

Mike Wallace Prepared to Defy Subpoena for Data on Panthers

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (UPI)

CBS news correspondent Mike Wallace said today that he has refused to give the Justice Department information on the Black Panthers and probably would refuse to do so under subpoena by a federal grand jury.

"I've been called by the Justice Department in Washington and asked to sit down and talk voluntarily about my coverage of Black Panther activities, and I said I would not," Wallace disclosed. "I said it would be a fishing expedition."

Wallace said a similar request was made of CBS producer Paul Loewenwater, and that they have retained attorney Jay Topkis to represent them in the matter. The lawyer said the two men might appear before a federal grand jury in New Haven, Conn., which is investigating Black Panther activities, but only to inform the jury that they will not answer questions.

Wallace said he received a visit from an FBI agent almost a year ago when he and Loewenwater first started to work on a report on the Black Panthers. He said the agent

asked him to pass on to the FBI any information he obtained on the Panthers. Wallace climaxed his investigation with an interview with exiled Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver in Algiers last Jan. 1.

"I candidly think I don't have much additional information to give that I have not already reported on the air," Wallace said.