

# Rejected U.S. Plan for Raid on Panthers, Seattle Mayor Says

SEATTLE (AP) — Mayor Wes Uhlman said Sunday he turned down a federal proposal for a raid on Black Panther headquarters here because he did not want to popularize the Panthers' cause. He also said such raids smack of "Gestapo-type" tactics.

Uhlman, 34, who has been in office two months, said a federal law enforcement agency asked for city participation in an "information gathering" raid on Panther headquarters a month ago. The raid did not take place.

Uhlman would not say which agency requested the joint raid, but the Seattle Times and Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported they had learned it was the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Tax Unit of the Internal Revenue Service.

In Washington, a Treasury Department spokesman said the unit was enforcing the gun registration laws and was not conducting any campaign against the Panthers as such.

The Seattle headquarters of the Black Panther Party would not comment.



Wes Uhlman

(AP Wirephoto)

Uhlman criticized the tactics of some other cities in raids on Panthers and said, "A great many people are having second thoughts

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## SEATTLE

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Police raided Panther headquarters in Chicago Dec. 4, killing two Panther leaders. A coroner's jury ruled the deaths justifiable homicide. A Los Angeles police raid on Panther headquarters resulted in the wounding of three policemen and two Panthers. Police seized arms and ammunition in both cities.

Uhlman's administration is under considerable public pressure because of 18 unsolved terrorist bomb-

ings in Seattle in the last seven months.

"The easy-answer thinkers say we can eliminate the bombings by eliminating the Panthers," Uhlman said. "We've been taking a lot of pressure to act precipitously, but we're going to withstand the pressure and do it the right way."

Police have not publicly connected the Panthers in any way with the bombings.

Uhlman, a Democrat who was elected mayor in a nonpartisan race last fall, disclosed the request and its rejection in a speech Friday and elaborated on the subject Sunday in an interview.

"I can assure you we will not raid Panther headquarters in the middle of the night," Uhlman said. "We are not going to have provocation by police directed against any group — Panthers or Minutemen."

"The position I am taking is that we're not going to have 1932 Gestapo-type raids against anyone."

Just as important, he

said, is the fact that the Panthers have about 200 active members in Seattle, but a potential following of hundreds of young blacks who are enthralled by their rhetoric.

"If you give them a cause, they can make political hay out of it, and the kids will look on them like Robin Hoods. Then you wind up with 900 Panthers," Uhlman said.