor, a defendant, on April 2, 1969, where they allegedly found guns and ammunition. The police had been called as witnesses for the defense, which sought to prove that they had seized the guns illegally and that the weapons should therefore not be admitted as evidence.

In an attempt to prove that the arrest warrant used was illegal, William Crain argued that the defense was entitled

to see the minutes of the grand jury that indicted the Panthers. Justice Murtagh denied his request.

The defense also sought to show that Inspector William Knapp, who had briefed the policemen before the raids on Panther homes, had been prejudiced against the Panther party.

Inspector Krapp testified that "the only thing I mentioned about Black Panthers was that some of the people being arrested on the warrants had been members of the Black Panther party."

While the inspector was testifying, Mr. Moore informed Justice Murtagh loudly that he strongly objected "to the District Attorney rubbing his jips and signaling the witnesses."

As Mr. Phillips stood up to protest, the room crackled with a chorus of "Oink, oink" from the spectators and defendants. Earlier, voices from the defense table suggested that he exchange his black judicial robes for the white robes of the Ku Klux Klan.

Twenty-one defendants were named originally in the indictment on April 2, 1969. A superior indictment added another defendant. Two have been released for youthful-

offender treatment, one has jumped bail, two are in prison in Newark on burglary charges, and three have never been apprehended. The trial of one defendant has been postponed because he is ill.